BICKEL NOTEBOOK COLLECTION

INDUSTRIES

SHEET NO. _____ SUNDRY ACCOUNTS 1-

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1866

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 4.

THAT FOUNDRY.—One of the important and substantial institutions of Keokuk is the foundry of VAIL, ARMITAGE & Co., corner of Ninth and Blondeau streets. Years ago, in 1849, this firm commenced business in Keokuk. It was then S. S. VAIL & Co. It has continued with little change down to the present. In March 1864, Captain S. S. SAMPLE, returning from a gallant service as a soldier and an officer, purchased an interest in the establishment, and the firm's name became as now. By careful attention to business and doing good work, the unpretentious beginning in 1849 has grown into one of the best established and most prosperous foundries in this western country. Its thrift may be shown in that the Company last fall purchased all the machinery and stock of the extensive Pensylvania foundry and added it to its own. It has thus become immense in furniture and material. It had previous to this purchase a large stock of patterns; the Pennsylvania foundry was amply provided in this line, and by this addition our friends have as large and varied a lot of patterns as will be found in any similar establishment north of St. Louis.

We went yesterday through the shops and noticed the machinery and *modus operandi*; the gentlemanly senior proprietor, Mr. S. S. VAIL, kindly acting as our cicerone. Twenty operators are at work, and such skill and and perfectness is there in the mechanical department and the machinery that with this number more work is done than double the number of operators did a few years ago.—Here are twelve lathes, two drill presses, and three planers, which are made to do good service. Two cupolas are run in the moulding department. In this July weather this department is a slight reminder of that seven-fold heated furnace which that pagan king was so cross-grained as to get up for the entertainment of the three somewhat celebrated Hebrew children. This part of the Foundry is forty feet by forty feet in extent, and the Company is prepared to do castings of five tons weight. Great attention is paid to the casting of engines, and heavy work generally. Sorghum has become one of the agricultural and domestic indispensables of this latitude. Hence the necessity of cane mills; hence also this company has on hand a very large number, and are turning out more. They are prepared to supply with mills all this Hawkeye country, and the parts hereunto adjacent.

Our friends S. S. VAIL, Mr ARMITAGE, and Capt. SAM. S. SAMPLE, are so well known, and so highly esteemed that we don't feel called upon to indulge in personal commendation of them. It is enough for the public that they are gentlemen and prompt, active, reliable and upright business men. And further that they have one of the biggest and best foundries in the west and their work cannot be beat anywhere.

The Gate City.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1866

TUESDAY MORNING, OCT. 23.

KEOKUK, Oct. 22, '66.

EDITOR GATE CITY—*Sir*: You will please do us the kindness to publish the following for the benefit of the people:

In answer to many citizens, we will endeavor to give as near as possible the reason why the butchers of Keokuk were compelled to raise the price of beef. Not because we want to form a monopoly of prices have we raised the price of beef, but because we were compelled, in justice to ourselves and creditors, to maintain our business in an honorable form, as the figures below will show:

SALE OF COW WEIGHING FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

55 lbs	Plate, at 10c per lb	$5 50
45 "	Shoulder, at 10c per lb	4 50
40 "	Rib, at 15c per lb	6 00
80 "	Chuck, at 12½c per lb	10 00
40 "	Soup bone, at 2c per lb	80
30 "	Neck, at 6c per lb	1 80
60 "	Round, at 15c per lb	9 00
30 "	Rump, at 15c per lb	4 50
80 "	Sirloin, at 17½c per lb	14 00
10 "	Flank, at 10c per lb	1 00
30 "	Trimmings, at 6c per lb	1 80
—	Hide and tallow	7 50
500	Total	$66 40

We pay for cow weighing the above	$50 00
Two days to dispose of the meat, employing two men, at two dollars per day, for two days	8 00
Expenses for feeding cow (before killed)	1 00
Sundry expenses connected with the business	3 00
Average loss by giving credit	2 00
Shrinkage by retailing	1 50
	$65 50
	$66 40
Nett profit	90

Now, we leave it for the reasonable judgment of our citizens whether we can afford to work for less margin than the above, which is a true statement. FRANK J. WEESS.

THE BUTCHERS AND THE BEEF EATERS.—We publish an article on behalf of the butchers and in justification of present prices of butchers' meats, from the pen of Frank Weess.

It seems there are two sides to the question, and there may be some considerations besides which belong to neither side.

The showing that Frank Weess makes does not indicate that the Butchers are getting rich very fast, even at present prices. And making every reasonable deduction from the statement, it is still clear that the business, as conducted in our city, does not yield very exorbitant profits, or a very large income to the Butchers.

Is there no remedy? Yes, there is; but then we don't believe the remedy will be applied.

The Butchers in Hamilton sell Beef for four or five cents less on the pound than the butchers in Keokuk. We presume they can afford to do it for the reason that it don't cost them so much to live, and there are not so many of them to live on the profits of the business.

There are some twenty-five butchers, more or less, in Keokuk, and they kill about twenty-five beeves a week. On the profits of this petty business the twenty-five families and other dependants of these twenty-five butchers must live, and in consequence the profits must be high in order that they may live.

Now, the remedy is for four-fifths of the butchers to retire from that business, and leave the business and the profits for the remaining fifth.

Then if twenty-five butchers can live on present profits, the profits may be reduced four-fifths and still furnish a living for five butchers.

The Daily Constitution

JANUARY 26, 1887.

THE INCANDESCENT LIGHT.

An Effort to be Made to Introduce it in Keokuk.

S. S. Badger, of Chicago, president of the Badger Electric Light company, and D. H. Lauderbock, also of Chicago, treasurer and manager of the Edison Electric Light company, are in the city for the purpose of consulting our citizens in regard to putting in the incandescent electric light in business houses, offices and residences. They claim for the incandescent light, that each light is of sixteen-candle power against twelve-candle per light for gas; that the electric light is much purer and clearer than gas; that no use of matches is required to light it, all one having to do being to turn on the light; and that extremely cold weather does not interfere with it. As to the cost of consumption the gentlemen were unable to give any figures at present, but said it would not exceed the cost of gas. To introduce it here, at least 2,000 lights must be assured. The Badger plant would be utilized, and the Edison light probably used. The present lights would be retained for street lighting.

DAILY GATE CITY.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1876.

HAVEACHEW?

How the Weed is Converted Into Toothsome Tobacco.

THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO WORKS.

And the Result of their First Year's Business in Keokuk.

One year ago the Virginia Tobacco Works were removed from Burlington to Keokuk. Our readers are already familiar with the motives which prompted this change, and since the matter was the sub-

ject of considerable comment at the time, the public will be interested in the result of the first year's business in Keokuk.

The first annual meeting of the stockholders of the organization was held a short time since. At that meeting a full statement of the operations of the year was submitted, and we are assured that the showing made by this was entirely satisfactory. Notwithstanding the heavy expense of moving and fitting up the establishment here, the increase in the tax on tobacco, and the fact that last year was the hardest one on tobacco that there has been for twenty-three years, the balance came out on the right side of the ledger and the institution starts off upon the second year with the most gratifying assurances of success.

At the annual meeting the following officers and directors were elected for the ensuing year:

President—E. H. Harrison.
Vice-President—S. M. Mills.
Secretary and Treasurer—Frank Mills.
Manufacturer—R. M. Penn.
Directors—E. H. Harrison, S. M. Mills, Font. Alexander, R. T. Pence and W. T. Prettyman.

It will be seen from the above that Mr. Frank Mills has been promoted to quite a responsible position. But he is a young man of excellent business qualifications and is in every way capable of discharging the duties of his new office.

So general has the consumption of tobacco become that the man who doesn't use it in some shape is an exception. Comparatively few, however, are familliar with the *modus operandi* of

CONVERTING THE WEED

into toothsome parcels. This process can be seen to excellent advantage at the Virginia Tobacco Works, because they are provided with all the modern machinery and appliances, and everything is done in the most orderly and systematic manner. The building is 50x100 feet, four stories in height.

The fourth floor is used for drying and storing purposes. On this floor is also partitioned off a room in which drying is done by steam. This is done by means of pipes so arranged that the room can be warmed to a temperature that is suggestive of a climate with considerable more caloric in it than anything we have in this latitude.

The third floor is where the leaf tobacco is received, assorted and cased. This casing consists in mixing the syrups which impart to the different kinds of tobacco the delicate flavors which render them so palatable. In this process the Virginia Tobacco Works use none but the purest and best materials. On the other side of this floor is where the plug machine is located. This machine shapes the tobacco and cuts it off in the desired lengths. After this it remains in the drying room the proper length of time and then passes through the hands of the rollers where it is wrapped. It is then taken to the press room where it is pressed by means of hydraulic steam power and packed away in boxes ready for shipment.

One side of the second floor is used for stemming, cutting and air drying fine cut. The stemming as in other departments of the establishment is done by a force of boys and girls. The tobacco is then put through the cutting machine, placed on screens and air dried and then packed in pails. The other side of this floor is where the work of packing smoking tobacco into packages is performed. This is also done by machinery.

The first floor is occupied by the ponderous steam engine by which the machinery of the establishment is propelled, the hydraulic press used for pressing plug tobacco and for storing and shipping purposes. An elevator operated by steam extends from the ground floor to the roof of the building. When in full operation a force of seventy to eighty hands are employed.

THE TRADE

of the establishment is being constantly enlarged and its brands are growing in popularity wherever they have been introduced. The force of traveling salesmen is composed at present of Jno. S. Moore, C. E. Beebe and Wm. Prettyman, all of whom, we believe, are stockholders, and the territory canvassed by them embraces the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The company does a large business at St. Louis and an agency has recently been established at New Orleans, where their goods are well received.

So great has been the demand for their brands, that, with the exception of about two weeks, they have been obliged to run during the entire winter, in order to keep up with their orders, whereas it is customary with tobacco manufactories all over the country to "shut down" during a large part of the season.

The brands manufactured by the Virginia Tobacco Works are as follows:

Fine Cut—"Penn's Best," "Golden Charm," "Belle of the South" and "Invincible."

Plug—"Natural Leaf," "Lady Finger," "Peach and Honey," "Virginia Star," "K. K. K," "Strawberry," "Royal Bright," "Hunkie Punkie," "Odd Shape," "Pocket Pieces," "Checkerboard," "Royal Navy."

Twists.—"Atlantic Cable," "Peach and Honey," "Nectarine" and "Coil."

Smoking.—"Light of the Harem," "Peep O' Day," "Old Virginia," "Uncle Tom," "German Cut," "Triumph," "Old Plantation" and "Calumet."

PREMIUMS.

As we have had occasion to state at different times, the brands of the Virginia Tobacco Works have been very successful in competing for prizes. "Penn's Best," and "Golden Charm," received first premiums at the Missouri and Iowa State Fairs in 1873, 1874 and 1875. The first premium on fine cut, which was awarded to "Penn's Best" at the New Orleans Industrial Exposition, the other day, is another big victory.

MAJ. R. M. PENN,

Superintendent of the Works, is a gentleman pre-eminently qualified for the position which he occupies. He was educated to the cultivation of tobacco, and has been engaged in its manufacture for the past fourteen years, so there is nothing connected with the business with which he is not thoroughly conversant.

The secret of his success lies in the knowledge and experience which enable him to select the very best tobacco and the skill which enables him to prepare it in a superior manner. He gives his personal attention to all the details of the manufactory, and to this may be attributed in a large measure the success of his brands.

Under the circumstances the Virginia Tobacco Works Co. have occasion to congratulate themselves upon the result of the first years business in Keokuk.

THE GATE CITY:
SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 1.

—The old building next to the Laclede House, which is being torn down, was in the early days one of the most noted places in Keokuk. At that time a very stringent license law prevailed, and in this house was kept the "high-toned" bar of the city. The proprietors paid the license demanded by law, had a monopoly of the trade, and carried on a huge business. The saloon was made attractive and was for a time a big bonanza to those who had it in charge. This was in the fast days of '55-6, when Keokuk was a small town making gigantic strides for a place among the cities of the country. 1857, however, came with its burden of financial ruin, and Keokuk took a back seat until the return of better times, when she again raised her head for another start and has been gradually going forward ever since. The destruction of the old landmarks cause the revival of old memories and brings to the mind a panorama of scenes and incidents, coupled with the time when the old flat boat was the only invention then in use for crossing the Mississippi and the ox team was about the only means of transportation then recognized in this region.

3.

No. 62 — Twenty Shares.

CENTRAL STOVE WORKS,

Shares, each, $100.00

Capital Stock, $60,000.00

OF KEOKUK, IOWA.

This Certifies That R. H. Bell is entitled to Twenty Shares of One Hundred Dollars each in the Capital Stock of the

CENTRAL STOVE WORKS,

fully paid up, which Shares are transferable only on the books of the Company at their office in Keokuk, Iowa, by the said R. H. Bell, or his attorney, on surrender of this Certificate.

In Witness Whereof, The President and Secretary of said Central Stove Works have signed this Certificate at Keokuk, Iowa, this 31 day of May 1884 and have affixed the Seal of said Corporation.

Gilbert Comstock Secretary. A. J. McCrary President.

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, ... hereby sell and assign ..... Shares of Stock of this Certificate to ..... and authorize the same to be transferred on the books of the Corporation, subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Rich H. Bell

THE DAILY GATE CITY

A GREAT INDUSTRY.

Jan 9, 1892

The Keokuk Stove Works to be Increased to Twice the Present Capacity.

Reorganization of the Company with $150,000 Capital—The Manufacture of a High Grade of Stoves to be a Distinct Feature.

Among Keokuk's most valued manufacturing institutions was the Keokuk Stove works. The company has just terminated a prosperous career of eight years. Several weeks ago the works were shut down indefinitely, the Keokuk stockholders debating whether to re-incorporate and continue the business or to remove elsewhere in acceptation of flattering financial inducements extended. The principal cause of hesitation was the fact that the works are located on Twelfth and Johnson streets, a mile from the railway freight depots, and the expense of cartage to and from the stations was such an important item, amounting to many thousands of dollars a year. Finally, it was determined that if an uptown railway switch running out Johnson street to their works was assured, the company would be reincorporated and operations resumed on a scale of much greater magnitude. Citizens took hold of the question of retaining this great plant and benefitting the town in every way with such earnestness that it is only a question of time when that switch will be built. There were other considerations, also, which were met and the reorganization of the company determined upon.

This was effected on January 1 by the incorporation of the Keokuk Stove Works by the following well known gentlemen: H. C. Huiskamp, William Burkitt, C. A. Castle, H. Scott Howell, John W. Hobbs, Thos. Reddie, I. M. Walters. Subsequently the directors chose as officers H. C. Huiskamp, president; Dr. L. C. Ingersoll, vice president; John W. Hobbs, secretary and treasurer. The capital stock of the old corporation was $58,000, while that of the new is nearly three times as much, $150,000, every dollar of which is paid up. Mr. Huiskamp, the president, is at the head of the immense shoe manufacturing company of Huiskamp Bros.' Co., and is among Keokuk's wealthiest and most progressive citizens. Dr. Ingersoll, vice president, has a fame as a professional man as wide as the United States and as a business man has few superiors. Mr. Hobbs was secretary, treasurer and general manager of the old corporation for eight years and knows the business thoroughly. He will be general manager of the new company, and a better selection could not have been made. The stockholders are about the same as those of the first company; and the fact of their trebling their amounts invested in the enterprise is conclusive evidence of their confidence in it and in the city where they do business.

The Keokuk Stove Works propose to build up a manufacturing enterprise that will be a credit and great good to the city, and one that eventually shall be second to none in the country. Heretofore the manufactured products, while of splendid value and giving great satisfaction, were not of the highest grade. In the future a high grade of goods will be a distinct feature. A trade mark will be adopted soon and it is proposed that the excellence of the stoves bearing it shall win for it a name and reputation unsurpassed. At the same time it will be something that will constantly reflect credit upon Keokuk. The New American Oak and other well known brands of heating stoves will be greatly improved and an entire new line of cooking stoves put on the market. Not only will all the patterns and apparatus be new but the plant will be torn down and remodeled into a modern and model stove works. Not so varied a line of stoves will be made but a much better one.

It is intended to double the capacity of the works. That will be done gradually and perhaps a year will pass by before the work is complete. The corporation expects to begin on the enlargement early next summer, but that will depend on the building of the switch.

All Keokuk congratulates herself at securing such an improved manufacturing industry and congratulates the corporation in that the gentlemen composing it find in the Keokuk Stove works such an excellent investment of capital and enterprise.

KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

SATURDAY, AUG. 14, 1937

PLANT SALE IS FOR $85,000 DEED INDICATES

Announcement was made this week of the sale of the Rubber Industries Inc., known as the Standard Four Tire company, to John B. Landry, of Chicago, and the deed has been filed in the recorder's office here. It gives the consideration of the sale as $85,000, and indicates the conveyance of building, materials and appurtenances to the Chicago purchaser.

The Daily Gate City.

SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 6, 1870.

The Stove Foundry

—OF—

COMSTOCK BROS. & CO.

—AT—

KEOKUK, IOWA.

We visited this establishment recently, and now propose to give our readers some idea of its extent and capabilities.

This firm has had the benefit of TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE in the manugacture of stoves in the West. And we now write of what we saw as the result of that experience and enterprise. First and foremost is the fact *that soft, tough iron is used in all their castings*, so that Comstock's Stoves will not *crack by heating*.

So important is this feature of their trade that they challenge any or all the stove makers in the United States to sell as many stoves with so few of these imperfections.

The durability of their stoves is fully proven by the fact that many of them which have been in constant use for twenty years are still in use in this city and throughout Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THEIR WORKS.

The foundry buildings occupy an area of twenty-four thousand five hundred square feet. The engine is twenty-four horse power, and the amount of metal cast is five tons per day. Every morning this material is weighed, together with the hard and soft coal, (and the coke which is measured) and transferred by steam to the cupola. At a given time the workmen are ready to catch the white, hot metal in their huge ladles—the moulds being all prepared—and the fiery streams are poured into their several receptacles. As soon as possible the castings are removed from the sand, taken from one set of workmen to another, and by night the *ten thousand pounds of crude iron* has been changed, by the magic touch of industry and science, into articles of use and beauty. The works are kept in operation about three hundred days in the year, and give support directly to nearly *thirty families, and indirectly to between one and two thousand of our population.*

THE STOCK KEPT ON HAND.

There are now from *three to five thousand* stoves on hand finished for the trade; representing the largest variety, in size, style and price, in the United States, kept by any one firm.

This statement may, to some, sound as boasting, but it is a fact, nevertheless, and the firm desire that the stove dealers everywhere may find it out.

COMSTOCK BROTHERS & Co. have made the wants of Western people their especial study in this branch of trade, and have produced such combinations of economy and working capacity that *every retail dealer after keeping their stoves witl sell no others.*

Among the most celebrated of their new cooking stoves may be mentioned "THE MARION" and the "THE RIVAL," both coal and wood burning, and combining all the excellencies, and improvements, of twenty-five years study.

The INSIDE TRACK and GRAND are equally fine specimens of their work. The CLEAR GRIT when once kept by stove dealers is said to *go ahead of all other foundry work in the country.* It proclaims its own merits wherever used or sold.

The coal parlor stove made by this firm, unites elegance of design with convenience unequalled.

It is impossible to enumerate all the different patterns and varieties we saw. Suffice it to say that this foundry produces SIX SETS OF SQUARE WOOD COOKING STOVES, with or without extension tops.

THREE SETS WITH ELEVATED OVENS.

TWO SETS PREMIUM STOVES.

SIX SETS COAL COOK STOVES.

FIVE SETS CANNON OR CYLINDER COAL BURNERS.

TWO SETS TOPS AND BASES FOR SHEET IRON STOVES.

THREE CLASSES COTTAGE STOVES FOR COAL AND WOOD.

Among wood cooking stoves there are the VOLUNTEER, MONTANA, NEW PRAIRIE, PRAIRIE GEM, CLEAR GRIT, KANSAS and PACIFIC.

Of coal burners there are the COMMANDER, EMPIRE, GATE CITY, EQUATOR and METEOR.

The DIAMOND PARLOR for coal or wood and the ECONOMY wood for parlor. This last is to our certain knowledge one of the best ever introduced.

Among its good qualities are the following:

It is truly what it professes, economical. It produces but little or no dust. It keeps the fire a long time, and is a genuine air tight stove.

In addition to the immense stock of stoves, we saw thousands of tea kettles, hanging broilers, iron pots, skillets, waffle-irons, &c., and every article pertaining to stove requirements or convenience.

And now a word or two to *all stove dealers in the State of Iowa.* We are assured by the gentlemen who own this establishment that it is their purpose to offer such inducements to buyers that all who deal with them will find their profit and reputation increased thereby.

The advantages the firm present are as follows:

All their stoves are well made, of good material.

All orders are promptly and carefully filled.

Their goods are securely packed for transportation.

There is less chance of breakage than from Eastern cities, while freight is much less.

They keep duplicate parts of all their stoves, which may be obtained at short notice and low freight.

The goods are manufactured in our own State of Iowa.

With such inducements, stove buyers are earnestly requested to compare prices, risks, railway charges, &c., when they will find that COMSTOCK BROTHERS & CO. can supply the dealers of Missouri and Iowa with stoves lower and more promptly than any other firm in the West.

Note the following advertisement:

The Daily Gate City.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 25 1872.

6.

The Daily Gate City.

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 2, 1872

COMSTOCKS' FOUNDRY.

One of the oldest and best established of all Keokuk enterprises, is the Stove and Tinware establishment of Comstock Brothers & Co. It was started twenty-four years ago. The enterprise of the firm, and the superior excellence of their goods, have built them up a trade, which growing year by year now brings them patrons from all points of Iowa from the Mississippi to the Missouri, from this extreme south to the Minnesota line. There isn't a railroad in the State but carries their goods to men who, living upon its route, are their customers. They have a good and growing trade in Illinois, in Missouri, in Nebraska and Kansas. In connection with the Quincy part of this enterprise, they have taken all the Northwest for their province and their trade is ramifying through all parts of it.

The institution here embraces one of our largest and best stove houses, and a foundry. Two or three years ago we went through their foundry upon a tour of reportorial inspection. Visiting it again day before yesterday, pencil in hand, we were surprised to see the enlargements that had been made to meet the growing requirements of their business. The buildings cover largely more than twice the ground they did at our former visit. Every part of them are fitted up for convenience and facility in the manufacture and shipping of goods. The storage room is well filled with the stoves and utensils that are being completed daily.

These are the kind of institutions that build up a town. Five hundred mouths are fed daily by the paid labor of this one establishment. You would scarce conceive in passing by and observing its smoky and dingy outside, how large and well regulated an establishment is inside there. Here to the right, is the huge pile of coke: along side a miniature coal mine all in a heap. At our left tons of first-class Missouri iron in rough pigs that one wouldn't like to carry. Besides this other tons of the very best of Scotch iron with the real Scotch complexion: that of a Scotch heath. And as we have never seen a Scotch heath, we confess the simile may be badly chosen. Let that go: What we want to call attention to is the fact that despite the immense advance in both Missouri and imported iron, the Messrs. Comstock don't try the foolish experiment of buying secondary iron at less prices, nor do they let their stock run down in the hope that iron will be cheaper

August 2, 1872 - page 1 (Comstock Foundry)

August 2, 1872 - page 2 (Comstock Foundry)

by and by. They have made an approved reputation for their stoves by putting in ALWAYS and without exception, the very best quality of iron, which has prevented cracking, and made them challenge test comparison with any and all other stoves. Whatever the price, they buy none but the best iron, and they keep on hands now and continually, a supply large enough to keep their foundry running full measure so as to meet at all times any demand of their trade. They are a stable, established institution, and mean business. They are now and always expect to be ready to fill, on the spot, every order of any customer.

Beyond these raw materials, is the great hot breathed engine. And above the cupola: with its wide mouthed furnace, so hot and glowing that it must be considerably hotter than that old-time one into which the three Hebrews went, or we think that there is some mistake about their ever having come out again in recognizable shape. Its awful in these hot days, to stand on the outside as that man does who keeps throwing in the coal, and coke, and the pigs of iron that presently begin to change and turn and writhe, and then rush down the cupola's red throat glowing globules of ignited metal that emerge a glaring, dazzling stream of liquid heat into the moulderers' buckets below.

The iron and coal are drawn up to the cupola by a car. Below there is the whir of machinery, turning of wheels, two moulding rooms, and another room where the different parts are put up and polished into complete shape. The moulds are all prepared in the forenoon. That is a half day's work. During that time there isn't a cooler, pleasanter place in town in these burning days, than the inside of the moulding rooms. But in the afternoon the moulds are run. Then, especially if the air is still and motionless, it gets rather warm in that locality. Catching and carrying successive buckets full of liquid red-hot iron, pouring from a furnace into which more and more fuel goes constantly, isn't the coolest work in the world. It is a Cyclopean job indeed. And you don't wonder that many of the men realize the conception of that foreign chap who adorned the cupola of the Capitol at Washington, with the genius of labor, and that they do their work stripped bare from the waist up.

In the room over the store-room are heaps of moulds, which cost several thousand dollars. Excelsior is the motto of Comstock Brothers, and they are constantly making new styles and improving old ones. Among their specialties now are the Clear Grit, wood cook; the Iowa Queen, coal cook; Pride of Iowa, coal cook; Economy, wood parlor; the Diamond, coal and wood parlor; the Cottage; the Monarch, and several others. And there are no stoves in the market, East or West, that surpass these patterns.

What we expressly wish to impress upon our readers is that the establishment of Comstock Brothers is a permanent and growing one. That it is doing its work, not for to-day, but for next year and for many years to come. It intends to endure, and to do this its work must be of a kind that will bear test. And this is the style of work they do. They use the best of material, they intend that their styles and patterns shall be right up to the times, and the best in the market. And they are manufacturing so extensively as to be ready to supply all demands at all times.

also this company has on hand a very large number, and are turning out more. They are prepared to supply with mills all this Hawkeye country, and the parts hereunto adjacent.

Our friends S. S. VAIL, Mr ARMITAGE, and Capt. SAM. S. SAMPLE, are so well known, and so highly esteemed that we don't feel called upon to indulge in personal commendation of them. It is enough for the public that they are gentlemen and prompt, active, reliable and upright business men. And further that they have one of the biggest and best foundries in the west and their work cannot be beat anywhere.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1866

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 4.

THAT FOUNDRY.—One of the important and substantial institutions of Keokuk is the foundry of VAIL, ARMITAGE & Co., corner of Ninth and Blondeau streets. Years ago, in 1849, this firm commenced business in Keokuk. It was then S. S. VAIL & Co. It has continued with little change down to the present. In March 1864, Captain S. S. SAMPLE, returning from a gallant service as a soldier and an officer, purchased an interest in the establishment, and the firm's name became as now. By careful attention to business and doing good work, the unpretentious beginning in 1849 has grown into one of the best established and most prosperous foundries in this western country. Its thrift may be shown in that the Company last fall purchased all the machinery and stock of the extensive Pensylvania foundry and added it to its own. It has thus become immense in furniture and material. It had previous to this purchase a large stock of patterns; the Pennsylvania foundry was amply provided in this line, and by this addition our friends have as large and varied a lot of patterns as will be found in any similar establishment north of St. Louis.

We went yesterday through the shops and noticed the machinery and *modus operandi*; the gentlemanly senior proprietor, Mr. S. S. VAIL, kindly acting as our cicerone. Twenty operators are at work, and such skill and and perfectness is there in the mechanical department and the machinery that with this number more work is done than double the number of operators did a few years ago.—Here are twelve lathes, two drill presses, and three planers, which are made to do good service. Two cupolas are run in the moulding department. In this July weather this department is a slight reminder of that sevenfold heated furnace which that pagan king was so cross-grained as to get up for the entertainment of the three somewhat celebrated Hebrew children. This part of the Foundry is forty feet by forty feet in extent, and the Company is prepared to do castings of five tons weight. Great attention is paid to the casting of engines, and heavy work generally. Sorghum has become one of the agricultural and domestic indispensables of this latitude. Hence the necessity of cane mills; hence

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DAILY GATE CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10, 1874.

NATIONAL LYE COMPANY.

A New Manufacturing Enterprise for Keokuk.

WAAT IT PROPOSES TO DO.

The Process of Making Lye and Potash.

For some weeks past preparations have been in progress for inaugurating a new manufacturing enterprise here in Keokuk, viz: "The National Lye Company," for the manufacture of Concentrated Lye and Potash. This is a regularly organized Western Branch of The National Lye Company, of New York, and is under the proprietorship and general management of Mr. L. Mayer, of this city. It employs a capital of $20,000, which will be increased as circumstances may require. It will be under the supervision of Mr S. S. Weil, formerly connected with the clothing house of I. N. Stern & Co., and well known to the most of our citizens. He is thoroughly familiar, from practical experience and observation with all the details of the business and is fully qualified in every respect to discharge the responsible duties of the position which he has undertaken.

The manufactory occupies the second and third floors of the large stone building on the levee, formerly used by the railroad companies as general offices. The rooms are about 75x150 feet each, affording ample room for carrying on an extensive business. The third floor will be devoted exclusively to the manufacturing department, and the second floor will be used as a store room.

Preparations for the work having been completed, active operations were commenced on Tuesday last, with a force of fourteen hands, which will be increased to forty or fifty. At present they are manufacturing forty cases per day. Next

week they will commence turning out one hundred cases per day.

Something of the process of making lye and potash will be of interest in this connection. The principal ingredient is caustic soda. This is made by the Bridgewater Smelting Company, at St. Helens, England, and is imported to this country in iron drums. This soda, with other chemical components, is placed in a large kettle and put through the boiling process. It is then dipped out while hot with copper ladles and poured into sheet iron boxes holding one pound each. These are placed on a long rack, where they remain until they are sufficiently cool to handle, when they are carefully cleaned off, then cemented, and the lids firmly secured by means of a disk press. They are then labeled and placed in cases of forty boxes each, and are then ready for shipment. Pretty much the same ingredients are used in the manufacture of Potash, but the process is different, the caustic soda being ground instead of melted. The peculiarity of lye and potash is that they are penetrating. They "go through", pretty much everything they come in contact with, metal being about the only thing that will resist their voracious appetites. All the workmen employed in the manufactory are compelled to wear rubber gloves.

Henry Rossow, the foreman of the shops, is from Milwaukee, where he has been employed in the National Lye Company's works at that place. The remainder of the employes are our own citizens.

The large kettle used in boiling the lye was made at the Buckeye Foundry and Machine Shops of Sample, McElroy & Co. of this city. It is of cast iron, holds over two hundred gallons, weighs two and one half tons and is a highly creditable piece of workmanship, showing that this establishment possesses the facilities and the ability for executing anything that may be required in their line.

The large furnace was designed by Mr. Alex Black, the architect, and works like a charm.

The labels used on the boxes and cases are printed at the GATE CITY Job Rooms, and are ordered in lots of fifty thousand at a time.

The first sale of the goods made by this company took place on the day that they commenced operations, the wholesale grocery house of R. F. Bower & Co. having ordered 25 cases of lye.

For the present the National Lye Company will confine its operations to the manufacture of concentrated lye and potash. From time to time it will increase its facilities and add stove blacking, blueing, shoe blacking, soda, saleratus, &c., to their list of manufactured articles.

Our fellow townsman, I. N. Stern, was largely instrumental in securing the establishment of this manufactory here, and deserves much credit for his activity and public spiritedness in the matter.

It is to be hoped that this with the removel of the Virginia Tobacco Works from Burlington to this city, will give an impetus to our manufacturing interests and be the means of inducing other enterprises to locate here.

Works of American Stove & Range Co.

DAILY GATE CITY.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 12, 1876

PORK PACKING.

Result of the Season's Operations in Keokuk.

The pork packing season in Keokuk was brought to a close on Friday last, and we are now enabled to give the result of operations here. But two of our packing establishments have been running, viz: Patterson & Timberman, and James Hagens & Co. Geo. B. Smyth & Co., who usually conduct the business on a very extensive scale, have done nothing. The other two firms named, have, however, maintained the reputation of Keokuk as a desirable market and have succeeded in packing about their usual number. The following are the figures:

PATTERSON & TIMBERMAN

Total number packed	10 649
Average gross weight, lbs	268
Average yield of lard, lbs	34

JAMES HAGENS & CO.

Total number packed	18 950
Average cost, gross	6,82
Average gross weight, lbs	270
" net " "	219
Average yield lard lbs	36
Average weight hams lbs	15
Same shoulders lbs	17½
Same clear rib sides lbs	42¼
Same clear sides lbs	65
Cost of operations	$385 500

During the season of 1874-5, the total number of hogs packed here was 72,000, the average gross weight 248½ pounds, the average yield of lard 30 pounds, and the average price paid $6.55.

The prices of provisions have been lower in proportion than the price of hogs the season through, so that packers who have disposed of the product as fast as it was ready have made no money. Those who have held, however, would realize a fair profit at present prices. Except a small quantity, which they sold early in the season, Patterson & Timberman have the product of their season's work on hand. Messrs. Hagens & Co. report that notwithstanding they have moved on consignment a considerable quantity of lard and hams, they have at least two-thirds of their entire packing on hand to market this summer. This is composed of mess pork, short clear ribs, short clears, shoulders in dry salt, lard and sweet pickled hams. They have purchased and steamed out for grease over one thousand dead hogs, bought principally from Illinois, and supposed to have died from cholera.

Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co. have a large quantity of ice in store, and are prepared to pack this summer in case they should decide to do so.

DAILY GATE CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 14, 1874

—Messrs. James Hagens & Co. commenced operations at their packing establishment on Wednesday, and Messrs. Patterson and Timberman will commence to-day. All the packing houses will then be running the season fully inaugurated, and operations will be conducted vigorously. Hogs have commenced to arrive pretty freely, the receipts yesterday being from 800 to 1,000 head. Packers are paying 5½ to 6 cents for good smooth hogs. At these prices farmers cannot afford to feed very much 50 cent corn after their hogs are ready for market.

The Daily Gate City.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1872.

Patterson & Timberman.

From the Ottumwa Courier.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Having had occasion a few days ago to visit Keokuk, the Gate City of the great agricultural fields of Southern Iowa, and having had a little leisure, I very naturally took a stroll over the city to see what I could see. That Keokuk will be *the* city of Iowa needs no very great stretch of imagination to foresee. Her relation to the garden of Iowa, the Des Moines Valley, with her superior railroad connections east and south, it seems to me place her beyond successful competition with other cities of this State. But I did not commence to write up the city of Keokuk, nor her business houses generally, of which much might be said, but to notice one firm of business men there—men with whom I have been acquainted for over twenty years. I mean the firm of Patterson & Timberson, pork and beef packers and dealers of Keokuk.

This firm, composed of William Patterson and William Timberman, associated in business in September, 1848, and have hence been together at that city for almost 24 years.

They have, at no time, during this long period, had any written agreement of copartnership, and have never had the slightest disagreement between themselves. The judgments of each, and the contracts made for the firm by each, have uniformly been cheerfully acquiesced in by the other. That they have been successful in business, all who know anything of their manner of doing business, are prepared to believe.

They are the oldest firm engaged, without change in the packing business, west of the Alleghanies, and in the transactions of theis business, involving the handling of millions and millions of money and property, as well their own as that of others, it may be truthfully said that not one person with or for whom they have done business has at any time complained of the manner of their doing it. And there lives not a man, woman or child, who can say that Patterson & Timberman ever paid them or asked them to receive less than 100 cents on the dollar to any creditor who may have a claim against them. They are in fact wealthy.

The history of this firm is no ordinary history, and while the city of Keokuk has a just pride in claiming these solid men as her citizens, yet the people of Southern Iowa, among whom are their warm friends and firm patrons, have a right to share with her in that pride, based, as it is, on a practical knowledge of their honor, honesty and straightforwardness.

Patterson & Timberman are synonymous with honor and integrity. Their word is verity—their contracts are inviolable.

Whoever deals with P. & T. feels and knows that he will be honestly and fairly dealt with. And to say of all classes of meats into which the hog or the steer can be manufactured, that they are equal to the Patterson & Timberman manufacture, is the very highest recommendation that can be given. Their meats are standard meats, both in Europe and America. To express the whole truth in a few words, P. & T. are upright, noble, just, are model business men and citizens.

One other fact which may be mentioned of these men is that they have, all the time, been persistently opposed to each other in politics. Yet each knowing that the other is as honest and conscientious in politics as business, they have at no time allowed their political differences to have the slightest effect on their business or social relations. Each has been elected one or more times Mayor of Keokuk, and once were opposing candidates. Any city or country may be justly proud of such men as Patterson and Timberman.

Respectfully, &c.,

H. B. HENDERSHOTT.

OTTUMWA, April 29th, 1872.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

CITY NEWS.

—We see by the Muscatine Journal that Mr. James Hagans of this city, has purchased the Rothchilds pork packing house at that place, and will begin operations there soon. This will be especially profitable to Muscatine, as Mr. Hagan's brand is well known. With the old man at the old trade in a new stand, the business cannot help but be a paying investment, not only to Mr. Hagans, but to that city, as an institution of that kind is sadly needed there. We congratulate Muscatine on having secured such a man as Jas. Hagans, for a better man would be indeed hard to find.

THE GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 18, 1876.

PORK PACKING.

PERTINENT POINTS PERTAINING THERETO.

Opening of the Season at the Packing House of Geo. B. Smyth & Co.---The

10.

Others Will Start Up Soon---Prospects as to Hogs and Prices.

Pork packing is one of the important interests of Keokuk—so much so that our city ranks among the leading in the West, outside of Chicago and St. Louis. The extent to which operations are carried on here not only makes this a disbursing point for large sums of money, but furnishes employment to hundreds of laboring men during the winter, when they would otherwise be idle. For these reasons our citizens generally will be glad to learn that operations have already been commenced here, and that all of our packing houses will be run during the season.

Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co. have made a packing arrangement with one of the largest houses in England, Messrs. Fowler Bros., who now rank among the largest merchants of the world, and who are prepared to market property in all portions thereof. They have the largest distributive trade in England, and other portions of Great Britain, for provisions, of any house in America or England; and as there are six brothers of them in active business life, their business, wherever it is represented, receives their close personal attention. They have a large house in Liverpool, one in Manchester, one in New York, and one in Chicago; and are in constant communication with the markets of the world. In Chicago they have one of the largest packing houses there, which they run winter and summer. Last year, they cut in it, three hundred and seventy-six thousand hogs. They have recently rented the Ashbrook House in St. Louis, and expect to establish a house there.

Mr. Chas. Dickey, of Belfast, Ireland, will take charge of the running of Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co's. packing house, as the cutting and curing of English meats will be made a specialty, in the making and curing of which he is an expert, having had great experience both in Ireland in and the packing house of Messrs. Fowler Bros., Chicago, where he has been actively employed for the past three years. Mr. T. J. Godman, who has had charge of the operative management of Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co's. packing house since it was built, has accepted a minor position—that of running the slaughter house, under the direction of Mr. Dickey, until he can obtain a better position else where.

Farmers and drovers can now depend on getting full Chicago prices here for their hogs, Winter and Summer, less the cost of transportation, skrinkage and cost of sale in that market; and drovers will find it to their interest to ship their hogs to Chicago via Keokuk, and if they sell here they can stop them. All hogs coming this way are finding a ready market here. Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co. killed seven hundred head Thursday, and will increase their killing to one thousand daily so soon as hogs begin to move freely enough to enable them to purchase that number at relative prices to Chicago.

Messrs. Patterson & Timberman and James Hagens & Co., have laid in supplies of salt and cooperage, and are about ready to commence operations. The former will probably begin killing next week, and the latter sometime between now and the first of December. The number they will pack will depend in a measure upon the supply of hogs and the prices at which they can be purchased, but the indications now are that if the crop proves an abundant one and prices are not too high, the season will be one of the most active in the history of our city.

Of course, opinions vary considerably as to the prospects. There are no doubt localities where the cholera has been very disastrous and the number been very materially thinned out, but to what extent this will effect the aggregate, cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy. Experienced packers say the cry of short crop is raised with such unfailing certainty every year, that they are not so easily frightened by it as they used to be, and predict that the supply of hogs will be larger this year than it has ever been before.

However this may be, it is generally conceded that the season will be late and the weight probably not up to that of previous years. The high prices which have been paid for hogs for summer packing have, it is said, drawn in a large majority of the old hogs that were in a condition to market. In consequence of this, those that are left for the winter season are mostly young hogs.

As to prices, no reliable predictions can be made. The season opens here at $5.00@5.25, but what they will be a month hence, no one can tell. One thing is certain however, shippers can always rely on realizing Chicago prices here.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

SUNDAY MORNING, JAN. 10. 1869

Packing Statistics of Keokuk, 1868-9.

The packing season now being over, we are enabled to lay before our readers the result of same in our city, and will premise the same by saying that the packing season just passed has been the shortest one we have had for years, as our packing season here usually lasts at least sixty days, from its commencement to its close, while thirty days this year compass it. The season has been marked as an active and excited one, with advanced prices being paid almost daily for hogs, when the fact became clear that our hog crop would be largely short of last year. Our entire section of country has been filled with local and distant buyers, from whom our farmers have realized full prices for their hogs. The packing here sums up 42,500 hogs, against 68,000 last year, with no increase in weight or lard, cut by the following houses:

Patterson, Timberman & Co.	15,3[illegible]0
Ruddick, Kiser & Co.	15,50[illegible]
Godman & Bro., (for Geo. B. Smyth & Co.)	10,500
Robertson & Albers	600
John Stannus	250
Wm. Eners	100
John Weis	200
John Emmigart	50
Total	42,500

Des Moines is the only point in our State, of which we are advised, where the packing exceeded that of last year, the excess there being very small, about 500 hogs, while at all other points the decrease in the packing is fully proportionate to the decrease in our city. The extreme price the market has reached for hogs has induced the bringing to market of everything that was at all marketable, which must materially reduce the number in the country for spring and summer market, while the number of stock hogs now in the country, from the best information we can obtain, is less than last year.

The number of cattle feeding in our State is less than last year, and buyers are now offering 6½ to 7 cents gross, in the interior, for fat cattle for spring dealing. That, with the fact that many thousand sheep were slaughtered during the fall, (7000 head were killed here by one house,) impresses us that, even with an ordinary export demand, we are this year to have a scarcity of animal food in our country, and that high prices for the same are inevitable. In view of which our farmers will do well to care well for their young stock particularly, as much of our large crop of corn will do only for feeding purposes, being light and chaffy, not suitable for shipment.

THE GATE CITY

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2. 1864

"THE KEOKUK PORK HOUSE."—The new Pork House of Messrs. Cennable & Smyth, and Godman & Bro, is now completed, and is, by far, one of the largest private improvements ever made in our city, and we can say, without fear of contradiction, is one of the largest, most substantial and best arranged houses in the United States.

The main packing house is three stories high, and built with the best lime stone, 150 feet in length, by 100 feet in width; thickness of wall, first story, 3 feet; sec-

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PORK PACKING-1

ond story, 2½ feet; third story, 20 inches; an adjacent warehouse built of stone, and will be connected with main building by a bridge, is 127 feet long, by 50 feet wide—two stories high, with a seven-feet basement story. The slaughter-house which adjoins main building is two stories high, 85 feet in length, by 25 feet wide. The lower story opening on a level with the second story of the main packing house, is the beef house, and has three rows of beef boxes, and will hang 250 head of cattle. The second story is on a level with the third story of the packing house, and is for slaughtering hogs—has capacity to handle daily 1,500 hogs, which are taken from the cleaning bench on to an iron railroad and run into the hanging house, which is fitted up with slides, and has capacity for hanging 4,000 hogs.

The lard-house is 40 feet in length, by 25 feet in width—contains four of the largest size Wilson's patent iron lard tanks, and two of the largest size wooden tanks—making six tanks, sufficient to render daily the lard from 1,500 hogs; besides two large iron steam refiners with steam worm in each for purifying and drying the lard after it is cooked in the tanks, by which process a superior quality of lard is made that will keep in any climate. The tanks empty into six large vats, and the vats empty into presses underneath, where all the grease left in the offal is pressed out.

The engine-house adjoining lard house, contains a sixteen-horse power engine, two boilers 22 feet long, and 42 inches in diameter, with a separation wall between the boilers of three feet, and a steam drum for each boiler, connected with a three-foot pipe with valves in same, so that one or both boilers can be used. This improvement is surrounded by some five acres of ground, which is used for pens for cattle and hogs, brine yards, stock scale, &c. The Keokuk Pork House has now slaughtered upwards of one thousand head of cattle, and is daily killing one hundred head; has capacity to pack and take care of the product of 5,000 head of cattle and 75,000 hogs.

The packing brand of the house is Godman & Bro., packers. Their reputation as packers needs no comments at our hands, as their brand is well known in every market in the Union. Everything about the premises of this establishment is entirely new, and the house has all the modern improvements for handling both cattle and hogs, and is so arranged that a boy ten years old can run a hog on the railroad, and slides to any part of the hanging room.

Our city is now the Porkopolis of the State, and the fifth packing point (in number) in the United States, and the capacity of all of our packing houses combined, five in number, amounts to 240,000 hogs and 10,000 head of cattle, and will furnish labor during the packing season for at least 400 men. Success to all engaged in that branch of business.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13. 1863

PORK PACKING.

Keokuk has long and justly been termed the "porkopolis" of Iowa, and well has she deserved the reputation, for in no city throughout the State, or in any city west of Chicago, has the business been carried on to such an extent as in Keokuk, and no city has greater facilities and advantages for pork packing and being the hog market for the great country west of the Mississippi than we have here.—There were between one hundred and fifty thousand and two hundred thousand hogs packed here last year, and none of our large packing houses were filled to their utmost capacity; but since then they have all enlarged their establishments, so that their facilities are almost double what they were last year, and they can now pack over two hundred thousand hogs without difficulty. We have four immense packing houses now under full blast, belonging to Godman & Co., Cleghorn & Alexander, Patterson & Timberman and Batty & Hamill, each of which have the facilities for killing and packing twelve hundred hogs per day.—Besides the houses mentioned, there is another under the process of erection, and of which we gave a description a short time since, belonging to Messrs. Connable & Smyth. It is built entirely of stone, and when finished will be the largest pork house in the West.

We have visted these several establishments this week and obtained the figures both of their capacity and the number they have already packed this season, which commenced some two weeks ago. Our first visit was at the large house of Messrs. Godman & Co., where they were just finishing slaughtering a fine lot of six hundred head, which were bought in Hancock Co., Ill. We were shown around this house by Mr. Godman, who, by the way, is a very *killing* fellow. They have here facilities for slaughtering and packing over twenty-five thousand hogs in a season and have already killed twenty-five hundred. There were some forty hands at work in the different departments, which, however, is not a full set. They have four large steam tanks for trying lard in this building, and two boilers to furnish the steam. Everything here is done neatly and systematically, and is all under the immediate supervision of our friend Godman, who has had a large experience in the business.

Crossing the street, and a little to the right, we entered the mammoth establishment of Messrs. Cleghorn & Alexander, which is the largest packing house in the city and one of the best regulated. They have already packed five thousand hogs, and have facilities for killing and packing between thirty and forty thousand. They were just receiving a lot of nine hundred by the Keokuk and Fort Des Moines Railroad, and which averaged three hundred pounds. Here they were working nearly sixty hands, and killing a thousand per day. They also have four immense tanks, which were under a full head of steam, and making a noise somewhat resembling distant thunder. It is astonishing how quick a porker in his "innersent luviness," as Josh Billings says, is transferred from the pen to the barrel.

After surveying this establishment, we passed down—a little to the left—to the house of Messrs. Patterson & Timberman, which is situated nearer the river than either of the other two. This house is but little smaller than that of Messrs. Cleghorn & Alexander, having received large additions during the past summer, and has nearly the same capacity. It is also in a better situation for shipping than either of the others, as it is adjoining the railroad, and they have built a large levee into the river, so that boats can land very near the building, thus saving an immense quantity of hauling. There were fifty hands at work here, and they have already killed forty-eight hundred head. We were guided around by Col. Patterson, who is one of the oldest packers in the city. There is but three iron tanks in this building, all of which were under a full blast of steam.

Passing out, we started for the house of Batty & Hamill, which is situated a short distance below the machine shop. Here they have the same facilities for shipping as Messrs. Patterson & Timberman, and their establishment is of about

the same capacity, being, perhaps, of somewhat larger dimensions. Their lard facilities are, however, greater than any of the others. They have just commenced killing and have packed but eighteen hundred thus far. There were thirty hands at work on a lot of four hundred hogs, which were the finest we have seen this season, averaging nearly four hundred pounds. Everything here is under the management of Capt. Batty, whose experience is large, and who has a high reputation as a packer.

When we had finished our survey of this building, we started for the office very much impressed with the amount of business done by these firms and the great advantage it was to our city, which is destined to become a second Cincinnati in the pork business, and will ultimately be to Iowa what that city is to Ohio.

In those four houses the number of hogs packed already this season amount to fifteen thousand, and the season has but just commenced. The packers, however, say that the packing season will close earlier than usual, and that the number of hogs packed will be comparatively small. In visiting these establishments we had intended to enlarge more at length on the process of transferring the porker from the pen to the barrel, which might be interesting to some of our readers who are unacquainted with it, but the want of space forbids it. So we have concluded to leave the enlarging for the proprietors to do themselves, for if they do not enlarge again soon, they will be utterly unable to pack all the hogs that are brought to this market.

Before we conclude this article we would have our farmers and stock raisers understand that packers here will pay Chicago prices for hogs, after deducting the freight, thus making it to the interest of all to bring their hogs to this market rather than take them to Chicago.

WEEKLY JOURNAL.

HENRY NEWTON. G. ST. C. HUSSEY. JAS. M. GWIN.

HENRY NEWTON & CO.,
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

JAMES M, GWIN, Editor.

CITY OF KEOKUK:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1858.

The Des Moines Packing Co.

This packing establishment, composed of McCrea & Co, & Hussey, Petit, Wells & Co, a very wealthy firm of Pittsburg, Pa., is the largest and most perfect slaughtering and packing house on the upper Mississippi river. It is situated in the lower part of the city, on the bank of the river, and along the side of the Des Moines railroad. Hogs brought to market on the railroad are discharged from the cars into the pens, without trouble to owners, or inconvenience to the railroad company. This simple convenience that this house possesses over other establishments here, gives it a great advantage in commanding the market.

THE PENS,

Are so arranged that the drovers may keep their hogs seperate, and pass them from any location to the inclined plane, which leads from the slaughtering department and connects with the entire enclosure below. This plane, over which the hogs pass, inclines from the ground to the top of the building, affording an easy passage to the slaughter pens. Here they knocked down and conveyed to a grate floor, where they are bled. From this, point, the arrangements are such that the hogs start down a plane, and continue so until the process of packing and cutting is completed.

THE SLAUGHTERING DEPARTMENT,

Is the most complete arrangement, it has been our pleasure to see. The hogs are passed from the grate to the vat where they are scalded, and transfered to the benches, and there dressed. Adjoining those benches is a large wheel, about twenty-five feet in diameter, hung on an upright shaft, with hooks arranged on its verge, and so adjusted, that when a hog is suspended on the hooks, the wheel turning immediately, carries it away and gives place for a second, and so on. Those who take the entrails out stand in one position, and this large wheel conducts the hogs to them, where they perform their part of the labor. Near by is situated other tables, upon which the entrails are thrown, and rid of the lard on them. By the time the wheel revolves half around, the hog is washed and drained, and ready for the hooks.

THE WATER,

Is conducted to this floor by means of large pumps propelled by a steam engine, The engine is of the most improved pattern, and the machinery attached to it is equally improved and perfect. The boilers, two in number, are double flued, newly made and put in this season

The weighing and cutting division is adjoining the slaughtering department, and on the same floor. The hogs are weighed and conducted from the scales to the cutting tables, and there dissected with an expertness equal to surgery. This table is surrounded by chutes used for the different classes of pork. The hams are trimmed and pass through one chute to a room below, where they are salted and bulked for the next process. The sides, shoulders and mess pork each pass through chutes to their respective departments, and undergo the usual process of salting, bulking and packing.

THE LARD RENDERING,

Is performed in another portion of the building The heads and all the trimmings are conveyed by a convenient apparatus to large tanks and there rendered. These tanks, five in number, hold each about one thousand gallons of lard, and are heated with steam by means of which the lard is extracted When the process of extracting is completed the lard is drawn off into large kettles where it is refined, then, after remaining there a proper time it is drawn into large iron coolers, and then drawn off and barreled.

SUGAR CURED HAMS,

Are put up by a peculiar process. Their arrangements for putting up such hams are complete in every respect.

THE BEEF PACKING DEPARTMENT,

Comprises every facility necessary for expeditious work. The pens are adjoinining the superstructure for dressing them. They are hoisted by a cargo wheel and suspended on ways and there dressed. The packing is performed in an adjoining room, where a large screw is erected for pressing it into tierces.

THE NUMBER OF HOGS KILLED,

By them is 27,000 up to this date. This large amount of provision is mostly on hand, having shipped but a small quantity.

The Company expect to kill abont 7000 hogs and about 1500 head of cattle in the remainder of the season.

Persons having cattle and hogs for sale should remember that this extensive establishment is in market for, all that may desire to sell.

THE SUPERINTENDENTS,

Are men who understand their bussiness fully and deserve a notice.

T. J. GODMAN, Jr., has control of the killing and slaughtering, and the way business moved when we were there, convinced us that he is a master of the art. Every thing is in its place, and things move along apparently by one impulse.

I. J. TALLEY is the superintendent of the packing, is a pushing, saving and economical overseer—keeps things nice and clean, and understands his business thoroughly.

Messrs. WELLS, PETIT, M'CREA, and others are all thorough business men and gentlemen besides.

Capt. WHITE, is the parent of the whole establishment. For business qualifications, gentlemanly deportment, or downright good fellow, Capt. WHITE has no superior. We have known him long in all the business relations of life and can add our word to the testimony of thousands, that he is the prince of clever gentlemen.

With such an establishment in our midst, employing from 150 to 200 men, using from $20,000 to $30,000 worth of cooperage, packing from 30,000 to 35,000 hogs, from 1500 to 2000 beeves, and conducted by such liberal men, truly our citizens should justly feel proud of their enterprise.

We have been led to make these remarks, by visiting their establishment, and taking a minute view of the whole arrangement for packing, and not with any disrespect to any other packing houses in the city. We have several good establishments besides this which are worthy of notice, and which we hope to visit soon.

That Keokuk is the Porkopolis of Iowa, no

one can deny, and by the arrival of another pork season we have no doubt but that 100,000 hogs will be packed here.

In conclusion let us say to our country traders, anything in the line of merchandise can be had at Keokuk *cheaper* than any other point on the Mississippi river, and a better price paid for produce here, than any point above St. Louis.

Farmers and drovers remember these things, anb also that the Des Moines Packing Company want 1500 beeves, at the best prices paid in the market.

THE CONSTITUTION.

THOS. W. CLAGETT, CHA'S SMITH, } EDITORS. 1862

CITY OF KEOKUK:

TUESDAY MORNING, : : : : NOV. 18.

PORK PACKING IN KEOKUK.—As our city has now become one of the great depots, at which this important branch of business is carried on, we have considered that it would be a matter of interest to some of our readers, to let them know what the prospects are for the season now just opening, and in view thereof we have visited the different Pork packing establishments of out city, in order to ascertain some facts in relation to the matter.

We find that we have four large packing houses, each one fitted up with all the necessary appliances, and latest improvements for carrying on business on the most extensive scale. The first house we visited, was that of Messrs. Patterson & Timberman, and we find that these gentlemen have made extensive alterations in their house since last year, the lower floor has been raised several feet, thus placing it entirely above high water mark, and an additional story has been added to the house, by which means the capacity of the establishment has been largely increased. With the facilities now at their disposal, Messrs. Patterson & Timberman can kill and cut one thousand hogs per day. They are well supplied with cooperage and salt, have already killed about two thousand hogs, and expect to do a business fully up to that of any previous year.

Messrs. Cleghorn & Alexander, have also made extensive improvements in their house in the way of enlargements and additional machinery; the capacity of their establishment is also about one thousand hogs per day. Their supply of cooperage and salt is ample for all probable demands, and up to the present time, they have slaughtered about twenty-one hundred hogs.

Messrs. Godman & Co. These gentlemen with their usual enterprise, have also made every preparation for carrying on a most extensive business. Additional lard tanks and steamers have been put up, pens have been built, roads have been made, and Maiden Run has been spanned by a substantial bridge, the center pier of which has a regular Monitor looking bow pointing up stream. Messrs. Godman & Co's house has accommodations for handling one thousand hogs per day.—They have this season, already killed about twenty-five hundred hogs, and are well supplied with cooperage and salt. Mr. Godman informs us that he considers the prospects are, that a much larger number of hogs will be packed in Keokuk this season than ever before, and in this opinion he is sustained by the other packers. Their estimate is generally that at the end of the season, the business of our four hooses, will foot up from seventy to eighty thousand. Mr. Godman himself expects to pack about thirty thousand, and of these he says he will probably cut five thousand into English meats. We saw a very fine lot of Cumberland middles stacked up in the house last week.

Messrs. Beatty & Hamill. These gentlemen occupy the house built some years since by Capt. David White, and it is the largest one of the lot. It is known as the Des Moines Pork House, and has a capacity for handling twelve hundred hogs a day. They have been killing since the fifth of September, and have slaughtered up to the present time 4498 hogs. We are informed that owing to the demand for lard, and the high price that article has been bringing this fall, slaughtering commenced earlier than usual, for instance Messrs Beatty and Hamill commenced killing as early as the 5th of September, and thus, although about 11,000 hogs have been killed, by far the greater part of them have been run to lard. Another feature that will be peculiar to the packing trade this season, will be the large number of hogs cut up into English meats; this is partly owing to the extra demand for this style of meats, and partly to the high prices of cooperage, which, owing to the scarcity of labor consequent upon the war, has largely advanced in price, and as English meats are packed in boxes, cooperage is not needed for that article.

The foregoing review of the condition of our pork packing houses, will give you an idea of the extent to which this business has grown in our city, and we may be sure that our enterprising packers will not let the business fall off for want of attention, skill and energy. It is a trade that is capable of being extended to vast dimensions, our city is adapted for it, and as a consequence it is steadily on the increase. Keokuk now ranks as one of the largest pork packing cities in the country.

THE CONSTITUTION.

THOS. W. CLAGETT, CHA'S SMITH, } EDITORS. 1863

CITY OF KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, : : : : FEB. 16.

THE PORK TRADE.—During the months of December and January we furnished our readers with reports of the condition of the pork packing business of our city as it stood up to the 1st of January, and we now present them with a consolidated report of the business of the season just closed, not only of our own town, but also for the neighboring towns. In making up this report we have labored under some disadvantage, and it is not so complete as it was our desire to make it; one reason of this is that some of the packers in our neighboring towns failed to give us the full information that we requested, either from the fact of their not having entirely closed up their business for this season, or they had not made the necessary calculations, and thus in some cases we are unable to make our returns of the average weight of hogs, and the average yield of lard as complete as it should be. Nevertheless we are under obligations to the gentlemen connected with the different establishments above named, for their kindness in furnishing us with such particulars as we have got. Another difficulty we had to contend with, was the refusal of one of our city packers to furnish us with any information in regard to their business: the reason given for this proceeding was that "it was their own private business, and something the public had nothing to do with it." Owing therefore to the policy of these gentlemen, our city report may not be strictly correct, but we feel pretty certain that it does not vary ten hogs either one way or the other.—We also tender our thanks to Mr. Assessor Stripe for his assistance, and without which we should have been unable to make a full report.

The following is a statement of the number of hogs packed in this and neighboring towns for the season just closed, and also a review of the trade for the past five years.

Name of Packer.	Where packed.	Number of hogs slaughtered.	Average weight per hog, lbs.	Average yield of lard per hog, lbs.
Batty & Hamill	Keokuk	20,243	195⅞	30¼
Patterson & Co.	"	27,886	195½	30
Godman & Co	"	25,500	191	29¼
Other packers	"	33,267		
Dead hogs bro't in & packed here		1,500		
Total packed in Keokuk		108,396		
B Ladd & Co	Ottumwa	45,000	193	27
M. W. Dean & Co	Ft Madison	10,203		
Maxwell & Rae	Alexandria Mo	20,500	202¾	
R. E. Hill & Co	"	8,043	202	
Hill Knox & Co	Warsaw, Ill	9,656	236	27½
M. T. Hunt	"	3,041	241¼	40
Review of the pork packing in Keokuk for the past 5 years. In				
1858-59		53,600	181	23
18 9-60		49,600	191½	29
1860-61		48,500	233⅜	30
1861-62		40,000	224	35
1862-63		108,396	191⅛	29⅞

As far as this City is concerned, it will

thus be seen that the business of this season exceeds that of any other year by 54,796 hogs, being more than double that of 1858 and '59. The number of hogs packed in Keokuk exceeds that of all the other places named, put together, by 11,953. It also exceeds by nearly half that of any other town in Iowa.

Keokuk thus takes the lead of all towns in the State, in this important branch of business. And there is little doubt but that we will keep it, as our peculiar advantages for carrying it on are so evident, that capitalists from all parts look to Keokuk as the centre of operations in connection with the pork trade of the Mississippi valley. We hear of a probability of one or more packing houses being established here in time for next season's business.

The number packed in Alexandria is unexpectedly large this season. And Messrs. Maxwell & Rae informed us, that notwithstanding the unsettled condition of that State, nearly all the hogs put up there were Missouri hogs.

In weight of hogs the packers of Warsaw, Illinois, seem to take the lead, as they report a larger average weight than any of the other operators in this neighbourhood.

The weather during the season just closed has been remarkably mild, and on that account not altogether a favorable season for packing. As regards the profits of the trade, we believe this season's business foots up quite satisfactorily to the packers; indeed, if we should judge by the jolly countenances of some of our friends in that line, we should say that they feel as if they had got hold of a fat thing this time.

The Daily Gate City.

TUESDAY MORNING. FEBRUARY 7, 1871.

THE pork packing season at this place closed last Saturday evening, all the establishments having suspended operations at that time.

The following table shows the number packed by the various houses during the season:

Godman & Bro., for Geo. B. Smyth & Co	20,700
Ruddick, Kiser & Co	13,200
Patterson & Timberman	12,600
Total	46,500

The average gross weight was a fraction over 269 pounds.

The total number is 1,100 less than last year, and 4,500 less than the estimate for his year.

The Gate City.

KEOKUK: 1859

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 4.

The Pork Crop of 1858-9.

We have before us a complete statement of the Pork operations throughout the country for the present season. It was prepared with great care, at the centre of the great Pork interest, and is full and accurate.—And preliminary to the figures which we shall present upon the general subject, we take great pride in saying that, as appears from this table, but four towns in the whole country have packed as many hogs this season as Keokuk, and those towns are Cincinnati, Louisville, Chicago, and Madison, (Ind.) The figures stand as follows:

Cincinnati	350,000
Louisville	288,500
Chicago	155,400
Madison	54,804
Keokuk	53,000

Even St. Louis falls 1,300 below Keokuk.

Below are the Pork operations for Iowa, last year and this:

	1857-8.	1858-9.
Belleview	none.	2,548
Burlington	16,100	32,285
Birmingham	1,684	1,700
Albia	2,000	500
Bentonsport	2,000	1,200
Davenport	8,600	6,153
Dubuque	none.	2,550
Eddyville	6,319	4,700
Fort Madison	3,000	2,000
Farmington	1,800	1,300
Grand View	632	674
Keokuk	25,500	53,000
Keosauqua	1,600	900
Leon	900	500
Muscatine	23,400	42,500
Ottumwa	2,153	1,231
Oskaloosa	1,200	none.
Port Louisa	1,100	500
Wassells	900	500
Mt. Pleasant, Henry Co	4,800	2,648
	103,688	157,389

The grand result exhibited by this table is important, to-wit:

	No. Hogs.	Weight.
Packed in 1857-8	2,257,467	481,122,500
" 1858-9	2,315,081	443,527,628

Inc. in No. over 1857-8, 57,614
Decrease in weight 37,594,872
Equal to 137,974 hogs of 200 lbs. each.
Decrease in Lard for the whole crop, 9,087,668

DAILY GATE CITY.

SUNDAY MORNING, JAN. 16, 1876.

COLLAPSED.

An Explosion at Ben Farnum's Mill

DAMAGES ESTIMATED AT $2,000.

A Young Man Severely Scalded.

About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the people residing in the Western part of the city, were startled by an explosion, and on glancing in the direction of Ben Farnum's meal and hominy mill, opposite the gas works, discovered a cloud of bricks, shingles and timbers. The flues in the boiler of that institution had collapsed, producing a violent concussion.

The one story brick addition to the mill used as a boiler and engine room, was literally blown to atoms, and the *debris* scattered about in every direction. The boiler was thrown backward about ten feet and partially buried in the ruins, but was left intact except the flues, which were completely flattened out. The engine was also considerably shattered.

Mr. Farnum thinks that $2,000 will not repair the damages.

The main building was not injured.

The engine was in charge of a young man named John Appler, aged 18, and a boy named Fred Farnum, aged 14, the son of the proprietor. They had shut down about five minutes previous in order to repair a belt attached to the machinery, and young Farnum had gone up into the mill. Appler was carrying water to put out the fire. At the time of the explosion he was directly under the water tank at the rear end of the boiler room. This remained undisturbed, and to this lucky circumstance Appler is indebted for his life, for had he been anywhere else about that portion of the building he would undoubtedly have been killed. As it was he was severely scalded on the back. He was removed to Mr. Farnum's residence and remedies applied, but as no physician had been called when we were there we are unable to state the precise extent of his injuries. They are not thought to be of a dangerous character, however.

What caused the explosion is not known. Appler asserts with positiveness that when he looked, only a moment before the explosion, there was a full guage and a half of water in the boiler, the tank was full and the pump in good working order.

The boiler was made in 1868, was thoroughly repaired only a few weeks since and was considered in a thoroughly safe condition. A number of cattle were standing around the mill when the explosion occurred. One of these was blown through a fence and badly hurt. Others were so severely injured that they will probably die.

The loss is quite a severe one to Mr. Farnum, and he is entitled to and will no doubt receive the sympathy of all our citizens. He was down town when the explosion took place and seeing the cloud of *debris* in the air, and comprehending the situation, applied the whip to his horse, and was on the ground as soon as possible. The ruins were inspected by quite a large number of citizens from that part of town.

DAILY GATE CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 28, 1875.

—The new plug machine for the Virginia Tobacco works has arrived and was put in operation yesterday. It has a capacity of 5,000 pounds per day, and does the work of twenty or twenty-five men, requiring a man and four boys to operate it. The machine presses the tobacco into proper shape and cuts it off. It is then placed between boards and pressed; then dried and taken to the wrapping tables, where the wrappers are put on. It is then pressed and is ready for packing. This machine, with the stem roller which has recently been added, will increase the facilities of the Virginia Tobacco Works and enable them to compete with any manufactory in the country. They now have a large force of operatives at work, and are turning out huge quantities of their various brands, all of which are very popular wherever tried.

DAILY GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 1874.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO WORKS.

An Institution that Removed from Burlington to Keokuk to Secure Better Manufacturrig and Shipping Facilities.

The Enterprise Starts off Under Favorable Auspices.

MODUS OPERANDI OF CONVERTING THE WEED INTO TOOTHSOME MORSELS.

The First Fine Cut Ever Manufactured in Keokuk.

Our readers are already familiar with the facts connected with the removal of the Virginia Tobacco Works from Burlington to Keokuk and the motives which prompted the action. By the change it secures increased capital, better facilities for manufacturing and very decided advantages in the matter of shipping their goods. The work of removal having been completed, they proceed at once to business. Operations were commenced on Wednesday last under the most favorable auspices. Much has yet to be done before the establishment will be in complete running order, because the undertaking is a big one and requires much time and labor, but sufficient has been accomplished to give one a pretty correct idea of the magnitude and character of the enterprise.

The company own and occupy the large double brick building on the levee between Main and Johnson, one of the best and most substantial buildings in the city, and one that is admirably adapted in every respect to the use for which it has been set apart, being commodious and strong, conveniently located and easy of access from both front and rear. It is 50x100 feet and four stories in height.

One side of the first floor will be used as a store room, and the other as a packing and shipping room. The second floor is occupied on one side as a cutting room and on other as a packing room for smoking tobacco. The general offices of the company are also on this floor.

The leaf room is located on the third floor where a majority of the small hands will be employed. Here also is where the work of casing is done. The fourth story will be used as a drying room.

Consumers of the weed will be interested in the modus operandi of converting it into toothsome morsels for the delectation of their palates.

The leaf tobacco is received in hogsheads. This comes from the States of Kentucky, Virginia and Missouri, and is the very best that can be obtained. The first named State produces the best tobacco for fine cut, the second for plug, and the third for smoking. The leaf tobacco is first carefully assorted under the supervision of an expert. Everything is first put through the casing machine, where the syrups are administered. Next comes the stemming process. This, like the sorting, is done principally by boys and girls. The material for fine cut is then run through the cutting machine, an instrument that works with marvelous rapidity and the utmost uniformity. The fine cut, as it comes from

the machine, is placed upon dryers, and after becoming sufficiently dry is packed in pails, when it is ready for shipment.

The material for plug tobacco is first rolled by hand, and then pressed by means of hydraulic steam power. It is taken from the presses, put up in caddies, labeled and stamped, and conveyed to the shipping room.

The smoking tobacco is put up in paper and cloth packages, by the use of a steam power packer.

The drying room is heated by means of steam pipes, and can be brought up to a temperature of 150 degrees.

The machinery, which is all of the latest and most improved patterns, is propelled by a twenty-five horse power engine, which is located on the first floor. The boiler is a forty-horse power one, and is situated in the boiler room at the rear of the main building. The entire building is heated by steam, there being no stoves except in the offices. A steam elevator extends from the first floor to the ceiling.

The capacity of the Virginia Tobacco Works is from 2,000 to 2,500 pounds per day. On this amount about $400 worth of revenue stamps are used.

When they get to running at their full capacity, a force of about twenty-three grown and forty small hands will be employed.

The leading brands manufactured by the company are as follows:

Fine cut—"R. M. Penn's Best." "Golden Charm." "Belle of the South." "Invincible," and "Lady Godiva.

Plug—"Natural Leaf." Gold Leaf," and "Virginia Star."

Smoking—"Light of the Harem" "Peep O'Day." "Uncle Tom," and "Triumph."

These are all established brands, and are already well known, and extensively used throughout the West. The new company will not therefore be obliged to build up a trade in its goods, but starts off with an established business which, of course, will be largely increased. Major R. M. Penn, who will have personal supervision of the manufactory, has had fourteen years experience in the business, and is unquestionably one of the most competent and reliable judges of tobacco in the West. He is thoroughly familiar with all the details of its manufacture, and under his direction the brands of the Virginia Tobacco Works will be kept up to the highest standard.

The Keokuk men who were instrumental in securing the removal from Burlington and who have invested means in the enterprise, are among our leading capitalists and most substantial business men. The Company commences business with a paid up capital of $40,000, and, with the facilities which it possesses and the careful management which it will receive, cannot fail of success.

The following are the officers of the Company:

President—E. H. Harrison.
Vice-President—S. M. Mills.
Secretary and Treasurer—J. E. Barnes.
Superintendent of Manufactory—Maj. R. M. Penn.
Directors—E. H. Harrison, S. M. Mills, J. E. Barnes, R. M. Penn and John W. Ranson.

The clerical force is as follows:

Book-keeper, Frank Mills; shipping clerk, Robert S. Ranson; traveling salesmen, John S. Moore, Chas. E. Ford and W. E. Collins.

The building is to be surmounted with a huge sign fifty feet in length and four in height, on which is painted in large letters "Virginia Tobacco Works." The front of the building has also been handsomely repainted. Major Penn leaves to-morrow on a trip to St. Louis and Cincinnati to purchase stock.

We have before us a specimen of the fine cut which the Company has turned out since it commenced operations here. This is the first fine cut ever made here in Keokuk.

THE GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 1876.

ENTERPRISE.

AS DISPLAYED IN THE DIRECTION OF IMPROVEMENTS.

The New Store Building of S. Hamill & Co.

It is certainly gratifying in the highest degree to every one who is interested in the growth and prosperity of Keokuk to see our men of means—men who have been successful in business here, and who, through their energy, tact and perseverence, have acquired a competency—investing a portion of their accumulated capital in improvements that go to build up the town. It shows that they have confidence in the future of Keokuk, and are willing to do something toward making that future what we all hope to see it. Several important improvements have been made by men of this class during the past season, and the most conspicuous of the number is the new store building erected by Smith Hamill, Esq., at the corner of Fourth and Johnson streets.

THE BUILDING

is 51x110 feet, three stories in height, and is unquestionably one of the largest, finest and most substantial structures of the kind in the State of Iowa. The foundation, which is four feet in width, extends four feet below the surface of the cellar and rests on a bed of concrete. There is a cellar nine feet in the clear under the entire building, constructed with areas and windows at each end, as well as on the sides, by means of which it is abundantly supplied with light and air. It is covered with a two-inch plank floor, and is on the whole of the most commodious and conveniently arranged cellars in the city. This will be used for storing heavy goods. The building is supported by means of brick and stone pillars extending through the center in the cellar, a row of iron pillars on the first floor and a row of posts on the second floor. The roof is a self-supporting beam truss covered with tin.

There are five double doors with arched transoms in front, and two in the rear. There are over forty windows in the building, and the lights in all of these as well as the doors, are of French glass. The front is of iron, and the doors and windows in the cellar and on the first floor are all protected by iron grating.

The walls are sixteen inches in thickness, and everything about the structure bears evidence of strength and durability.

THE FIRST FLOOR

is sixteen feet in heighth, and except the space occupied by the offices is one room. This with the facilities which have been provided, affords the capacity for storing and handling immense quantities of goods. A Fairbank scale of 3,500 pounds capacity is located in the front part of the room and a similar one in the rear part. A new Reedy elevator of the latest and most improved pattern is in operation from the cellar to the second floor, and the entire building his heated by a furnace located in the cellar. A suspended shelf 3½ feet in width extends through the middle of the room from front to rear. To the right, as you enter, are the offices. The first, which is a room 16x20 feet will be used as the shipping office, and will be presided over by Will Huxley, the shipping clerk. Adjoining this is a room 21x16 feet, which is occupied as a counting room and general business office. Here will be found that accomplished accountant Arthur Williams, otherwise "Chub," he of the robust figure, angelic voice and sad sweet smile. "Chub" has been wrestling with a big safe for a couple of days and is reduced to a mere skeleton, but he will doubtless recover his accustomed rotundity as soon as he gets settled down to his regular three meals a day. He will preside over the book-keeper's desk with his usual amiability, but will be ready to frown down the man who dares to sit with his feet on the mantle or squirts tobacco juice on the walls of his new office.

At the rear of the counting room is a fire proof vault 7x10 feet, extending from the basement to the top of the second story. This is provided with Hall's burglar proof vault doors, with combination locks—one on the first and one on the second floor.

At the front on

THE SECOND FLOOR

are two large rooms, which will be used as offices. Access to them is had by means of an easy stairway, leading from Johnston street. One of these rooms is 24x41 feet, and will be occupied by the Iowa State Insurance Company. The other room is 41x24 feet, and has not yet been rented. The remainder of this floor will be used by the firm.

THE THIRD FLOOR

has been leased by the Masonic Fraternity for a term of fifteen years, and is being partitioned off and fitted up in fine style for a Masonic Hall. We defer a description of this until it shall have been completed.

THE BUILDERS.

The following are the names of the parties who have had contracts upon the building:

Robert Burns, architect; P. McMannus, excavation; Steele and Flether, masonry; M. G. Campbell, cut stone; R. P. Creel, brick work; Burns & Nichols, carpenter work; Geo. Hill & Co., painting; Sample, McElroy & Co., iron work; J. N. Cherry, tin work; Berryhill & Cox, plastering; P. McNamara furnished the rock, Henry Rankin the brick, Taber & Co. the lumber, John Carrs the lime, and Tom Harris the sand.

Ground was broken for the building on the 9th day of August, work on the foundation commenced on the 15th of August and the corner-stone laid on the 18th of September. Form this it will be seen that the work has been pushed forward with remarkable rapidity. It has at the same time been performed in a very satisfactory manner. There were placed in the corner-stone when it was laid, copies of the GATE CITY and *Constitution* and of the Fort Madison, Carthage, Warsaw and Alexandria papers, bills of fare of the Patterson and Hardin Houses, cards of all the business houses in the city one piece of each of the denominations of coin and currency of the United States up to $1.00, a list of the employes of the house as well as of the builders and a condensed history of the house from its commencement.

The structure has been erected at a cost of about $15,000. It is a credit and an ornament to our city and will remain as a monument to the enterprise and public spiritedness of Mr. Smith Hamill. The building is occupied by the wholesale grocery house of

S. HAMILL & CO.

The history of this house is identical with the history of our city, being one of the oldest as well as one of the leading wholesale establishments here. It was established in 1852, and has been in active operation ever since. Several changes have occurred during that time, but Mr. Hamill, we believe, has always been at it's head. He is one of our most successful merchants as well as one of our oldest, wealthiest and most influential citizens. Mr. David B. Hamill, the junior member of the firm, is a prominent young business man, and for several years has taken an active part in the management of the affairs of the house.

For nineteen years the firm has occupied the building owned by Messrs. Cox & Shelley, at the corner of Main and Fourth streets, from which they have just removed, and they inform us that during that time they have paid over $30,000 rent.

They are now ensconsed in their new quarters, where we predict for the house continued success and prosperity. With increased room and increased facilities they will also have an increased stock of goods, and will be better prepared than ever to supply the demands of their growing trade.

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THE GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 16, 1876.

CORNER STONE CONTENTS.

What Will be Placed in the Foundation of the New Hamill Building.

The corner stone of the new Hamill building, corner Fourth and Johnson streets, will be laid to-day or Monday. The event will be attended with no formal ceremonies, but a collection of articles will be deposited in the stone that will be interesting for future generations to overhaul and examine a hundred years hence when the building is torn down to make room for a marble front hotel or a custom house, or an underground railway, or something of that sort. The collection will include cards of all the business houses in Keokuk that can be procured, copies of the GATE CITY, *Constitution*, and *Post*, the Fort Madison *Plaindealer*, and *Democrat*, Carthage *Gazette* and *Republican*, a variety of silver coin old and new a list of the members of the present City Council, a history of the firm of S. Hamill & Co., together with a list of its employes, copies of the Patterson and Hardin House bills of fare, a condensed history of the building with the names of the contractors and other articles. The Masons will also contribute some documents. These will all be placed in a tin box sealed up and deposited in the corner stone.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as 2d class matter

JANUARY 24. 1890

THE ICE HARVEST.

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND TONS TO BE CUT HERE.

To-day the ice harvest at Keokuk will begin in earnest. If the cold weather continues steady employment at remunerative wages will be given to five hundred laborers and teamsters for a period of six or seven weeks. If the ice can be obtained 175,000 tons will be cut this season and possibly over three hundred thousand tons. The government canal is the scene of harvesting and a better field is obtainable nowhere in this latitude. An excellent quality of transparent crystal eight inches in thickness is obtained. C. A. Hutchinson has contracted with the St. Louis Ice Co. to furnish 5,000 cars or 150,000 tons of ice, which will require 200 trains of twenty-five cars each to transport it. If the ice can be cut this firm may possibly contract for 5,000 cars additional, its storage capacity being 600,000 tons. A representative of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co. of St. Louis was in Keokuk on January 17, but as the prospect for ice formation at that time was not very favorable he went further north. Possibly the company may yet determine to harvest a portion of its supply here. This morning Coey & Co., whose supply will require 18,000 tons, will begin cutting and have one hundred men employed for the work. Following are the specified amounts which other firms will cut: Mississippi Coal and Ice Co., 1,500 tons; O. B. Sweet, 900 tons; Copeland 2,200 tons; S. P. Pond, 700 tons; Keppel-Blom Co., 1,200 tons. Tucker Bros., of Chicago, have staked out a field above the middle lock of the canal but the amount which they intend harvesting could not be ascertained.

THE GATE CITY:

1877

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 12.

SHANGHAI BERRIES.

The Process of Dessicating Them--Keokuk Has the only Factory of the Kind in Existence.

A visit to the factory of the American Egg Company, in whose operations our esteemed fellow citizens, Messrs. S. P. Pond & Co., are largely interested, has well repaid us.

The public generally are well aware how much has been done, or attempted, in the way of pickling and otherwise preserving eggs in the shell, but few have troubled themselves to find out that a large amount of money and a great deal of ingenuity has been spent in attempting their successful dessication. The failures have been numerous, including some partial successes, and date back, some of them, nearly two centuries. The first complete success, however, has been that obtained by Mr. W. O. Stoddard, now the President of the American Egg Company, whose process, machinery and product are covered by no less than ten patents.

The manufacture was first carried on in the city of New York, and afterwards, for a length of time, in St. Louis, and is now established in Keokuk. Mr. Stoddard declares this the best egg market, not only for quantities obtainable but for size and quality of eggs, of which he has any knowledge.

The local importance of this new industry may be measured by the fact that the Egg Company daily desiccates over three thousand dozen of eggs and considers this a "mere beginning."

In the manufacture, the eggs, after careful candling, are broken and cleared of their shells by machinery and delivered in the form of a batter, the whites and yolks thoroughly combined. This batter is then discharged, by a peculiar arrangement, upon rapidly revolving metallic cylinders, under a strong blast of heated air. These cylinders are automatically self cooling, remaining at a temperature of seventy degrees Fahrenheit, and so maintaining at that point all the egg dried upon them, in spite of the greater heat of the blast. The dried egg is scraped from the cylinders in a granulated form, very much resembling coarse corn meal, and is subjected to a subsequent curing process which lasts about thirty days.

This product is already well known in the eastern markets as "Stoddard's Standard Granulated Egg," and meets with a sale so ready that the supply has never yet been equal to the demand. It is largely used by bakers, shipping, hotels, in the mining reigons, &c., and has been introduced in the army. Sales have been made in Europe, the West Indies and Central America, and there seems to be no limit to the possible market.

At no distant day it must become a regular article of family supply, the year round. So far as cheapness and perfection of product are concerned the Stoddard process leaves very little to ask for. The desiccated egg readily dissolves and returns to its former condition of "batter" when the requisite proportion of water is added, and thus, if beaten the same as shell eggs, it gives the same results in cooking, even at the end of twelve months from the date of its manufacture.

As five hundred dozen of desiccated eggs are packed in a single barrel, the saving in transportation is enormous, and the other savings, from loss by breakage, decay, &c., can be more easily imagined than estimated.

This is the third year of successful manufacture and sale of Stoddard's granulated egg, and we do not hesitate in saying that the inventor has shown his good sense in selecting Keokuk as the western headquarters for his business. The eastern office of the Company is at 178 Greenwich street, New York City. Mr. Cooper is the efficient Superintendent of the factory here.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.
AUGUST 26, 1880.

GLUCOSE.

A FACTORY WILL DOUBTLESS BE BUILT IN THIS CITY.

A Number of Our Prominent Citizens Have Taken Hold of the Enterprise —The History of the Business.

A new era of prosperity is indeed dawning upon Keokuk. Looking back a few months we find the North Road, the opera house, the library, and other important enterprises under consideration, prominent among which has been the establishment of a glucose factory. Now the North Road, opera house and library, are settled facts, and next in order comes the glucose works, and our citizens will be pleased to learn that there is a movement on foot to start a factory of that kind here. The company of gentlemen having the enterprise in hand are among our most prominent citizens and capitalists, and will doubtless carry this important manufacturing interest to a successful culmination. The works will be first-class in every particular—the cash capital to be invested being placed at $75,000.

An experienced man has been requested to come to this city immediately for the purpose of giving the stockholders an insight into the business, and upon his arrival we hope to give our readers full particulars of how and when the Keokuk glucose works will be built.

A suit in the Buffalo, N. Y., courts for the recovery of certain stock in the Buffalo Grape Sugar Company, which has been on trial lately, has brought out some interesting facts connected with the history of the grape sugar business, its extent and the profits derived therefrom. "In 1867, Horace Williams, a brewer of ale and manufacturer of vinegar in Buffalo, discovered a process of extracting sugar from corn. He invented the machinery necessary for the purpose, and in company with A. W. Fox, his partner in the brewing business, began the manufacture of what they called grape sugar. This sugar was used in a crude state as a substitute for malt by brewers, no other use having been found for it until 1874. In that year Fox & Williams were financially embarrassed. Cicero J. Hamlin, a speculating capitalist of Buffalo, became their endorser for a large amount, on commission. Fox & Williams formed the Buffalo Grape Sugar Company in 1874, with a capital of $200,000. There were 200 shares, at a par value of $100 per share.

During the first six months of 1874 the company declared a dividend of $36,000 from its earnings. The sugar and a thick syrup called glucose came into demand for the use of confectioners, tobaccoists, sugar and syrup dealers, druggists, and others as an adulterator. The business of manufacturing grape sugar increased so that the quantity of corn required to produce it grew so rapidly that it is now 5,000 bushels a day. The supply of sugar and glucose is always behind the demand. Although it was generally supposed in Buffalo that the profits of the grape sugar company must be enormous, it was not until the testimony in the case of Alberger against C. J. Hamlin, et al., was taken, that the actual value of the business and the secrets of grape sugar and glucose adulteration and manufacture were known.

In 1876 Horace Williams, who is regarded as the father of the grape sugar business, his genius having perfected the machinery and processes by which the material is produced, severed his connection with the Grape Sugar Company. He had no idea of business methods whatever, and as it was generally understood that he had held stock in the company, and that the Hamlins had grown enormously wealthy in the business, while Williams left the company poor, the impression readily got abroad that his ignorance of business had been taken advantage of to his great wrong.

Williams assigned his certificate of stock to J. A. Alberger, whose lawyer made demands upon the Hamlins for the shares, but they refused to give them up, and obtaining possession of the certificate held on to that also. In consequence of this Alberger brought suit to recover the stock, when Hamlin testified that he owned Williams' stock by legitimate purchase, and that the certificate had been stolen from his desk. Interesting revelations were made in this suit as to the extent grape sugar and glucose are used in New York city as adulterating agents.

Mr. Nichols is a member of the firm of Nichols & Co., who are agents of the Buffalo company, selling its products on commission. They sell on an average $100,000 worth of grape sugar and glucose a month in New York and Brooklyn, their orders averaging from one to thirty car loads a day. The firm gets a commission of 2½ per cent. The sugar is of two or three grades. It sells for from 2⅞ to 4 cents a pound. Glucose, of which there are also different grades, brings ¼ of a cent more per pound than the hard sugar. The sugar is of the color of loaf sugar, but has no grain. Mr. Nichols swore, but not until so ordered by the court, that a son of his was engaged in the mixing of cane and grape sugars in South street, New York. The mixed sugar was sold under the name of 'new process sugar.' By mixing white grape sugar with the dark cane sugar, the latter was given a lighter color, and commanded a better price. 'The mixing of glucose with cane syrup is carried on very extensively in New York,' said Mr. Nichols. 'The sale of the mixed syrups exceeds that of the pure."

Leopold Schepp, a manufacturer of dessicated cocoanut, in New York, said, under oath: "Grape sugar is used in the manufacture of lager beer, vinegar, and wine; and is mixed with cane syrups and used to adulterate cane sugars, confectionery, chocolate, canned fruit, drugs, etc. In adulterating sugar from 18 to 20 per cent. of the grape sugar is used. It changes the appearance of the cane sugar only by making it of lighter color, and cannot be detected by the taste, except by an expert. In mixing syrup from 40 to 60 per cent. of the glucose is used. The adulteration makes a great difference in the profits realized on syrups."

Horace Williams, in his testimony, said that table syrup, made from the glucose, with a little cane sugar mixed with it, has almost supplemented pure cane syrup in the market, and that the demand by dealers for the products of the Buffalo grape sugar works has long been much larger than the supply, although they are now using over 6,000 bushels of corn every day in the week. A bushel of corn, weighing 56 pounds, will yield 30 pounds of sugar or glucose. The average net profit on a bushel of corn is between 40 and 50 cents. This would make the average profits of the Buffalo grape sugar company over $1,000,000 a year on a capital now invested of $400,000.

THE GATE CITY:
MARCH 6, 1883.

THE CANNING FACTORY.

Dimensions of the Building Being Erected by the Keokuk Canning Company—The Season of 1883—An Establishment of Which Keokuk is Proud.

The citizens of Keokuk are now devising ways and means to secure valuable acquisitions to our manufacturing interests and the investigations that are being made and the projects talked of will doubtless result in much good to the city. While the business men are engaged in this commendable work a statement of what the Keokuk Canning Company is doing and the rapid strides it is making towards commercial greatness will cause them to become more zealous in what they undertake and give impetus to the projects under way. Of the results of the two years' business of this company and its reorganization the GATE CITY has fully advised its readers heretofore and it is unnecessary to refer to these matters again. Mr. J. A. M. Collins, president of the company, recently visited the east for the express purpose of inspecting the largest canning concerns in the country and gain all the information possible concerning the business. On his return the company decided to build and the plans are such that it is thought the building now being erected will be the most conveniently arranged in the country. Four lots were secured on Johnson street between Seventh and Eighth. The building will be frame, two stories, size 76x128 feet, and an annex 16x20 feet. The lay of the land will enable the receiving of everything from the alley in the second story, the floor of which is about three feet above the level of the alley. The cans to the number of from 600,000 to 800,000, if the season proves favorable will be made and stored on the Seventh street side of the second

story. The canning will be done on the second floor and the product removed to the first floor by the use of slides or chutes. This will dispense with all elevating apparatus. The labelling, box making and casing will be done on the first floor through which there will be a drive way so that in shipping teams can drive into the building and get their loads.

If there is a full crop the company will employ from 100 to 180 boy and girls in removing the skins from tomatoes, ten men in the bath rooms, eight to ten cappers, ten or twelve men in making cans and twenty men and boys for sundry work. Contracts have been made for the product of 200 acres of tomatoes and the product of 250 acres in all will be contracted fo which will give with a fair season a yield of 600,000 bushels. The daily capacity of the factory will be 1,500 bushels which can be increased to 2,500 bushels. The capitel is $25,000 paid up and cash will be paid for everything. In addition to the above estimate on tomatoes 8,000 cases of gallon apples will be canned—a case containing twelve cans.

The building is being constructed by the company, who employ the mechanics to do the work. The building and machinery will cost about $6,000—the greater part being of course on the building. The officers of the company are: President, J. A. M. Collins; vice president, A. L. Connable; secretary, B. B. Hinman; treasurer, Ed F. Brownell. Directors—D. P. White, J. M. Bisbee, Wm. Ballinger and J. O. Voorhies.

The canned goods of this company have been compared with the standard goods of the United States, and were found as good as any of them and better than a great many of the popular brands, which shows what can be done in Keokuk when enterprising citizens go to work in the right way.

THE GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 13, 1877.

COOL COMFORT.

The Ice Harvest Completed—The Crop the Largest and Finest Ever Gathered—Over 20,000 Tons Stored Here.

The ice harvest, which has been in progress here during the past month or more, is now about completed. The crop is undoubtedly the largest and finest ever gathered here. In the first place the weather has been unusually favorable. From the time of the first cold snap, in the early part of December, the ice hasn't melted a particle. On the contrary it has kept right on freezing all the time, and as a result thereof the congealed aqueous which has been taken out is as solid as it is possible for ice to be. It varies in thickness from ten to eighteen inches, and is as clear as crystal. Ice men say they never saw such pretty ice before in all their experience. Profiting by the experience of last year, our dealers have laid in an unusually large quantity—enough to supply the demand for two seasons in the event of another failure of the crop next year.

W. S. Sample has stored about 4,000 tons in his own house, and in addition has put up about 1,500 tons for other parties. He has taken his supplies from the channel of the Mississippi a short distance below the city, where he found an excellent quality. He expected to finish cutting yesterday

H. Copeland has concluded operations for the season, having secured about 3,000 tons. Besides the addition which he made to his ice house last Fall, he built still another addition 40x22 feet, and filled that also. He has harvested his entire crop from the Des Moines river, and says it is the finest he has ever put up.

Geo. B. Smyth & Co. have stored away about 8,000 tons, filling four large houses. They expect to carry on packing operations on an extensive scale during the Summer season.

The following shows the number of tons put up by different parties up to this time:

	Tons.
Geo. B. Smyth & Co	8,000
W. S. Sample	4,000
H. Copeland	3,000
Hutchinson & Allyn, at Nashville	3,000
A. M. Hutchinson	600
S. P. Pond & Co	700
Leisy Bros	600
Jno. Hiner	250
Peckstein & Nagel	200
Patterson House	200
Hardin House	150
Geo. Williams	150
Total	20,850

F. Anschutz has also stored a quantity at his brewery above the city, but we did not learn how much. In addition to all this, we understand that James Hagens & Co. talk of erecting houses and storing from 1,500 to 4,000 tons preparatory to carrying on packing operations during the Summer season.

No matter what comes now, the people of Keokuk can rest in the comforting assurance of cheap ice and plenty of it during the coming Summer. They can surround themselves with ice and kick the thermometer out of doors if they want to.

DAILY GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 12, 1876

THE GATE CITY:
1682
FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4.

ANOTHER INDUSTRY

That will Eventually Add to the Wealth and Population of Keokuk.

The Economy Dry Pressed Brick Machine Recently Patented, Tested and Found a Gratifying Success—The Machines will Be Manufactured in Keokuk.

The brickmaking industry of the country is growing in importance every year, and so rapid and extensive is this growth that millions of dollars have been expended in the effort to construct a perfect brick machine. About 800 is the number of patents issued by the United States for inventions relating to brick machines. These patents, however, do not represent the same number of machines, as the growth of a brick machine is the result of years of labor and thought, and one machine is frequently covered by a number of patents. The expense attached to the running of a power yard is the principal reason why the making of brick by hand has not been abolished and another reason is that machines heretofore constructed have not succeeded in making so perfect a brick as can be made by hand. Both these difficulties seem to have been overcome by the Keokuk inventors of a brick machine, the first one of which has recently been completed and was on yesterday tested and found to do the work desired in a most satisfactory manner. The machine is called the "Economy," owing to the cheapness of the machine itself and the slight expense for manual labor atttached to its operation. A company composed of Felix T. Hughes, Wells M. Irwin, C. S. Whitney and Edward Fales, has been organized in Keokuk for the manufacture and sale of the Economy Dry Pressed Brick Machine. Mr. Fales has been working at the machine for over a year and the other parties have, since joining with him, pointed out and had perfected many essential additions and the "Economy" is now a perfect dry-pressed brick machine, and will, no doubt, at once spring into public favor. The machine will weigh about 3,000 pounds, occupies but little room—only a space 6x6, is from 50 to 60 ton power and can be run by a five or six horse power engine. The speed of the Economy machines will be from ten to twenty thousand brick per day, and the brick is claimed to be as good as the hydraulic brick—in fact the model brick in solidity and finish and smoothness and regularity of edges. Any kind of dry clay can be worked to advantage. The inventors claim for the Economy brick machine many good qualities. In mud brick there can only be so much clay used. The clay is tempered and thrown into the mould and cannot be pressed down, while in dry dirt the amount of clay in the brick depends on the pressure and can be made light or heavy as found best, and it is claimed the harder the brick is pressed the better. The strength of the brick depends upon its solidity and weight and the dry pressed brick, for this reason, make the best walls. To make such brick requires great power, or pressure, and must be applied in duplicate—that is to both sides of the clay in the mould. This must be done to overcome the action in the particles of the dirt and sides of the mould or else the brick will be less pressed upon one side than the other and are liable to twist, curl and crack in burning and will not break straight under the trowel. A very great pressure may be obtained in many ways, but it is necessary also that speed be obtained. To secure a power which could be applied with sufficient speed and avoid the expense of the plants now in use necessary to run a power yard has been the central idea of the inventor, which it is believed has been obtained in the Economy and the name chosen is a very appropriate one. By the use of the cam the greatest power has been obtained. A plunger or press arm is attached to each end of the main shaft and by the use of the cam or eccentric is made to move up and down similar to the plunger in a pump. The end of the plunger is in the shape of the brick, fits the mould closely and bears down directly on the clay. The main shaft is made to revolve by the ordinary wheel and pinion and the plungers move up and down alternately. Two bricks are made at one revolution. To avoid the use of a double lever or plunger and at the same time get an equal pressure on the clay from both sides, a weight is used to suspend the mould frame, which is round and contains two dies, about an inch and a half above the press plate and project up into the dies. As the plunger presses the clay from the top the friction increases until it holds the mould frame and crowds it down over the loose bottom onto the press plate. The loose, sliding bottom is forced up into the die against the clay, pressing it from the bottom with the same force as from above, making the brick of equal density all the way through and obtaining all the benefits of double levers, yet avoiding the extra cost of construction and material. The straight arm, or plunger, as it presses the clay in the mould is slightly vibrated by the motion of the cam. This allows the air to escape as the brick is being pressed and prevents the suction often experienced in levers with all the attendant undesirable results. The mould frame is automatically moved half way around and back, carrying the pressed brick over the discharge bar and the filled mould under the plunger. The pressed brick are raised to the top of the mould frame by means of the discharge bar and sliding bottom and are taken from the mould and put into the car, ready for the kiln. The machine may be fed by an automatic feeder which drops just enough clay at a time to fill the mould or by the person who removes the pressed brick. There is ample time, however, to fill the mould by hand. The machine is very simple and strong in construction and is easily understood and operarated and kept in repair. Strength and economy has been the chief aim of the inventor. Edward Fales, who was the first momer in the matter is the inventor of the Fales hay press and the stump puller and is a practical man in the full sense of the term. The other gentlemen composing the Economy Brick Machine company, Felix T. Hughes, Wells M. Irwin and C. S. Whitney, are men of capital, vim and push and will do their part in making the introduction of the machine successful. The Economy machines will be manufactured in Keokuk, and as the demand increases, which it will certainly do, the company will increase its facilities and will erect all necessary shops and buildings to meet the demands of the purchasing public. Territory will be sold but every machine used in the United States will be manufactured in Keokuk, and the Economy Brick Machine Works, will, no doubt, in time grow to be one of Keokuk's chief manufacturing industries.

Constitution-Democrat
Cons. JULY 9, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

An Industry What Has Grown From a Small Beginning.

Bonicamp's Horse Collar Factory Does Not Make Much Fuss, But is Steadily Growing in Size and Importance.

Some six years ago, J. Bonicamp, a collar maker, started a small factory for the manufacture of horse collars in this city in a very quiet, unobtrusive way. The industry, in Keokuk, was then but a small one, and this factory proportionality so, situated in a brick building it the alley between Main and Blondeau and Fourth and Fifth streets. The work was all done by hand, in the old slow, tedious way, turning out a few collars each day.

The projector of this enterprise was, however, a hard worker and as he thoroughly understood his craft, the little business began to grow. More collars were sold and more must be made, so gradually the help was increased by the addition of new hands and improved facilities.

For four years this steady growth was continued and two years ago Mr. Bonicamp found that the building he was occupying was too small for the business and the facilities for manufacturing these useful articles were inadequate. A more commodious factory was accordingly built on the corner of Nineteenth and Timea streets, and this, fitted up with the most improved collar making machinery, is the present home of this flourishing business. This factory promises much for Keokuk's business interests and is another example of phenomenal growth in a short time from a small beginning.

In this commodious building an enterprising body of about twenty-five busy workers, during the business season, are actively engaged in turning out a large number of horse collars each day. The present time is the dull season for this industry and yet the factory is in operation every day, and the processes by which the collars are made, though simple, are quite interesting, and a visit to the factory to view its operations is well worth the time, even to a very casual visitor.

The raw material, which consists of strong, well tanned leather and strong cotton duck or drilling for the face of the collar, is all received in the spacious front room of the factory which is the cutting department.

There the leather is laid flat upon the tables before the cutter and, laying his patterns upon it, he cuts out from them, in different shapes and styles, the various parts of the collar. This position of cutter is the most responsible in the factory and the work must all be done by hand. The cutter must know thoroughly the material he has in hand. He must guard against flaws and cuts and he must know what kind of leather to put into one part of the collar and what kind into another, so the strongest may stand the severest strain. This is necessarily hand work as no machine can determine these points with a degree of accuracy.

This factory cuts collars after about thirty different styles and seven various sizes of each style. This includes all kinds of collars and every grade from a very cheap working collar to a fine piece of neckwear for a carriage horse, trimmed in patent leather.

After the cutter has sliced out the pieces they are taken to the sewing machine and stitched together to form the body of the collar, the leather back and rim being stitched to the cotton face. The old process of fastening the collar together was to sew it with a leather whang or thong, while the more modern way is to rivit it together with a brass staple and a leather welt. Both of these processes have their pronounced advantages and some collars are made by each process, while others are partly sewed and partly riveted. This is all done in a second room called the sewing department. From there the long limp bags of leather and duck are taken into the stuffing room and by an interesting process have the "life knocked into them" so to speak, for here they become the useful article that they are. Three different machines are required to put the straw into the long body of the collar and them to ram it in hard and firm so that it completely fills out the cover. The rim is first stuffed partly by hand with long straw and then by an interesting machine which works in a shorter straw. The collar is then taken to the "filling in" stuffer and the body is filled with shorter straw, tightly compressed to make this great pad for the horses shoulders firm and strong. It is then put through the "backing on" stuffer, a third machine which completes this part of the process and the collar now looks to be what it is. All of these machines are operated by steam and work very rapidly. One man is kept busy all of the time operating a straw cutter and supplying the machines with the different lengths of this important material.

The collar then goes to the blocking machine and is firmly pressed upon an iron shaper for a length of time so that it may assume the proper form and correspond with the contour of the neck of its future wearer.

From this process, it is taken to a riviting machine and a fastener, consisting of a buckle and strap, is rivited to the two lower ends. This is done to the cheaper grades, while on the finer collars the fastener is attached by sewing.

After undergoing these processes of manufacture the collar is taken once more to the cutting department, where the work first began. The leather is there blackened and polished, and the finishing touches are put on the collar. It is then ready for the market, and is taken up stairs, where a large wareroom contains the stock of the factory.

These collars are sold in Iowa and in four other states, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and South Dakota. The factory, though as yet but two years old, is beginning to be very widely known throughout this western market and their collars are coming to be understood as being made right, of right materials. Over this territory two traveling representatives, R. J. Garner and C. W. Tobin, of St. Louis, are on the road all the time placing the output of the factory on the market.

The spring season when the agriculturist is making preparations for his summer's work, is the time when this factory is busiest. At that time it gives employment to about twenty-five workers. At present the force is necessarily limited, but although the demands are somewhat light, the factory continues to operate and is still turning out horse collars.

The cutters in the establishment, upon whose work so much responsibility rests, are J. Bonicamp, R. Rockenback and A. Bonicamp. The other busy and skillful workers employed in the factory at present are Peter Vanderberg, John Vanderberg, William Vanderberg, Frank McCoy, Claude Hovey, John Bonicamp, David Miller and Frank Mears.

THE GATE CITY: 1880

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 10.

Keokuk's Manufactories.

Special agent Harry Fulton has completed and forwarded to the Census Bureau, at Washington, his report of the manufacturing interests of Keokuk. While we are enabled to give the aggregate figures showing the amount of capitol invested and the value of the products of the factories, we append a list of the number and kind of manufacturing enterprises now in operation. It was a very creditable showing. There are various other manufacturing interests in the city, such as merchant tailoring, that the departments do not permit to be reported. The following is the list:

2 Grist mills,	1 Woolen hose factory,
3 Brick yards,	1 Chain pump factory,
2 Plaining mills,	1 Furniture factory,
1 Saw mill,	1 Soda factory,
3 Slaughtering houses,	4 Wagon factories,
14 Butchers,	3 foundries,
15 Boot and shoe shops,	8 Printing offices,
13 Blacksmiths,	1 Tinner and plumber,
7 Tinners,	1 Cabinet maker,
4 Photographers,	1 Bone burner and gr'ndr,
1 Shirtmaker	2 Bookbinders,
2 Dentists,	1 Soap and concentrated lye factory,
15 Carpenter and buil'rs,	
1 Flour sack factory,	2 Wholesale milliners,
2 Stone quarries,	1 Wholesale dressmaker,
3 Marble and stone w'ks,	1 Artist,
5 Jewelers,	5 Painters and glaziers,
2 Lime burners,	1 Undertaker,
3 Harness makers,	2 Upholsters,
1 Collar and saddle mkr,	1 Patent medicine,
3 Coopers,	4 Bakeries,
1 Hair tonic,	1 Cracker factory,
4 Confectioners,	1 Pickle factory,
1 Brass foundry,	1 Wine factory,
1 Fruit canning,	3 Brewers,
3 Carriage painters,	1 Carriage and wagon fy,
13 Cigar makers,	2 Carriage factories,
2 Gas and steam fitters,	1 Coffee and spice mill,
1 Broom maker,	2 R. R. machine shops,

1 R. R. car shop.

THE GATE CITY: 1882

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPT. 14.

"JERUSALEM APPLES."

Expeditious Mode of Canning Tomatoes—The Keokuk Canning Company Running to Their Full Capacity—A Description of the Cannery.

The tomato or love apple is a native of the American tropics, but is grown extensively in all sections of the temperate zone of North America and in many countries in Europe. In England it is cultivated successfully, and in Italy is used in nearly every dish prepared for the table. Hundreds of the older readers of the GATE CITY will remember the time when tomatoes were known by the name of "Jerusalem apples," and were by many people considered poisonous. It is only of later years that tomatoes have come into general use.. The tomato industry now employs a large capital in the United States. Thousands of girls are given work in the canneries in the canning season and farmers and gardners throughout the country reap large profits in growing the crop.

The Keokuk Canning company began business last year. The season was very unfavorable for growing fruits, corn and vegetables and the output of the cannery was quite small. This year the corn for canning purposes is a failure but the tomatoe crop while a month late, gives promise of an immense yield and if the weather remains favorable with late frosts the cannery will get all the tomatos it can handle. The Canning company occupy the Stafford building on the corner of Blondeau street and the levee, using all but one of the lower store rooms. The first floor is the packing and labeling room, the second the canning room the third the tin shop and the fourth the storage room for cans.

MAKING CANS.

The cans are made during the winter and summer prior to beginning canning operations. The cans must be perfectly made as the least hole will spoil the fruit. Great pressure is used in filling them and if the can is not perfect the labor, fruit and materials are a complete loss. The Keokuk canning factory make their own solder and have a machine for running it into bars and one for cutting it up. A press with adjustable dies worked by foot power is employed for stamping out the bottom lids and caps for cans. One motion of the press makes a complete lid, cap or bottom. The sides of the can are cut out by a squaring machine worked by foot power. The cans are soldered from the inside. The solder soaks through to the outside thus making the can stronger and air tight. The best tin is used in their manufacture. One ordinary can maker can turn out from 800 to 1000 cans per day. The canning company had 235,000 on hand at the beginning of this season and so far have filled 25,000 cans, part of which have been shipped.

CANNING TOMATOES.

The farmers are furnished with boxes holding one bushel of tomatoes. These boxes are received at the rear door from the wagons placed on trucks and wheeled to a large double vat where they are immersed in hot water heated to the scalding point. The boxes are again placed on the trucks and wheeled to the adjoining room south where 40 girls standing around tables remove the skins. These girls are paid ½c per pound and make from 75 cents to $1.10 per day. This is the only time in the course of canning that the tomatoes are handled by hand. The tomatoes are now put into perforated dripping jars placed on the top of large tubs and all the juice and water allowed to drain off. They are then put into the hopper of a press made for filling the cans This press is operated by two girls and has a capacity of 34 cans per minute. The cans are placed under a funnel attached to the hopper and at every downward movement of a plunger operated by foot power, a can is filled with solid meats. The filled cans are removed to a table, weighed and wiped and put into trays having lids and taken to the soldering bench. A soldering iron is used of such construction that one motion by the operator solders a can. The capacity of this machine is from 3,000 to 3,500 cans per day. The soldered cans are placed in shallow perforated galvanized iron pans and wheeled back to the first room to the bath vats. These vats are twelve in number and when in full operation, 8 or 10 are in constant use. From 6 to 10 pans are placed in a vat. The water is heated by steam. The fruit is cooked the requisite length of time and then taken out on "runs" and cans perforated to allow all air to escape. The holes are soldered up and the cans put back into the vat and cooked again. The cans are now taken to the packing room in the basement and put into boxes for 21 days to be tested. This testing is done by pressing the can with the hand. If the can gives there is air in it and the contents will spoil. When removed from the bath vats the ends of the cans bulge out, but collapse again as the cans cool off. The cans are now labeled and packed in cases holding two dozen each and are ready for shipment. The full capaciiy of the cannery is 8,000 cans in ten hours. The Canning company have 64 acres of tomatoes contracted. This season the prospects are that the farmers will secure 300 bushels to the acre, for which they are paid 25c per bushel. The cost to the farmer for picking is 5c per bushel. The gross amount realized per acre on this yield would be $75, net $60. A bushel of tomatoes fills 12 cans. The season has just begun and with late frosts will continue until October 1st. The company may decide to pack apples and peaches. The pay roll averages $200 per week and when running at full capacity in the busiest season runs up to $500. The lables used are very handsome. The tomatoes put up last year gave the best satisfaction to the trade and were spoken of highly by consumers.

CANNING CORN.

Corn canning is a failure all over the country this year and nothing will be done here. In canning, the corn is husked by hand and then run through the cutting machine which strips off the corn, leaving the cob on the third floor. The corn passes down through a chute to the hopper of a press on the second floor. The canning is done in about the same manner as that of tomatoes.

THE MOTIVE POWER

consists of a boiler 14 feet by 36 inches, of 35 horse power, and a 10 horse power engine. The boiler room is in a detached frame building in the rear of the cannery. This boiler supplies steam for driving the engine and heating all the water used in the cannery.

THE OFFICERS.

The present officers of the cannery are:

President—J. A. M. Collins.
Vice President—A. M. Hutchinson.
Secretary—D. B. Hinman.
Superintendent—J. W. Hunt.
Directors—J. M. Bisbee, W. Ballinger, D. P. White, J. A. M Collins, D. B. Hinman, A. M. Hutchinson, A. L Connable.

THE GATE CITY

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1876.

HAVEACHEW?

How the Weed is Converted Into Toothsome Tobacco.

THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO WORKS.

And the Result of their First Year's Business in Keokuk.

One year ago the Virginia Tobacco Works were removed from Burlington to Keokuk. Our readers are already familiar with the motives which prompted this change, and since the matter was the sub-

ject of considerable comment at the time, the public will be interested in the result of the first year's business in Keokuk.

The first annual meeting of the stockholders of the organization was held a short time since. At that meeting a full statement of the operations of the year was submitted, and we are assured that the showing made by this was entirely satisfactory. Notwithstanding the heavy expense of moving and fitting up the establishment here, the increase in the tax on tobacco, and the fact that last year was the hardest one on tobacco that there has been for twenty-three years, the balance came out on the right side of the ledger and the institution starts off upon the second year with the most gratifying assurances of success.

At the annual meeting the following officers and directors were elected for the ensuing year:

President—E. H. Harrison.
Vice-President—S. M. Mills.
Secretary and Treasurer—Frank Mills.
Manufacturer—R. M. Penn.
Directors—E. H. Harrison, S. M. Mills, Font. Alexander, R. T. Pence and W. T. Prettyman.

It will be seen from the above that Mr. Frank Mills has been promoted to quite a responsible position. But he is a young man of excellent business qualifications and is in every way capable of discharging the duties of his new office.

So general has the consumption of tobacco become that the man who doesn't use it in some shape is an exception. Comparatively few, however, are familliar with the *modus operandi* of

CONVERTING THE WEED

into toothsome parcels. This process can be seen to excellent advantage at the Virginia Tobacco Works, because they are provided with all the modern machinery and appliances, and everything is done in the most orderly and systematic manner. The building is 50x100 feet, four stories in height.

The fourth floor is used for drying and storing purposes. On this floor is also partitioned off a room in which drying is done by steam. This is done by means of pipes so arranged that the room can be warmed to a temperature that is suggestive of a climate with considerable more caloric in it than anything we have in this latitude.

The third floor is where the leaf tobacco is received, assorted and cased. This casing consists in mixing the syrups which impart to the different kinds of tobacco the delicate flavors which render them so palatable. In this process the Virginia Tobacco Works use none but the purest and best materials. On the other side of this floor is where the plug machine is located. This machine shapes the tobacco and cuts it off in the desired lengths. After this it remains in the drying room the proper length of time and then passes through the hands of the rollers where it is wrapped. It is then taken to the press room where it is pressed by means of hydraulic steam power and packed away in boxes ready for shipment.

One side of the second floor is used for stemming, cutting and air drying fine cut. The stemming as in other departments of the establishment is done by a force of boys and girls. The tobacco is then put through the cutting machine, placed on screens and air dried and then packed in pails. The other side of this floor is where the work of packing smoking tobacco into packages is performed. This is also done by machinery.

The first floor is occupied by the ponderous steam engine by which the machinery of the establishment is propelled, the hydraulic press used for pressing plug tobacco and for storing and shipping purposes. An elevator operated by steam extends from the ground floor to the roof of the building. When in full operation a force of seventy to eighty hands are employed.

THE TRADE

of the establishment is being constantly enlarged and its brands are growing in popularty wherever they have been introduced. The force of traveling salesmen is composed at present of Jno. S. Moore, C. E. Beebe and Wm. Prettyman, all of whom, we believe, are stockholders, and the territory canvassed by them embraces the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The company does a large business at St. Louis and an agency has recently been established at New Orleans, where their goods are well received.

So great has been the demand for their brands, that, with the exception of about two weeks, they have been obliged to run during the entire winter, in order to keep up with their orders, whereas it is customary with tobacco manufactories all over the country to "shut down" during a large part of the season.

The brands manufactured by the Virginia Tobacco Works are as follows:

Fine Cut—"Penn's Best," "Golden Charm," "Belle of the South" and "Invincible."

Plug—"Natural Leaf," "Lady Finger," "Peach and Honey," "Virginia Star," "K. K. K.," "Strawberry," "Royal Bright," "Hurrie Punkie," "Odd Shape," "Pocket Pieces," "Checkerboard," "Royal Navy."

Twists.—"Atlantic Cable," "Peach and Honey," "Nectarine" and "Coil."

Smoking.—"Light of the Harem," "Peep O' Day," "Old Virginia," "Uncle Tom," "German Cut," "Triumph," "Old Plantation" and "Calumet."

PREMIUMS.

As we have had occasion to state at different times, the brands of the Virginia Tobacco Works have been very successful in competing for prizes. "Penn's Best," and "Golden Charm," received first premiums at the Missouri and Iowa State Fairs in 1872, 1874 and 1875. The first premium on fine cut, which was awarded to "Penn's Best" at the New Orleans Industrial Exposition, the other day, is another big victory.

MAJ. R. M. PENN,

Superintendent of the Works, is a gentleman pre-eminently qualified for the position which he occupies. He was educated to the cultivation of tobacco, and has been engaged in its manufacture for the past fourteen years, so there is nothing connected with the business with which he is not thoroughly conversant.

The secret of his success lies in the knowledge and experience which enable him to select the very best tobacco and the skill which enables him to prepare it in a superior manner. He gives his personal attention to all the details of the manufactory, and to this may be attributed in a large measure the success of his brands.

Under the circumstances the Virginia Tobacco Works Co. have occasion to congratulate themselves upon the result of the first years business in Keokuk.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

JULY 25. 1878

The Powder Plant Site.

The following lines were suggested to Willie Funkhouser on a recent visit to the powder plant site:

Embraced by two irregular hills,
With robes of nature's choicest frock,
A wooded valley lay. Small rills
That trickle down ravines not rock,
Converging, form a brook meandering,
By grassy banks, o'er pebbles wandering.

A careless child, I often with
Untiring feet, unsated eyes,—
Wild nature and myself akith,—
Many hills where interjacent lies
The valley, strayed; 'till fields abounding
In flowers, I left; bare-f ot went sounding.

The brook, where pliant grasses grow;
Their bending stems, sand burried heads
Suggest a recent overflow
In consequence new quick-sand beds,—
Or threw myself beside it panting,
When sun-born rays became more slanting.

Through penetrable roof-trees dark,
A star peeps down before her time,
An oracle imparting. Hark!
The Great Creator mine and thine!
In that unfrequent vale umbrageous
Dreams, dreams alone my soul engages.

A counter scene now vivifies,
That valley once so dark and green;
In what was once my paradise,
Artisans' hands at work have been.
The sun pours down, with mighty power,
Where nature's rob'd of her choicest dower.

Unsightly yellow railroad cuts,
Seething in smoke and summer heat,
Once daisied, violet-covered juts,
Now mar; and heavy iron feet,
Amidst the sledge's and hammer's ringing,
Make resonance not wild bird's singing.

And willful waters once passed on,
Unrestrained from base or brow,
With smiles or frowns, with vim, in fun;
Hydraulic power controls it now.
No oracles their truth's inferring,
His name "in vain," instead occurring.

My eyes get dim with rising tears,
As on the valley I look down
Prostrate I fall,—alas those years
Have evanesced like dreams my own.
Those trees and flowers return no never!
Oh, childhood! thou art gone forever!

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 19. 1880

PORK PACKING.

Keokuk Takes Rank With the Prominent Packing Points.

A Branch of One of the Oldest Houses in the World Our Latest Accession—What Coey & Co., Patterson & Sons and Keppel & Blom are Doing.

Pork packing is one of the most important industries of the world. The demand for meats is increasing; improvements in curing and packing pork are bringing that staple commodity within the reach of all, and in consequence thereof new packing houses are springing up at various points, and Keokuk has been fortunate enough to retain the old and gain one new establishment of this kind. We will first speak of our latest acquisition,

MESSRS. COEY & CO.,

who have been with us but a short time. When it was first announced that Messrs. Coey & Co. would start up the old Smyth pork house, there was a general expression of satisfaction on the part of our citizens, who realized the importance of the enterprise and the great benefits it would bestow upon Keokuk. Those who have expected that an immense business would be built up by the new house will not be disappointed, as a walk through the old stone pork house will attest. The building has been put in excellent shape and the facilities for handling hogs greatly improved. But of this more anon.

Messrs. Coey and J. & T. Sinclair were the founders of the pork packing business in Ireland. Sir Edward Coey, the "father of the trade," who, by the way, was knighted by her majesty, Queen Victoria, has retired from the business in favor of the younger members of the firm, who have formed a company under the firm name of Coey & Co., and have established packing houses at Belfast, London and Keokuk, while the old firm of J. & T. Sinclair have houses in Belfast, New York and Cedar Rapids. Coey & Co. represent a capital of £100,000. The company is limited as to the amount of shares, there being an act of parliament governing such corporations. Seven partners are required to form said company, and the assets must be audited by the public auditor and published in a manner similar to bank statements. Thus it will be seen that the firm of Coey & Co. is one of no small magnitude and a decidedly valuable acquisition to the business interests of Keokuk.

The new house has not as yet been run to its full capacity, but it is the intention of the proprietors to do so as soon as practicable. From 1,000 to 1,200 hogs per day will be handled if they can be obtained, and the supply is increasing sufficiently to evidence the fact that when it becomes generally known that there will be a demand for that number of hogs each working day in the year, the porkers will be forthcoming.

Messrs. Coey & Co. are now running a force of 106 men. This number will be materially increased in the near future—say in a fortnight—by which time the proprietors hope to begin running the house to its full capacity.

Through the kindness of the genial and efficient manager, Mr. Chas. Dickey, we were shown through the entire buildings and grounds.

The cutting room was first visited. Here we found a busy squad of men, working like a well-regulated machine and putting pork in shape for packing with great celerity. And, by the way, cutting has come to be quite a difficult work. Among the favorite cuts for the English trade are the Cumberland and Yorkshire—the former is the side, rib and all, with the foot cut off, while the latter has fore leg cut off and rib removed. There is also a Dublin cut, in which the leg bone is taken out.

It would seem strange to the general reader, and in fact to the American consumer, that a side of pork with the slightest difference in cutting would be demanded by certain classes of people—but such is the case. Where these cuts are used they have been introduced by the local cutters of various counties, and the people adhere to what might be called the established rule, and, of course, their tastes must be catered to. The cut depends greatly upon the size and color of the hog. Light, clear skinned porkers are cut into English meats, while the heavy are retained for the American markets. 'Twas customary in England and Ireland, some years ago, to cure meat and hold it until a certain season, but since the use of ice has become more general, and meats cheaper, this practice has been generally abandoned and pork is in the market at all seasons. The array of dry-salted hams intended for the English market was very tempting. These hams differ from those sold in America in that they are not trimmed so close and are consequently fatter.

The pickling process was viewed and hogshead upon hogshead of plump hams resting in syrup were gazed upon. These hams, in due time, will be "sugar cured."

The tastes of people in the mining districts of England and Ireland have undergone a great change in the past few years. The demand for fat meat has been entirely replaced by that for lean.

The meats packed here are kept in salt from 14 to 20 days and then shipped. The weather plays an important part in this programme. Such weather as we are having at present is the kind pork packers appreciate and profit by.

Nearly all the shoulders sold outside of America go to Scotland. There is always a good demand for this part of the hog at home, and it also meets ready sale abroad.

Messrs. Coey & Co. use the celebrated Cheshire English salt, and have also introduced a new feature to this portion of the country, namely: the use of bladders for lard receptacles.

The various packing rooms are in fine shape and a goodly amount of choice pork is to be seen therein.

The hanging room has a capacity for 2,500 hogs—all that is necessary. The arrangement and condition of this department is especially good.

The lard room is also in excellent shape, and Messrs. Coey & Co. turn out an average of 40 tierces of lard per day, which will be increased when the house gets in better running shape and hogs come in more freely.

The pens are roomy, clean and handy, and when the North Road puts in a switch, which it has agreed to do do, the facilities for receiving hogs will be unexcelled.

The ice houses are in fair condition and necessary repairs are now being made. Messrs. Coey & Co. will put up about 7,000 tons of ice this season.

They will also put up a dryer for tank offal, in a few months, which is also a new idea and will save from 7 to 8 cents on each hog killed, which will be quite an item when killing 1,200 per day.

Various other improvements are contemplated, of which we may speak in the future.

Messrs. Coey & Co. thoroughly understand every detail of the pork packing business, and it was very fortunate for Keokuk that they located here. Farmers cannot bring them too many hogs. They want all they can get.

We will now speak of a house well-known to Keokukians, and one that has prospered here for many years. We mean

PATTERSON & SONS.

The senior member of this firm has been in the pork packing business here since 1846. 'Tis unnecessary for us to say anything further than this. Everybody knows how the house has prospered here, so we will merely give the details of our visit to the establishment.

Patterson & Sons are killing from 500 to 800 hogs per day and employ from 50

to 80 men. Their hanging room has a capacity for 1,100 hogs and is as good a room for the purpose as can be found anywhere.

'Tis but a few minutes work to transform a squealing porker into hams, shoulders and sides, and Ed. Booth, the excellent foreman, inducted us into the mysteries of the work and explained the workings of the machinery minutely.

The old style of cutting is done away, and a few deft movements of the knife leaves the hams faced, lard raised and obviates the necessity of using a cleaver in cutting the backs. They cut, mostly, American meats, with some "long clear" cuts for the English market.

Patterson & Sons use five lard tanks, and turn out a large amount of lard each day.

They ship nearly all their meat green, the major portion of it going to St. Louis. They cut no hams for the foreign trade, finding a ready market for all they can prepare in America.

The pickling rooms, store rooms, etc., are all in the best shape possible and the house may safely be pronounced a model one.

The pens are large and commodious, with room for from 2,500 to 3,000 hogs.

The shipping facilities enjoyed by this establishment are unexcelled.

The cutting-room force was not at work yesterday, so we failed to witness the workings of that department.

The Messrs. Patterson state that the quality of hogs is very good this year and the prospects for a brisk trade very flattering.

We next dropped in at

KEPPEL & BLOM'S,

and found all hands as busy as bees. This firm does not ship any meat, packing exclusively for home consumption. Eighteen men are employed, Mr. Keppel having charge of the house.

Messrs. Keppel & Blom kill and cut up 100 hogs per day. Their hanging room has a capacity for 175 porkers. They expect to kill from 3,500 to 4,000 this winter—will be governed in this, however, by the markets. This firm expects to increase its facilities at some future time and contemplates doing summer packing—but not for a year, at least. The establishment is in better shape this year than ever before, the new bridge over Bloody Run being of great advantage. They begun work about a week ago and are now under full headway, and likely to be kept busy during the remainder of of the season.

Their packing rooms are neat and give evidence of skill in their arrangement.

This firm makes a specialty of fine lard, turning out about 15 tierces per day. This useful article is put up in buckets for home use. Two grades are made, the leaf lard being extra fine.

The house, though small, is well-arranged and large enough for all practical purposes.

IN CONCLUSION.

Since the pork houses have started up West Keokuk has improved wonderfully in a business sense of view. Houses are in demand and evidences of thrift and contentment are to be found on every hand. Messrs. Coey & Co. will run winter and summer, thus furnishing employment to a large number of men during the entire year.

This is as it should be. Let Keokuk secure a few more enterprises of as much magnitude as our pork packing interests and she will soon outstrip every city in the state in the matter of growth and improvement.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

1876

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1.

—The office of James Hagens & Co., has been removed from its old quarters on Main, between Third and Fourth streets, to the Pork House. We suppose this is done for convenience and to enable Mr. H. to give more of his personal supervision to his packing operations, which he will carry on on a very extensive scale this season. This firm was one of the first in the field last season and the last to leave it. They give employment to a large number of hands, and expend many thousands of dollars yearly in Keokuk. The three packing houses of Keokuk are among the most extensive in the State, and are controlled by enterprising citizens, who expend in the aggregate, enough money each season to make the winters lively here. We understand that all these will run a full force this winter, if the markets range near anything that is reasonable.

Weekly Constitution.

OCTOBER 28, 1885.

PORK PACKING IN KEOKUK.

PROSPECTS FOR A LARGELY INCREASED PACK THIS WINTER.

The Pack in Iowa Cities the Past Few Seasons—Some Figures of the Great Packing Centres.

Indications point to a largely increased pack of hogs in Keokuk the present season. Keokuk has been steadily increasing her pack every year and is now one of the leading packing centres in Iowa as well as in the west. The following are the figures for the past three years, each season ending with the summer pack.

Year.	Winter.	Summer.	Total
1881-82	51,881	12,846	64,727
1882-83	49,600	27,008	76,608
1883-84	44,614	37,000	81,614
1884-85	64,600	50,500	115,100

It will be seen that the pack has been steadily increasing year by year until the past year it was nearly double what it was in 1881-2.

Frank Keppel, who has purchased the interest of William Blom in the packing house of Keppel & Blom, has already commenced packing. This firm the past year packed 4,100 hogs against 2,600 last year and Mr. Keppel expects to exceed this the ensuing year.

The extensive firm of Coey & Co., one of the largest firms in the country, begin packing Saturday. They expect to largely increase their pack this winter. The past year they packed 111,000 hogs against 73,000 the year before. They have been employing from 200 to 250 men, and for several weeks in the winter they also give employment to 90 teams for hauling ice. During the past summer they have greatly enlarged and improved their facilities for receiving and packing hogs. A new switch and a large hog platform has been put in at the packing house; two additional lard tanks have been built; an ice elevator put in at their ice house; an extension to the packing house, 52x56 feet, three stories high, has been built at a cost of $5,000; and a new ice house built on the canal, capable of holding 5,000 tons of ice.

WEEKLY GATE CITY: THURSDAY, APRIL 11, '89

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 29. 1892

PORK PACKING.

A Visit to the Establishment of Messrs. Coey & Co.

Active Operations will Probably Commence Next Week—An Enterprise of Great Importance to Keokuk.

Probably many of our readers do not realize the magnitude of the enterprise lately embarked in by Messrs. Coey & Co., who have leased the old stone pork house, and propose to run it winter and summer, slaughtering about 1,200 head of hogs per day. Many will also be surprised to learn that Messrs. Coey & Co. will furnish steady employment to from 125 to 150 men. Calculating the average of five to a family, this new enterprise will furnish the means of support for from 625 to 750 people—say at least 500.

From the above figures it will be seen that it pays to encourage such enterprises. Half a dozen establishments of this size would materially enhance the wealth ahd population of our city.

A WALK THROUGH THE PORK-HOUSE.

An inspection of the building revealed the fact that the different departments are being rapidly put in working shape, and in a few more days the necessary repairs will doubless be completed. Major Collins has given the work his personal attention and supervision and much credit is due him for the zeal he has displayed.

The engine room was first visited and found to be in tip-top shape.

Next came the lard tanks, six in number, with a capacity of about three tons each, which are being scalded out and receiving careful attention. The coolers are already in good condition, and indeed the entire tank room may be pronounced ready for operations.

On the next floor we found many workmen busily engaged in putting the slaughtering, hanging and carving rooms in shape. The slaughtering apparatus has has been remodeled and improved upon and the hanging and carving rooms are about ready for use.

The packing and smoke rooms are in excellent repair and have been thoroughly cleaned.

There are two smoke houses—an old and a new one—and both require but little work to put them in condition for use.

The stone house connected to the larger structure by a bridge, will be used for packing away meats, storing salt, saltpetre, casks, etc., and will prove a valuable store-room.

The private offices need but little repair, and taken as a whole the pork house is in good shape and will be of ample capacity for taking care of the number of hogs proposed to be slaughtered.

New pens are being built and the yards put in order.

Active operations will doubtless commence next week.

The Gate City.

JULY 30, 1892.

Entered in Keokuk Post-office as Second-Class Matter.

From March 1 to July 27 the Coey & Co., limited, packed 39,900 hogs as against 43,400 for the corresponding period last year. The marketing of hogs in the west has been further reduced quite considerably in the past week, the total packing showing 170,000, against 225,000 the preceding week, 140,000 for corresponding time last year, and 310,000 two years ago. From March 1 the total is 5,085,000 hogs, against 4,285,000 a year ago an increase of 800,000. The average of price is slightly higher than a week ago for the prominent markets. There is nothing in present indications to suggest more free supplies of hogs for some time to come, unless something especially discouraging should overtake the corn crop and thus induce the shipments of stock regardless of condition. In the provision trade there has been quite a good movement of product, but not much speculative interest, although mess pork appears to be attracting rather more attention owing to its relative cheapness in comparison with prices of hogs and other meats.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8. 1897

PORK PACKING.

The Season Fairly Opened in This City—Both Houses Running.

Pork packing operations are under good headway to-day, the house of Patterson & Sons having started up as noticed on Saturday, and that of Coey & Co. making a beginning this morning. A CONSTITUTION reporter visited both houses this morning, and with the odor of the slaughtered porkers still present to his senses, jots down the following observations:

COEY & CO.

The establishment of Messrs. Coey & Co., known as the Smythe packing house, commenced killing hogs this morning, with only a part of their full force of hands, and will probably begin cutting up the meat, and get into full operation by to-morrow or next day. This house has been thoroughly repaired under the efficient supervision of W. B. Collins, Esq. New pens have been built, platforms and shutes have been constructed by the railroad track, and many changes made about the yard which materially improve the facilities for the speedy handling of hogs. The change upon the inside is not less marked. Everything has been thoroughly cleansed and put in the best possible shape. The two farther lard tanks have been fitted with steam apparatus, and a new bottom has been put in tank No. 4, making now six large steam tanks, and increasing the capacity fully 50 per cent. Prominent among the improvements is an arrangement for saving all of the blood, which will be cooked by steam until it coagulates, and is then reduced to a fine, odorless powder by means of a patent dryer. When prepared in this way, the blood is valuable for coloring and other purposes, and will prove a great saving in the running expenses. Arrangements will also be made for reducing the tank stuff, heads, &c., to a powder in a similar manner, for sale as a valuable fertilizer. The chill room in the cellar is arranged for the storage of such a quantity of ice that one thousand hogs can be safely stored, even during the hottest day of summer. The new proprietors regard this cellar as the best one in the country. With its sides adjoining embankments of solid rock, the temperature is liable to but slight variation, offering the very best of facilities for summer storing, and never freezing in winter.

As we have before stated, the meat packed in this establishment will be shipped almost entirely to the foreign market, and for the purpose of meeting the demands of that market, they have imported several experienced Irish trimmers, who understand the various peculiar cuts required. The meat will be packed entirely with English salt, which they consider better for this purpose than our American production.

A large number of hands will be employed at this house during the entire year, and the number of hogs slaughtered, if the supply does not fail, will be enormous.

PATTERSON & SONS.

The scene was a busy one as our reporter dropped in at the establishment of Messrs. Patterson & Sons. About sixty men are now at work, which force will be increased to one hundred as soon as they get into full working order. From 600 to 700 hogs per day will be killed at present, but the proprietors expect to be able to turn out 1,000 or more per day in a short time. Most of the hogs killed in this house are marketed in St. Louis and the south, one member of the firm being constantly stationed at St. Louis for the purpose of looking after shipments and selling them to better advantage than to trust the business to commission merchants. At present the sides and shoulders are being loaded, green, direct into the car for shipment, while the hams will be

marketed here at home. In wandering through this house we were able to witness the various processes essential to the preparing of a hog for market, from the killing to the deft work of properly trimming the hams, and were impressed by the ease and dispatch with which it is all accomplished.

The slaughtering of two thousand or more hogs per day by these two packing houses, will prove a great lift toward the prosperity of Keokuk, and we hope the supply of hogs will be such as to keep them both running to their fullest capacity.

THE GATE CITY:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AP'L 30, '79.

—People living and doing business along Bloody Run, and particularly the men employed in the shops of the Rock Island Road and Keokuk Line, complain of the horrible stench that is at present emitted from that stream. The offal from the pork houses was deposited in the run last Winter, and as there have been no Spring rains to carry it off it has lain there and decayed, and now fills the atmosphere in that part of town with a smell that is almost intolerable. A number of families in that vicinity are already suffering from sickness as the result of the stench, and unless it rains soon or something is done to abate the nuisance disease and mortality will certainly follow.

THE GATE CITY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17.

A Visit to the Pork Houses.

To one unacquainted with the business, an inspection into the various processes and appliances for getting hogs to pieces and ready for market is interesting if not wonderful.

Yesterday we visited three of the four pork houses doing business here, and received from the gentlemanly proprietors all the information asked in reference to their business.

The hogs are killed with a tolerably heavy and long handled hammer, and afterwards stuck, in a high pen, just outside of the building and at the end of the *race*, which pen has an open slat floor thereby disposing of the blood without any trouble. The view of a whole pen full of kicking, squirming, agonizing, dying hogs is nothing to the hands, who pitch them writhing into the vat of hot water, as unrelentingly as Falstaff was tumbled into the Thames. From this bath they are dragged and soon stripped of nature's covering by a dozen or more hands, and at the end of the dressing, or undressing, table, suspended on the hooks of a large revolving wheel, in the exact reverse order of what is due and awaiting Jeff. Davis and his crew. On these hooks they are opened and the entrails removed, which is performed with great rapidity, the operator cleaning out a considerable number in a minute. From this place they are wheeled on high cars and hung together to cool, ready for cutting the next day.

The dressed hogs are wheeled to the cutting blocks, and after being weighed, are cut up in a trice, by four men who with their long axes make nothing of cutting off the head or hams at a single lick, and separating the body in two or three more. Around the chopping block are some engaged in trimming hams and shoulders, some weighing and packing, and some wheeling off the lard trimmings, heads, feet, &c. The hands are so well acquainted with the essential anatomy of the beast that "before he can say Jack Robinson" he finds himself in sundry parts and places for sundry uses. The packing is done in Turk Island salt with a little saltpetre, and the barrels afterwards filled with the strongest kind of brine, drawn from large tanks. The hams, shoulders and long sides are wheeled off, salted dry and corded up on the floors. The piles of meat are tremendous, and would go quite a piece in making fortifications for an army the size of Stonewall Jackson's. (No doubt his army would feel a little better fortified by intrenching something of this sort internally.) Some of the cording was very nice, particularly at Godman & Co's house, resembling the best kind of stone masonry. The wide spread pile of hams and shoulders, covered slightly with salt, might be compared to a miniature sea, with its multitudinous and uniform waves, gently crested with the white sea foam. The meat thus packed is handled and salted three times and left till Spring, when it is nicely cleaned and trimmed and packed in boxes, with salt, for market. A good deal of the cutting done here is by some of the several English methods, of which the Cumberland is a common one, and the meat is put up in boxes for the English market.

A very large percentage of the hog goes for lard, so that a 200 lb hog yields some 30 lbs lard. The lard is rendered in very large tanks, some of iron and some of wood. In rendering lard in this way nearly everything—heads, ribs, legs, trimmings, &c., is used up with much greater economy than can be done by the farmer. They get, probably, 40 to 50c more value out of a hog than a farmer can. The iron tanks bear two or three times the pressure of steam put on the wood tanks and consequently the work is done in one half or less time. These tanks and the coolers, and the kettles, and furnace for kettle rendering, occupy a considerable space, and are a great expense in fitting up for the business. The lard is finally run off in tierces, something larger than pork barrels, and kept out of doors in long and large piles, where they remain together with the tremendous rows of pork barrels, over winter.

Our dealers have generally bought at a stipulated price per 100 pounds net weight. They now pay from $3 to $3 50, which is considerably more than they first paid.

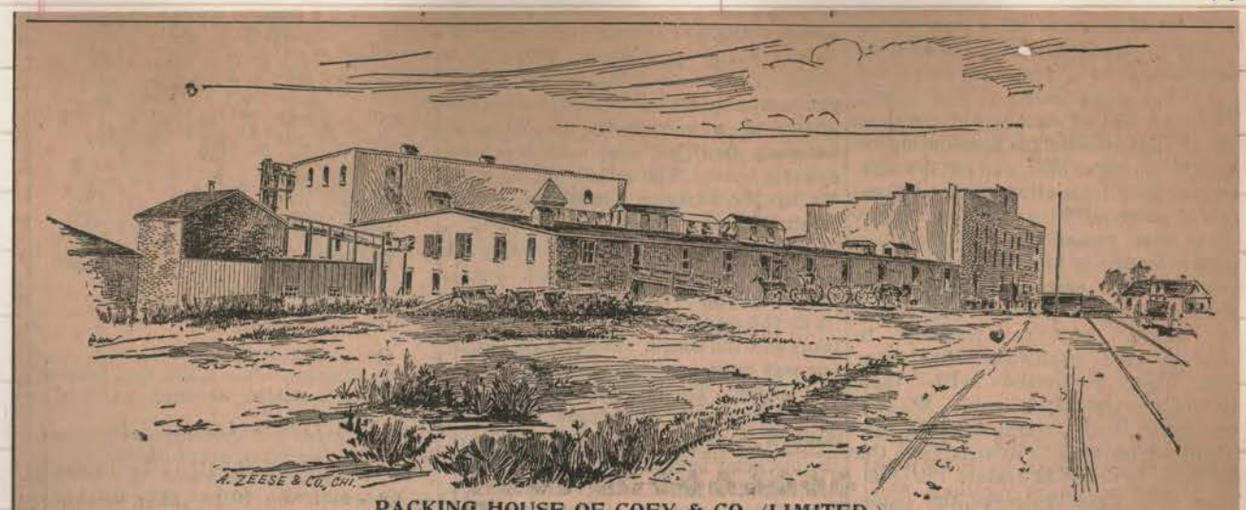
Hogs this year are not quite as heavy as usual, 200 pounds being with us nearly the average weight. The fear of hog cholera and the increase in price stimulates sales, and most of the larger hogs of the country are being run into market.

Of the houses here, as near as we can learn, Messrs. Godman & Co. have already killed 10,000, and will kill 15,000 more. Cleghorn & Alexander have killed 15,000, and will kill 20,000 more. Patterson & Timberman have killed 12,000, and will kill 13,000 more, and Beatty & Hammill have killed 6,000 or 8,000 and will kill 12,000 to 15,000 more. They kill, dress, &c., from 800 to 1,200 a day in each house, employing from 75 to 100 hands each. The business is larger here than it has ever been before, and our buyers are busy all over southern Iowa, so that a large number of hogs killed here are brought from the Missouri slope. The interest is a very large one, calling into requisition, and putting into circulation thousands of dollars, and we are pleased to say that the enterprise of our operators are making Keokuk one of the most important points in the State, in this business. 1862

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, THURSDAY, MAY 11.

—The stench from the pork-houses today has pervaded the entire city. The breezes have borne volumes of the foulest odors up Fifth street since early morning. Something must have broken loose down there again. Our citizens will be glad to hear of the speedy abatement of the nuisance, for at present it is impossible to go out of doors without holding a handkerchief to one's nose, or else be sickened by the stench. 1882



PACKING HOUSE OF COEY & CO. (LIMITED.)

Constitution-Democrat

CON JULY 30, 1896.

HOGS AND HAMS.

How One Is Converted Into the Other at Coey & Co's.

Details of the Workings of a Big Plant Where Hundreds of Hogs Are Daily Made Into Choice Meats.

In West Keokuk, on the corner of B and Bluff streets, stands a number of tall white washed brick buildings which are perhaps the most prominent and commanding structures in that community. From without there is but little to be seen but the high white walls. A look within, however, will disclose the workings of one of the largest and busiest enterprises of Keokuk. This series of buildings is the seat of the great pork packing industry of Coey & Co., Ltd., a place full of the liveliest activity and work during the busy season. The place is well worth a visit from a point of interest alone and one is well repaid who watches the processes through which the pig is put to convert his carcass into many useful and necessary commodities.

The working force of the packing house is about 140 men on an average. During the busy winter packing season, when the most work is done this force is often increased to as high as 200 men. Many of these men support families and nearly all of the workers are dependent upon this vast industry for their livelihood. It may be easily imagined, therefore the importance of this institution to West Keokuk and the whole city. Fully ninety per cent of all the wages paid out each week by the company are spent right here with Keokuk merchants and the company is responsible for a very large share of the circulation of the capital in the city. Thus, besides being a vast and profitable industry in itself, it is a great power for good in the entire community by providing work for the workingmen and distributing its capital to them to them through its wage list.

Some idea of the vastness of this concern may be gained from the fact that 2,000 hogs may be slaughtered in this plant by one day's labor. The average number killed each day is about 1,000 hogs. The plant is operated about eight months out of each year, about four months in summer and four in winter. These operations are regulated by the law of supply and demand and they vary with the conditions of the market.

The hogs are brought from the country surrounding the city within a radius of 150 miles. They are purchased both in car load lots and from the wagons of the producers. Every Tuesday afternoon during this packing season a special hog train has come into West Keokuk over the north road, with car loads of hogs from Donnellson and points on the C., B. and K. C. railroad.

These animals are all received at the rear of the packing house under the supervision of the chief receiver, and are driven into the great pens of the plant. There they are given a thorough rest from their journey to their death-place and are fed and cooled for two or three days, that their flesh may be in prime condition when the killing time comes.

After spending the time in the pens, the hogs are driven up into the packing house for killing and the processes which convert the animals into juicy bacons, hams and other commodities are then fairly begun. In the packing house they enter a series of smaller pens and are driven to the place of slaughter. There each one is seized by his hind leg and a clamp is shackled to it. A hoister, working over a pulley, is then attached and with a pull at the lever the hog is swinging high in the air, head downward, and is moved along to where the sticker stands with his sharp and fatal knife. This man grasps the pig, turns him around until his throat is exposed, then deftly and quickly cuts the vital jugular vein. It is all over in an instant and the animal hardly realizes what has happened until he finds his life blood ebbing away. This, also, is caught and conveyed to another part of the plant to be utilized, as is also nearly every piece and scrap of the carcass as well.

When the blood has been taken from the carcass it is plundged into a great vat of steaming hot water and is there scalded thoroughly. It is then turned out and with a hook the body is attached to the endless chain that draws it through the steam scraper for the removal of the bristles. This machine is an interesting one and is shaped like a tower. The carcass ascends the inside of this tower and a series of adjustable scrapers, which do the work alike on large or small pigs, removes the bristles. During the entire process the hot, scalding water is being poured over it.

From this machine the carcass is rolled out upon a broad, flat plane and a line of men as shavers, give the carcass a more thorough scraping and remove every particle of dirt and hair so that the carcass of the pig is clean and pink and rosy, without the least suggestion of any filth. The head is then removed and sent to another part of the house for further use. The carcass is then hung up by the hind legs and cleaved open with immense knives. The entrails are then removed and handed over to a large corps of workers. These separate the various organs and prepare them, each for its separate purpose. The hearts, lungs, stomach, kidneys, liver, the intestines and all the various organs are converted to some useful purpose and not one scrap is allowed to go to waste. The tenderloins and the leaf lard are also carefully removed and prepared by various processes for the market. The cleaned and stripped carcass is then cleaved into halves and lowered into the floor below to be chilled and cut up and cured.

These halves are lowered into the chilling or cooling rooms, where all the heat from them is carefully removed and drawn out by a refrigerating process. The chilling rooms are surrounded with ice and their temperature is kept down to about thirty-six degrees continually. This is just a few degrees above freezing point and, while it chills the halves throughout, they are not frozen, as it is

injurious to the tender juices of the meat. In these rooms they are kept for two nights and then removed to the cutting department.

Here the halves are quartered and the carcass is further cut up and carved so that the hams, sides of bacon, the feet and the ribs, are separated with cleaners and knives. This department in the house makes twenty six cuts out of a hog's carcass, each one of which is suitable for some particular market. This department alone gives employment to quite a number of skilled cleaners and cutters who must thoroughly understand the proper cuts to be made.

The curing is the next process through which the meats are put and this takes some time and much care and trained skill. This is done in the great cellars of the plant. The hams and bacons are placed into a sweet, briny pickle made from a solution of pure English salt and a sugar syrup. Into the great vats containing this pickle the meats are allowed to remain for from thirty to sixty days. During that time they are thoroughly cured and salted, the sweet syrup making the meats mild and of prime flavor. The packing house of Coey & Co. has 800 of these curing vats, each one of which has a capacity of 1,000 pounds.

This curing process is not complete until the meat has been taken to the smoke house and hung up there. The fire of green hickory wood is then lighted and the process of smoking is continued for about three days. In this great smoke house three cars of meats, or about 50,000 pounds, can be put through this process at one time. Some of the meats are then put up in canvas covers or not, as preferred by the purchaser.

A rigid inspection is also made of each piece of meat before it leaves the packing house, and a force of inspectors are kept busy doing nothing else but attending to this important duty. Each piece is examined carefully to see that it is in first class prime condition. The meats are then packed into strong wooden cases, and are surrounded by a packing of pure English salt, which preserves them.

Besides the making of hams and bacon, the plant puts out other important products, and while the meats are being prepared for the market, there are other operations going on in other parts of the plant. The fertilizing plant is a large industry in itself and converts the blood and some other portions of what would seemingly be waste, into useful fertilizing material. The lard works is another industry connected with the plant, and that minor enterprises make this place a very compound beehive of industry. Besides the hams and bacons there are other meats such as hearts, ribs, smoked tongues, ham trimmings and tenderloins, and also lard and fertilizers, which are placed upon the market.

The products of this plant are shipped to every state in the union. The company has arrangements by which it uses a special line of freight cars for its shipments and these are backed up to the very door of the shipping room, so that the cases are rolled directly into the cars. Three-fourths of the entire product, however, goes to England, which is the chief distributing point of the company. Last winter Coey & Co. received orders from Norway and from other points on the continent of Europe and they shipped lard into Russia, but the bulk of their product goes to England.

Some of the commodities necessary for the running of the plant are bought in such quantities that they are interesting items in themselves. For instance 250 tons of prime salt is imported from England in the fall to be used in packing and curing. This salt is very dry and absorbent and of excellent quality for these purposes. The ice industry of this great plant is an immense enterprise in itself and the supplying of ice to the chilling and cooling rooms keeps a seperate force of men busy all the time. The company harvest their own ice and each winter they stow away in their capacious ice houses fully 16,000 tons of the congealed fluid. Three-fourths of this supply is kept in immense houses near the plant and the rest in the white ice house on the canal above the upper lock, where the ice harvest is gathered each year.

After tomorrow, the slaughtering operations will cease and no more hogs received until the autumn season opens and operations begin once more. The curing, chilling and other processes will, of course, be still continued. There are now about 143 men on the pay roll of the company, including a few who have stopped work during the past week or two in anticipation of the coming cessation of the work. In the killing department Daniel McFall, Sr., has full charge as foreman of that portion of the work. Under his able supervision is a corps of skilled helpers, among whom are Henry Myers, the sticker, another responsible position; Emmet Ireland, shackler; M. McNearney, hoister; Chris. Hogan, dropper; Jas. Puder, scalder; Edw. Connors, machine man; J. Gavin, catcher; Homer Ackley, header; Wm. John McFall, hanger; James Leech, Michael McGinty, Al. Strahn and John Kennedy, shovers; Thos. Adair and Michael Morrisy, cleavers; Sam'l Ireland, ham trimmer; John O'Neil, chief marker; Wm. Morgan, Jr., Michael Scanlon, John McGovern, Frank Dwyer, Thos. Jester and John Griffin, casing pullers; Dan'l McFall, Jr., tenderloin puller; Jack Mallory, leaf lard puller. Wm. Brown is in charge of all the colored men on the working force of which there are several. John Christfield is the efficient foreman of the sausage department. In the cutting department James Cusack is the chief cleaver and John McCarthy and Alex McFall, hamtrimmers. They are ably assisted by an efficient cutting force. The fertilizing plant is supervised by Wm. Morgan, Sr., and the stock department is under the management of Wm. Thompson, chief receiver, and Sam'l Thompson, foreman of the yards. John Dillon has charge of the teaming, and William Mallory supervises the work of the ice department.

In the cellars, where the curing processes are done, Anthony Donnelly is the manager, Henry Welch is the chief ham curer and James Brennan, chief bacon curer. The engines are controlled by John Wheeler, chief engineer and John McPherson, chief fireman. John Wilson watches after the interests of the packing house after the workers have gone to rest at night. John Brennan is the carpenter and attends to all repairs in that line. In the examination room Wm. McCormick, is the chief inspector; John Keefe, sizer; John Kennedy, spotter; Walter Ferrell, weigh-master and shipping clerk, and James McGahey, chief end man.

Following is a list of the other workers who render efficient service:

John Dolan, Samuel Hutchinson, Timothy Whalen, Patrick Brennan, Thomas Roach, Frank Puder, Frank McKee, Thomas Brennan, William Robinson, John Cuniff, James Rea, Daniel Cavanaugh, Peter Miller, Patrick Stafford, Eli Day, James McGahey, Jr., Harry Murphy, Thomas Murphy, Henry VanEssly, David Rea, Patrick Brennan, Jr., George Mallery, Freman Kelly, William Lucas, Jr., Edward Connors, William McGahey, William Lucas, John Puder, Alex McPherson, James Donnelly, Frank Lambert, Matt. Rea, Edward Strahn, James Brown, Patrick Burke, John Brassil, M. Connor, Thomas Glynn, Michael Griffin, William Harris, William Dillion, Dennis Manley, William Croughan, John Foley, Warren Fulton, Charles Lefever, Theodore Buss, John Tigue, James Connors, Bert. Ferrell, George Mott, Albert Wilson, James Loter, James Butler, Edward Schaeffer, Samuel Glazebrook, Louis Scott, John Hogan, James McCormick, Bernard McFall, Harry Blaisdell, William Thompson, John Griffin, Patrick Murphy, Martin Cummins, John Martin, Michael Rogerson, John Cuniff, Jr., J. Vanderheyden, John Rea, John McNamara, John Conn, Thomas Griffin, Thomas Cunniff, William McGinnis, Charles Shininghouse, William Brown, Jr., John Wesley South, Robert South, Albert McGinnis, Thomas Graham, Nicholas Mueller, Bernard Lavery, William McLaughlan, John Simons, Peter McLaughlan, Thomas McLaughlan, Edward Martin, Samuel Ireland, Frank Brown, William Weedin, Samuel Mills, Robert Butler, William Phoenix, George Hallam, Thomas Wadden, William Winke, John Roach, John McQuaide, James Tigue, John Milton, Leo Glynn and Edward Woolley.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

HOWELL & CLARK, Publishers.

JUNE 28, 1883

THE PLOW WORKS.

The Keokuk Plow Works Purchase Twelve Acres of Ground and Begin the Work of Erecting Shops to have a Frontage of 450 Feet When Completed.

The location decided upon by the Keokuk plow works is a new departure in manufacturing in Keokuk. Nearly every manufactory in the city is situated south of Main street and every enterprise seems to look first in that direction. The plow company has purchased twelve acres of ground of W. B. Collins and the Mason estate, on the canal, a short distance below the Anschutz brewery, and have made all contracts for the erection of shops and work thereon was commenced Friday. In the manufacture of plows and agricultural implements a great deal of shop room is required, and this company's plan includes a frontage of 450 feet, which can be increased if desired at any time. The shops proper will all be connected and front on the railroad in order that all material received can be transferred to the shop in which it is to be used from a side track of the C B. & Q., to be put down immediately. The same may be said as to shipments of manufactured goods. In both cases there will be a great saving of labor. The work shops will have a front of 300 feet and will be built first and the ware rooms and office as soon thereafter as convenient. Seventy-five men will be employed at the start and the number increased as the business grows. The dimensions of each shop is as follows: Foundry, 40x100 feet; grinding and polishing rooms, 30x50 feet; blacksmith and machine shops, 40x100 feet; engine and boiler room, 40x50 feet; wood and paint shop, 40x120 feet. The latter will be two stories and all the shops brick with iron roof. The citizens engaged in this enterprise are successful business men and will push the work forward as rapidly as possible. The shops will have capacity sufficient to turn out a vast amount of work and the building of them will stimulate other men to invest in manufacturing enterprises in Keokuk. Colonel Blood and R. G. Horn will have the entire management of the manufactory. The contract for the masonry was given to Steele & Fletcher, brickwork to Geo. Hardesty and W. H. Nichols will supervise the carpenter work.

PLOW SHOPS.

Brick and Mortar Rapidly Combined—The Shops of the Keokuk Plow Works Being Expeditiously Constructed.

The Keokuk Plow Company are losing no time in the construction of their shops and the progress made is gratifying. Work was commenced four weeks ago. The C. B. & Q. put in a switch 1000 feet long and will construct another as soon as required. The foundry is 40x100 feet and the brick work is half completed. The walls of the iron room 15x30 feet, machine shop 40x100 and boiler and engine room 50x40 are finished and two trusses for the roof of one of them are in position. The wood work will be rushed along. The paint and wood shop will be two stories 40x120 feet. The foundation for this shop is ready for the brick masons and the lower joists are laid. All the shops will be completed in sixty days. H. B. Blood is looking after the building. W. H. Nichols is superintendent and John Rollins assistant. Geo. W. Hardesty has charge of the brick work. JULY 24 1883

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matter.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1883.

KEOKUK INDUSTRIES.

The Plow Works—The Buildings All Up and Interiors Nearly Finished—A Large Manufactory Growing in Our Midst--The Malleable Iron Works.

From the bluffs the growing buildings of the plow factory have been the subject of much interest to passers-by. The ninety-two foot smoke-stack just placed into position has caused the works to assume a completed shape as if by magic. All the brick work on the buildings themselves has been completed. and what remains to be finished in this line is the coupola to the foundry, which is now nearly finished. The iron roofing has been placed on all the different shops, the only uncovered portion of the works being the engine and boiler rooms, and the noise from these attract visitors in numbers, all of whom take great interest in the process of fitting up the different shops. The main buildings are three in number, the foundry, the blacksmith and machine shops, and the wood work and paint department, and these are connected by numerous smaller buildings of various uses. In the foundry the floor is being leveled and rolled and everything done to facilitate good work. There is little machinery about founding, the only things of consequence being the flasks and sand heaps. A great number of iron flasks have been received for moulding the sulky wheels of the riding plows. Other flasks for the different machinery are on hand and others will be made as they are needed. A room for the drums or "rattle boxes" is to one corner of the foundry, through which all castings must go for cleaning. The blacksmith shop has six forges ready for work and fifteen furnaces will be put in. To the side of this room is a tempering furnace with fire boxes on each side of a large oven that the process may be maintained as even as possible. A double tank is in front with reservoirs above and below and filled with brine and kept in constant motion from one to the other. The lower reservoir is where the tempering is done. A number of large pieces of machinery have been set in the machine shop. Chiefly among them are a drop press, a plow standard heading machine, which the workmen term a "bull-dozer," a cushioned hammer for drawing beams and for plating, three drilling machines and a shearing and punching machine. A grinding and polishing room is between the foundry and machine shop, with a large bath in the floor to receive the water and dust from the stones above. The dirt from this bath runs into a large sewer. The woodworking department will be one of the most interesting places to visit with its many slotting, planing, boring and shaping machines and crosscut, rip and band saws, and turning lathes. It is a building 120x40 feet and three stories high. The second and third floors are used for the paint shops, the former for heavy work and the room above for the cultivators almost exclusively. All the buildings are well ventilated, in fact the company has taken advantage of the experiments and experiences of all similar concerns, and Mr. A. B. Hampton, who has charge of the construction, thinks there is not a better appointed factory in this respect in the country. A breeze is constantly stirring along the river bank and a better location could not be asked for. The shipping facilities are excellent, and side tracks have been placed in. To prevent fire, water is kept handy on every side. The company will manufacture as its specialty, at the start, the celebrated Pattee Sulky plows, and has bought the entire right to them from the Moline Company, who will give their entire attention to their tongueless cultivators. The Keokuk company has a great number of castings now on hand fresh from the sand, ready for fitting and setting up. Two steel boilers, and a Cummer engine, the latter manufactured at Cleveland, are receiving attention at present, and when completed, the works will be ready to begin operations in most of the shops. The roofs of the buildings are being brightened up, and everything in the vicinity of the new plow factory acts as a magnet to draw the interested attention of all.

THE MALLEABLE IRON WORKS.

Theodore Wood, the proprietor of the new malleable iron works recently located here, is beginning his work in a systematic way. In his own words, he is going in according to the size of his cloth, and will branch out as business requires. The works are located on Johnson street, between Water end First, and consist of three buildings, a machine shop, foundry and planing mill, and are all plated with iron on the exterior. The machine shop is the main and larger building, and has some of the best machinery for the work obtainable. The foundry has just been completed and a furnace for working

the iron is being built between this and the machine shop. The planing room is situated on the higher ground, above the main building. The works are in active operation and receiving all the orders they can fill, some of them coming from as far as Chicago.

THE GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT. 12. 1880

ASBESTINE STONE.

A Walk Through the Workshops of our New Manufactory.

The Opera House Work—Economy an Important Factor—Testimonials.

The asbestine stone works, on First street between Main and Johnson, under the efficient management of J. O. Voorhees, are now turning out work that speaks for itself, and an inspection thereof will convince the most skeptical that such is a fact.

As you enter the works you observe numerous handsome specimens of this now popular stone—the caps for the doors and windows of the new opera house attracting especial attention.

Those for the first story, the elevation front, stones for the base courses, the hood molds to be placed over the front entrance and various smaller stones are finished and ready to be placed in position. Suffice it to say that they are finer and more durable than any cut stone could possibly be.

The window caps for the center and the center piece for the second story are yet to be completed. The center piece —of the Queen Anne pattern—will be a very difficult and artistic piece of workmanship. There will be six pilasters, and the blocks will be molded in sections for the accommodation of the masons. Anchor holes are made in each piece of work, which permit of the stones being securely fastened—another advantage over cut stone.

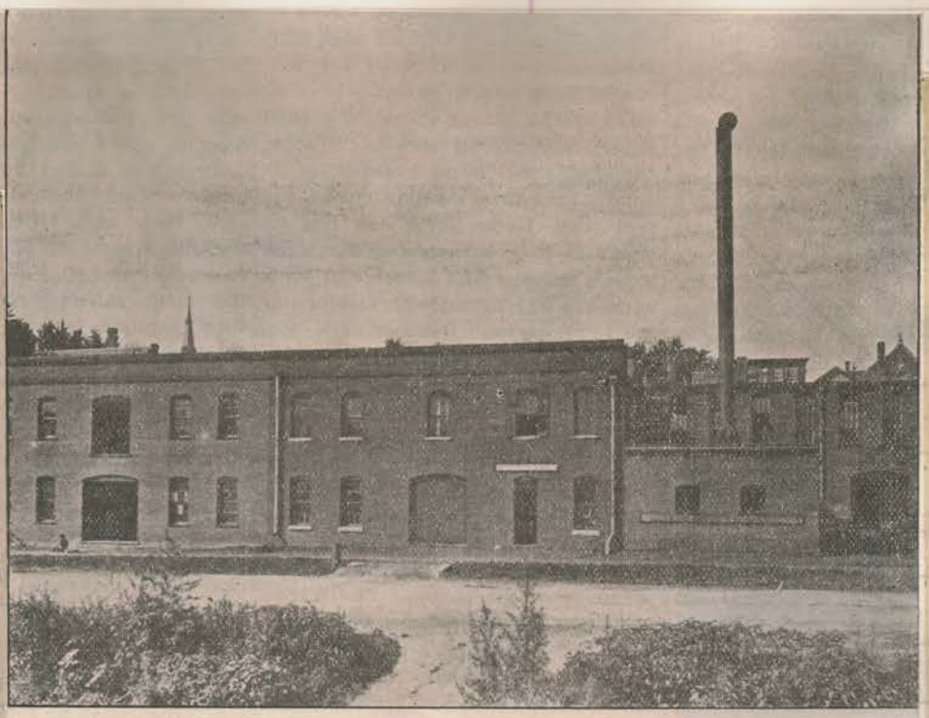
The asbestine works have also made contracts to put in sills at Mr. Medes' new building, corner of First and Main streets; at Colonel Blood's residence, and other buildings.

One of the most advantageous features of this new building material is that it is much cheaper than cut stone—especially in fine, ornamental work—and is by far the more substantial of the two. As an evidence of this fact we submit the following letter, received by Mr. Voorhees, the manager of the asbestine stone works:

NEWTON, July 30, 1880.—The asbestos stone has conquered all prejudices in this community. Under the action of the weather and intense fire heat it has proved itself superior to any limestone we can get. I was in Colorado during eight months last year, and carefully noticed building in Denver. The asbestos there is preferred to the best granite. They can get nothing equal to it for pavements and fronts of buildings. They give it any color desirable. The makers claim crystalization under patents. The stone is simply splendid, and has won great favor. After five years' experience with it here I would use no other kind of stone. All nature's stone is simply a concrete, and very seldom has the proportions of material that can be given to asbestos. If properly made it will, in *all respects*, do better than natural stone. L. R. MERSHON.

Seven men are now employed in the work, and additions will be made to the force from time to time.

Those of our citizens contemplating building should examine the asbestine stone before completing their contracts.



ANDERSON CANNING COMPANY.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1888

Work on the Powder Mills to Commence.

Mr. Francis G. Dupont, of Wilmington, Delaware, arrived in the city yesterday accompanied by F. G. Thomas, who will remain permanently in Keokuk as general manager of the extensive powder plant which the Dupont company proposes establishing near the city. Mr. Dupont stated work on the plant would begin without delay. The extensive tract of land recently purchased will be graded and the construction of the buildings will be commenced, it being the intention to proceed with construction as rapidly as possible and accomplish as much as possible before winter. Mr. Dupont expressed his satisfaction and pleasure with the manner in which the representatives of the company and the announcement that it would establish a plant were received in Keokuk. He is pleased with the attractions and natural advantages of the city. Mr. Thomas will be extended a cordial welcome as a resident.

The Gate City.

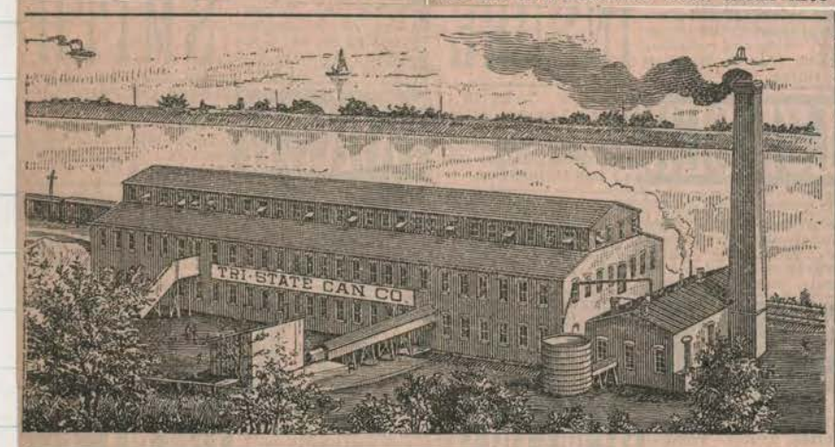
HOW TO MAKE A TIN CAN.

Description of the Process as Witnessed in the Tri State Can Factory.

From the Tin Plate to the Finished Product—How Keokuk Enterprise is Strikingly Exemplified at This Plant.

JULY 21, 1891.

Keokuk enterprise never received a more forcible exemplification than in the rebuilding of the Tri State Can company's plant which was burned to the ground last winter. It was a large building, equipped with expensive machinery and in it were stored thousands of dollars worth of tin plate and manufactured goods. In a few moments the fire fiend had caused the destruction of more than $50,000 worth of property. The factory had been in operation but a few months and had already worked up a large business. Beside the destruction of property 140 operatives were thrown out of remunerative employment. But the Tri State Can factory was an institution that the city was proud of; and with energy and enterprise characteristic of Keokukians, the resolution to rebuild was made almost before the charred embers ceased to smoke. Shortly afterward the ashes were cleaned away and the work of rebuilding was inaugurated. New machinery, better even than that at first used, was ordered and a few months later the factory was rebuilt and again in operation. The 140 operatives have been at work several weeks now and the superior quality of tin cans are being turned out at the rate of 50,000 a day.



The building is of wood veneered with brick and roofed with iron. It is 175 feet long and sixty-five feet wide and is two stories high. The lower floor ceiling is fourteen feet high and that of the upper floor is of equal height with the center elevation twenty feet high. Both floors are excellently lighted and ventilated, the second floor being particularly so. The whole building will be heated with steam and is provided with fire extinguishers and means of easy egress in case of an emergency. On the first floor is the office of Adams Ballinger, secretary of the company. It is attractively furnished. Occupying the office is also the bookkeeper, Miss May Price. A large portion of this floor is used for storage purposes. Large quantities of the company's own patent cans and also wax sealing cans made to order for Horne & Co. are here stored. There also are several rooms up town utilized for storage of finished goods. A distinguishing feature of the Tri-State can is that all that is necessary is to heat the rim of the little cap and it is sealed without the application of solder, the solder being placed in the groove when made. Another feature is that no solder or soldering iron touches the inside of the can in the process of manufacture, thus insuring its cleanliness.

In the cutting department on the first floor are at present employed nineteen operatives, boys and men, most of whom are colored, under the direction of Foreman Charles Williams. The tin as it comes in boxes from the factory is stored in a fire proof vault with a capacity of over 5,000 boxes of 112 sheets each. In case of fire the tin would be uninjured. During the late fire much of the loss was in boxed tin. The sheets are taken from this vault and trimmed into sheets 14x20 inches ready to be cut into bodies. One operative can trim twenty-five to fifty boxes a day. Next the sheets go to another shear hand, who with the aid of a machine cuts them into bodies 4 3-4x13 1-2 inches. Then the bodies are sent to the second floor. In this department also are the press hands. Boys operate the seven rapid die presses which cut out the tops and bottoms and press them into shape at one time. An emery wheel for sharpening the dies and tools and a solder cutter complete the equipment of this department.

On the second floor is the pretty office of James T. Smith, superintendent, and his assistant, Harry K. Smith. But they enjoy their office little of the time, the 120 operatives, mostly girls, and the multitude of machines requiring their constant oversight. A. H. Hall is foreman on this floor. When the sheets come from the cutting room they are piled up 100 in a bunch and the edges are tinned at the top and bottom so as to insure a tight seam when soldered. They are then passed to the four pairs of rolling machines, each of which may give form to 25,000 cans a day. Next the cans pass to the seaming wheels, of which there are ten, and the seams are soldered. At each wheel one operative applies the rosin, another the salder and a third fits the tops and bottoms. From there the cans pass to the contracting dies where the tops and bottoms are firmly "pressed up." Four of these dies have a capacity of 25,000 each a day. Then the cans are ready to have the tops and bottoms soldered on. To accomplish this there are ten pairs of machines, or soldering wheels, with a daily capacity of 5,000 each. Automatically and without the operative touching a soldering iron, the solder is applied to bottoms and the cans are passed to the next machine of the pair when in a like manner the tops are soldered and the solder applied to the cap seam. No imperfect can ever leaves the factory. Each is tested under an air pressure of thirty-five pounds to the square inch in an automatic machine. The cans are submerged in water and the air pressure applied. If there is a leak ever so slight it will make itself known and the can is sent to the mending table. The perfect cans are conveyed through a drier, heated by steam, and are packed into boxes, two dozen in each. Ten boys operating the testers, can handle 25,000 cans each a day. Through a hatchway the boxes are sent to the lower floor and either stored there, carted to some other store house or shipped away. A neat dressing room and lunch room for the girls is provided and the stairway and walk leading to their water closet is screened from publicity.

All machine work, repairing and die making is done in a well equipped shop in the detached building which is of brick 20x65 feet and is also the engine and boiler house. Ludwig Gathermann is in charge and his machines are of superior merit. John Morgan reigns in the engine and boiler room. A seventy horse power boiler furnishes steam for the thirty-five horse power engine which drives the thousand and one machines of the plant.

Fuel for heating the soldering machines is gasoline gas, manufactured in one of Kemp's gasometers, less than a barrel and a half of oil being required each day. A pump in the engine room drives the gas

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through the pipes at a six pound pressure. About seventy-five barrels of oil are stored on the grounds all the time. Another pump draws water from a cistern down at the edge of the canal up into a big tank where it is stored for use in the boiler and about the plant.

The boys and men employed in the plant make from $3 to $15 a week, according to their proficiency and responsibility. From $3 to $8 a week is the wages earned by the girls. Following are the officers of the company: R. Tynes Smith, of Baltimore, president; Wm. Ballinger, vice president; Adams Ballinger, secretary; James T. Smith, superintendent; Harry K. Smith, assistant superintendent. In importance and value the plant will increase as the months and years go by. Last Thursday the factory made more cans and made them at a greater profit than ever before, the day's actual output being 36,000. Keokuk is proud of the Tri-State Can factory and proud of the enterprising gentlemen who built and are maintaining it.

THE GATE CITY: 1880

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 19.

PORK PACKING.

Keokuk Takes Rank With the Prominent Packing Points.

A Branch of One of the Oldest Houses in the World Our Latest Accession—What Coey & Co., Patterson & Sons and Keppel & Blom are Doing.

Pork packing is one of the most important industries of the world. The demand for meats is increasing; improvements in curing and packing pork are bringing that staple commodity within the reach of all, and in consequence thereof new packing houses are springing up at various points, and Keokuk has been fortunate enough to retain the old and gain one new establishment of this kind. We will first speak of our latest acquisition,

MESSRS. COEY & CO.,

who have been with us but a short time. When it was first announced that Messrs. Coey & Co. would start up the old Smyth pork house, there was a general expression of satisfaction on the part of our citizens, who realized the importance of the enterprise and the great benefits it would bestow upon Keokuk. Those who have expected that an immense business would be built up by the new house will not be disappointed, as a walk through the old stone pork house will attest. The building has been put in excellent shape and the facilities for handling hogs greatly improved. But of this more anon.

Messrs. Coey and J. & T. Sinclair were the founders of the pork packing business in Ireland. Sir Edward Coey, the "father of the trade," who, by the way, was knighted by her majesty, Queen Victoria, has retired from the business in favor of the younger members of the firm, who have formed a company under the firm name of Coey & Co., and have established packing houses at Belfast, London and Keokuk, while the old firm of J. & T. Sinclair have houses in Belfast, New York and Cedar Rapids. Coey & Co. represent a capital of £100,000. The company is limited as to the amount of shares, there being an act of parliament governing such corporations. Seven partners are required to form said company, and the assets must be audited by the public auditor and published in a manner similar to bank statements. Thus it will be seen that the firm of Coey & Co. is one of no small magnitude and a decidedly valuable acquisition to the business interests of Keokuk.

The new house has not as yet been run to its full capacity, but it is the intention of the proprietors to do so as soon as practicable. From 1,000 to 1,200 hogs per day will be handled if they can be obtained, and the supply is increasing sufficiently to evidence the fact that when it becomes generally known that there will be a demand for that number of hogs each working day in the year, the porkers will be forthcoming.

Messrs. Coey & Co. are now running a force of 106 men. This number will be materially increased in the near future—say in a fortnight—by which time the proprietors hope to begin running the house to its full capacity.

Through the kindness of the genial and efficient manager, Mr. Chas. Dickey, we were shown through the entire buildings and grounds.

The cutting room was first visited. Here we found a busy squad of men, working like a well-regulated machine and putting pork in shape for packing with great celerity. And, by the way, cutting has come to be quite a difficult work. Among the favorite cuts for the English trade are the Cumberland and Yorkshire—the former is the side, rib and all, with the foot cut off, while the latter has fore leg cut off and rib removed. There is also a Dublin cut, in which the leg bone is taken out.

It would seem strange to the general reader, and in fact to the American consumer, that a side of pork with the slightest difference in cutting would be demanded by certain classes of people—but such is the case. Where these cuts are used they have been introduced by the local cutters of various counties, and the people adhere to what might be called the established rule, and, of course, their tastes must be catered to. The cut depends greatly upon the size and color of the hog. Light, clear-skinned porkers are cut into English meats, while the heavy are retained for the American markets. 'Twas customary in England and Ireland, some years ago, to cure meat and hold it until a certain season, but since the use of ice has become more general, and meats cheaper, this practice has been generally abandoned and pork is in the market at all seasons. The array of dry-salted hams intended for the English market was very tempting. These hams differ from those sold in America in that they are not trimmed so close and are consequently fatter.

The pickling process was viewed and hogshead upon hogshead of plump hams resting in syrup were gazed upon. These hams, in due time, will be "sugar cured."

The tastes of people in the mining districts of England and Ireland have undergone a great change in the past few years. The demand for fat meat has been entirely replaced by that for lean.

The meats packed here are kept in salt from 14 to 20 days and then shipped. The weather plays an important part in this programme. Such weather as we are having at present is the kind pork packers appreciate and profit by.

Nearly all the shoulders sold outside of America go to Scotland. There is always a good demand for this part of the hog at home, and it also meets ready sale abroad.

Messrs. Coey & Co. use the celebrated Cheshire English salt, and have also introduced a new feature to this portion of the country, namely: the use of bladders for lard receptacles.

The various packing rooms are in fine shape and a goodly amount of choice pork is to be seen therein.

The hanging room has a capacity for 2,500 hogs—all that is necessary. The arrangement and condition of this department is especially good.

The lard room is also in excellent shape, and Messrs. Coey & Co. turn out an average of 40 tierces of lard per day, which will be increased when the house gets in better running shape and hogs come in more freely.

The pens are roomy, clean and handy, and when the North Road puts in a switch, which it has agreed to do do, the facilities for receiving hogs will be unexcelled.

The ice houses are in fair condition and necessary repairs are now being made. Messrs. Coey & Co. will put up about 7,000 tons of ice this season.

They will also put up a dryer for tank

#1 Nov 19, 1880 - Page 1 (Pork Packing) Pork Packer

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Pork Packing #2

offal, in a few months, which is also a new idea and will save from 7 to 8 cents on each hog killed, which will be quite an item when killing 1,200 per day.

Various other improvements are contemplated, of which we may speak in the future.

Messrs. Coey & Co. thoroughly understand every detail of the pork packing business, and it was very fortunate for Keokuk that they located here. Farmers cannot bring them too many hogs. They want all they can get.

We will now speak of a house well-known to Keokukians, and one that has prospered here for many years. We mean

PATTERSON & SONS.

The senior member of this firm has been in the pork packing business here since 1846. 'Tis unnecessary for us to say anything further than this. Everybody knows how the house has prospered here, so we will merely give the details of our visit to the establishment.

Patterson & Sons are killing from 500 to 800 hogs per day and employ from 50 to 80 men. Their hanging room has a capacity for 1,100 hogs and is as good a room for the purpose as can be found anywhere.

'Tis but a few minutes work to transform a squealing porker into hams, shoulders and sides, and Ed. Booth, the excellent foreman, inducted us into the mysteries of the work and explained the workings of the machinery minutely.

The old style of cutting is done away, and a few deft movements of the knife leaves the hams faced, lard raised and obviates the necessity of using a cleaver in cutting the backs. They cut, mostly, American meats, with some "long clear" cuts for the English market.

Patterson & Sons use five lard tanks, and turn out a large amount of lard each day.

They ship nearly all their meat green, the major portion of it going to St. Louis. They cut no hams for the foreign trade, finding a ready market for all they can prepare in America.

The pickling rooms, store rooms, etc., are all in the best shape possible and the house may safely be pronounced a model one.

The pens are large and commodious, with room for from 2,500 to 3,000 hogs.

The shipping facilities enjoyed by this establishment are unexcelled.

The cutting-room force was not at work yesterday, so we failed to witness the workings of that department.

The Messrs. Patterson state that the quality of hogs is very good this year and the prospects for a brisk trade very flattering.

We next dropped in at

KEPPEL & BLOM'S,

and found all hands as busy as bees. This firm does not ship any meat, packing exclusively for home consumption. Eighteen men are employed, Mr. Keppel having charge of the house.

Messrs. Keppel & Blom kill and cut up 100 hogs per day. Their hanging room has a capacity for 175 porkers. They expect to kill from 3,500 to 4,000 this winter—will be governed in this, however, by the markets. This firm expects to increase its facilities at some future time and contemplates doing summer packing—but not for a year, at least. The establishment is in better shape this year than ever before, the new bridge over Bloody Run being of great advantage. They begun work about a week ago and are now under full headway, and likely to be kept busy during the remainder of of the season.

Their packing rooms are neat and give evidence of skill in their arrangement.

This firm makes a specialty of fine lard, turning out about 15 tierces per day. This useful article is put up in buckets for home use. Two grades are made, the leaf lard being extra fine.

The house, though small, is well-arranged and large enough for all practical purposes.

IN CONCLUSION.

Since the pork houses have started up West Keokuk has improved wonderfully in a business sense of view. Houses are in demand and evidences of thrift and contentment are to be found on every hand. Messrs. Coey & Co. will run winter and summer, thus furnishing employment to a large number of men during the entire year.

This is as it should be. Let Keokuk secure a few more enterprises of as much magnitude as our pork packing interests and she will soon outstrip every city in the state in the matter of growth and improvement.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

DECEMBER 1, 1883.

THE FIRST PLOW.

The Keokuk Plow Works Sells Its First Plow to C. P. Birge—The New Keokuk Industry Makes a Good Showing on the Start.

"He who by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

The organization of the Keokuk Plow Works was a good thing for the city of Keokuk in more ways than one. Every new factory started advertises the city as a manufacturing point, gives employment to labor and increases population. In this sense the plow works was no better than any other concern of equal capital. It was in the starting of an entirely new branch of manufacture here that the plow works stockholders did the city the greatest good. As noted a few days ago, this institution has fairly begun business and yesterday the first finished plow was turned out. If the sales of this company in the future demand the delivery of goods as quickly after receiving the finishing touches as in this instance, then traveling men will scarce be needed. In fact the people will cry for the great Keokuk plow in advance of manufacture. The purchaser of the first plow was Charles P. Birge and it is now on exhibition at the wholesale grocery house of Kellogg, Birge & Co., where it will remain for some time. Mr. Birge contracted for the plow some time ago and bye and bye proposes to send it to his farm. It is finished in exquisite style, is a beauty in every particular and worthy of a visit of inspection. The implement speaks volumes for the skill of the makers and will delight men who by the plow would thrive. Mr. Birge is amply rewarded for the forethought displayed in purchasing the first plow of this factory by the envy it has created among others not taking time by the forelock. It is whispered that one of the directors of the plow company would give considerable more than the price paid by Mr. Birge to be able to state that he owned the first plow, and it is scarcely possible to reconcile him to his plowless fate.

"He who by farming would get rich,
Must plow and sow and dig and sich;
Work hard all day, sleep hard all night,
Save every cent and not get tight."

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

NOVEMBER 30, 1883.

The Canning Company.

The Keokuk Canning Company has shut down for the season and have begun making cans for next year's business. The company put up this year 480,000 cans of tomatoes, pumpkin and squash and expect to increase the product next year, with a good crop, to one million cans. A greater variety of fruits and vegetables will be handled. During the busy season this year from 150 to 200 men, boys and girls were given employment and next year the force will be increased to 200 or 250 hands. The company talk of building a brick addition to the factory to extend to Eighth street. If built it will be two stories 70x108 feet. The present factory building is 76x128 feet with a process room 18x48 feet. In 1883. 3000 boxes of tin, 17,000 pounds of solder and 20,000 packing cases were used. The canned goods were all sold this year on the guarrantee to equal in quality the

product of any other factory in the country and thus far they have stood the test. Not a single claim or complaint has been made. The goods are as good as the best in America.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered AUGUST 15, 1883. ter.

THE CANNING FACTORY.

Inauguration of Work at the Company's New Building Yesterday---A Description of One of Keokuk's New Industries---Women, Girls and Boys Employed by the Wholesale---Industrial Notes.

The canning factory began operations yesterday. For months past the company has been making preparations for the business of this season and fortunately it is one that promises well for them. The business last year was carried on at the stone building at the foot of Blondeau street, just opposite the bridge, and it was found by far too cramped for the business they wished to do and could do, and so early this year the ground was secured and the large building put up they now occupy on Johnson and Eighth streets. It is one of the largest of the kind in the city and shows the company's confidence in the enterprise they have undertaken. Of the active officers of the company, J. M. Collins is president, Henry Heaslip secretary, and F. S. Pagett overseer and manager. Yesterday steam was raised and the thick smoke from the new stack attracted a GATE CITY representative, who was taken in tow by Will Heaslip and a general explanation of affairs kindly given. The building was filled with knots of boys and girls, and women young and old, awaiting the assignment of work, and on every hand there was a stir and a bustle that did one's heart good to see. The company makes all its own cans, and even its own solder from the pig lead. Tin is bought by the car load, and Mr. Pagett, who is an expert at the matter, has done all the sorting of this stock and has laid it out into grades. The first thing noted in the tin room is a boy with a machine cutting solder into sizes for the tinners. Another boy with a die press was chawing out the caps for the cans. Back of him two little fellows are slicing the tin for the body of the cans, and another near them grinding the rosin for the tinners hard at work on the south side of the building. A little rolling machine is manipulated by the tinners themselves, who roll out ten bodies for the can at one time. They make this movement ten times and then are off with a rush to their bench with a hundred can bodies, seal the sides, then the heads, and lastly the bottom, throwing in a lump of solder and with an iron completing the can. There are eleven tinners at work, who make from 700 to 900 cans per day. Three boys do nothing else but carry the cans to the storage rooms, where there are now some 500,000 ready for use. Most of those are three pounders, the larger size being quarts. A large room on the same floor as the tin room is known as the peeling room. At the alley doors the fruit and vegetables are landed. Mr. Pagett does all the sorting here, and two men at a vat in close proximity receive what he has noted as O. K., putting the tomatoes, or whatever is to be scalded, into two large iron cages which are let down into the boiling water. After being submerged a few moments the contents are slid into boxes, from whose seive-like bottom all the water runs off. The tomatoes are then ready for the girls, who proceed to their tables each with a bucketful, where they prepare the fruit for the fillers. These girls are paid by the piece at so much a bucket. There are two fillers, and two girls to each of these machines, who fill the cans at the rate of about fifteen a minute. At tables to the rear of the fillers boys place on the lids (or caps, as they call them at the factory), after they have gone through the process of wiping by a row of girls at tables near at hand. The boys then shove them through little windows into the bath room, in charge of P. H. Cowley, lately from Boston, Mass., who is the processor, and who tests the fruit before it finally leaves this floor. From the bath room the cans are run through a chute down into the packing room, where they are boxed and labeled and ready for the market. The boys in this room are keeping up a great hammering at the boxes, some of them for the farmers who have contracts, and some for shipping the goods. This wareroom is provided with great sliding doors and arranged for the passage of teams from one end to the other. The room is the length of the building, 130x70. At the north end of the building is a boiler room presided over by Eugene Farris. It contains at present a twenty-five horse power boiler, but the company have contracted with Sample & McElroy for a new one of seventy-five horse power, which will be delivered in a few days and set up by the side of the old one, but entirely independent of it. The gasoline reservoir, forty feet west of the building, supplies the heat for the tinners work. A large drain connects the building with a city sewer, so that no refuse or filth remains about the premises. An office is about to be placed at the Johnson entrance of the building, and several minor details yet remain to be attended to. In about a week the factory will be running at full capacity, with over 150 people in its employ. A visit there will then be one of the sights in Keokuk.

Keokuk Constitution.

APRIL 17. 1884.

NEW BARB WIRE FACTORY,

THAT OF THE AYRES AND DECKER MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

Just Established in This City—The Building Complete and the Machinery Being Put In—Probability That Work Will be Commenced in a Few Days.

The latest of our new manufacturing enterprises is that of the Ayres and Decker Manufacturing company, manufacturers of barb wire, who this week removed from Bushnell, Ill. Work on their new factory, which is located on Water street, between Blondeau and Concert streets, was commenced early in the winter and the brick work has just been completed, and the company this week removed their machinery to this city and are now putting it in their building. They will probably commence work in about two weeks. The company is composed of James Ayres, A. C. Decker and Peter Ayres. These gentlemen have removed to the city with their families. Mr. James Ayres has removed into the residence No. 411 Morgan street, and Mr. Peter Ayres will occupy a house on Grand avenue, near Rand park. Mr. Decker resides at No. 725 Morgan street. A few of their employes are here and several others will remove here with their families. The factory is a very solidly built two-story brick building 45x60 feet, with one story boiler house, 20x28 feet. They own ground on each side of it so that they can make any additions that an an increase of business would warrant. The first floor of the building will be used for an office, store room and for the planer, lathes, etc.; the second floor for for the barb wire machines and storage. They will employ about fifteen men at present, though the number will probably be increased after a time. The wire manufactured by them is of a superior quality and they have a good trade established for it, having three men on the road traveling. It will be kept on sale by the various dealers in Keokuk. The value of building, stock and machinery is about $15,000. The company removed to Keokuk on account of the splendid shipping facilities which the city afforded, and for other equally satisfactory reasons. The gentlemen connected with it are pleasant and agreeable and seem to be thorough business men.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1870.

BREWERY SEIZURE.—H. L. Morril, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue at this place, seized on yesterday the brewery of Leisey & Bro. for violation of the revenue laws. The fact was at once telegraphed to Commissioner Delano. The brewery is the most extensive one in this section.

Bottled Beer.

Last week Leisy Bros. of the Union Brewery commenced manufacturing beer for bottling, and are now turning out a very superior article. This beer is put up in pint bottles, and is convenient for general use. The bottles are supplied with a patent rubber cork, which can be applied or removed in an instant, so that a portion of the contents can be taken out and the bottle tightly corked again, thus keeping the beer perfectly fresh. This will prove of great benefit to parties using beer for medicinal purposes, and there will doubtless be a great demand for it.

THE GATE CITY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27. 1864

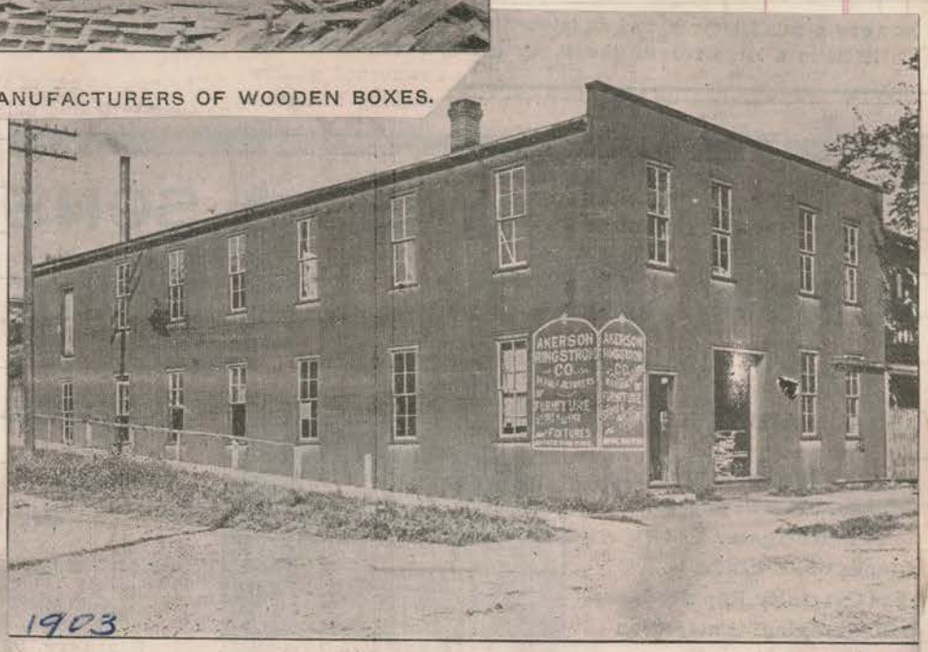
THE CITY.

BAEHR & LEISY'S BREWERY.—In company with our friend Maas, we went on an exploring expedition yesterday—the result of which was a thorough examination of the extensive brewery establishment of Messrs. Baehr & Leisy, on Johnson between 12th and 13th streets. Mr. Baehr was the only member of the firm present, but he very kindly acted as our guide, and showed us through the mysteries of the drying-room, and breaking mills, and hoppers, and cooling-tubs, and engines, and pipes; and then down a couple of flights of stairs, through the malt cellar, and the fermenting room, and into endless labyrinths of cells and vaults where are huge hogsheads, into which the beer goes for consumption. The amount of beer consumed may, in a measure, be estimated by the fact that there are in those cellars five vaults, in each of which there are ten casks, each holding twenty barrels, making a total of 1,000 barrels, and they are emptied every five months in supplying the trade. Messrs. Baehr & Leisy have invested several thousand dollars in this establishment; but being men of great industry and enterprise, the invesment will prove a successful one.

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 6. 1877

KEOKUK BOX COMPANY, MANUFACTURERS OF WOODEN BOXES.



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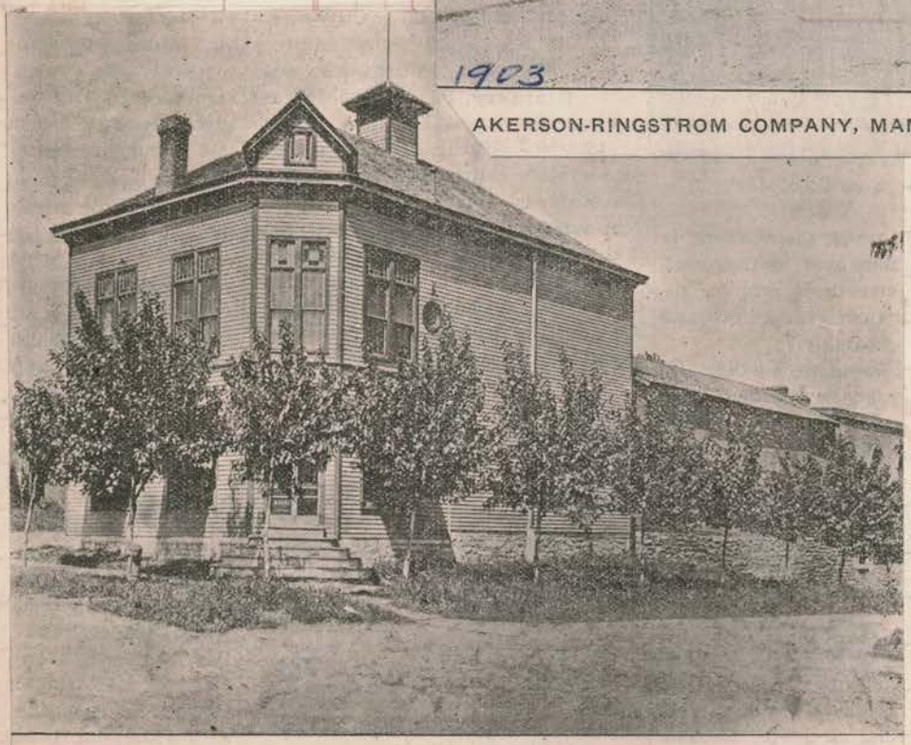
AKERSON-RINGSTROM COMPANY, MANUFACTURERS KITCHEN CABINETS.



LEISY BREWING COMPANY, OFFICE BUILDING.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

A FEW WORDS FROM JOHN SAWBUCK ON THE SUBJECT.

The Utility and Economy Discussed With the Experience of Other Towns That Have Adopted Electricity.

To the Constitution.

Why don't your party spring something new in the coming election for city officers? The republicans can win our city elections by simply displaying their party banner; democrats can't. The republicans will not risk any new undertaking. The democrats have nothing to lose, except a grand opportunity. Running on national issues in a city contest is babyish foolery. I am a republican, but I had rather see every city office filled by democrats, and the city lighted by electricity, than every city office filled by republicans and the city lighted by gas, or coal oil, or tallow candles.

The stars in the following diagram show the blocks on which are coal oil lamps:

	Orleans	Franklin	Fulton	Morgan	High	Concert	Blondeau	Main	Johnson	Exch'nge	Bank	Times	Des M'es	Pelean	Carroll	Ridge	Cedar
3										*							
4											*	*					
5	*	*								*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	*	*	*										*	*			
7													*	*			
8				*	*	*						*	*	*			
9	*	*		*	*	*			*			*	*	*	*		
10		*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*		*	*	
11		*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*				
12		*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*				
13		*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*		*			
14			*	*	*	*				*	*	*		*	*	*	
15		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*		
16							*	*	*						*		
17																	
18								*	*						*		
19								*									

Here are 104 oil lamps, which cost the city $1,248 per annum. The lighting of some of these streets remind one of a conductor's lamp outside of a long train of cars.

Residents can easily tell from this plat where are located the 140 gas lamps, which cost the city $4,480 per annum, and will continue to cost that for the next six years, because a wise and provident city council once made that kind of a bargain with a gas company.

Happily it did not occur to the gas company to ask the city council to grant a monopoly excluding better and cheaper lights, and so the council only gave an exclusive privilege to lay down gaspipes. Wherefore the city council may put up a tower in the oil district that will light that portion of the city a great deal better, without much more expense.

The people in the oil district are taxed for lighting the city with gas, but it shines not on them.

The people of Reid's Addition are taxed to pay for lighting Keokuk with gas and oil, but no ray from either ever penetrates the nightly gloom of West Keokuk.

Let the people of Reid's Addition and the smoky oil region rise up in the might and say they will have lightning or death.

The people of Aurora, Illinois, have tried this light, and here follows what they say about it. I quote from the Aurora Daily News, of January 3, 1882:

"The electric lights were turned on for a little while, last evening. A Daily News reporter, this morning, called on a number of our citizens who live at different points about the city, to get their views on the light.

John W. Kendall, who lives at the extreme end of Main street and within one-half block of city limits, said—"I could tell the time by looking at my watch while standing on the front porch of my residence, and when I went to get into my wagon in front of the house I could plainly see every buckle on the harness. I think it is grand. My house is fully three quarters of a mile from the nearest light."

W. H. Watson—"I was near Lincoln park when the light was turned on and the park was as light as day."

Alderman James Battle—"My neighborhood is lighted better than it ever was before, and I am highly pleased with it. I candidly believe that a greater number will be benefitted than ever before."

C. T. Douglas—"Down near my house, on south Fourth street, it was very light, and the neighbors thereabouts are highly pleased with it."

John P. Callahan—"At my place we received the benefit of two lights, one from the front and one from the back. You can count me in for double taxes."

W. V. Plum—"At my home, far out on North Lake street, where it has been dark for centuries, the light shone very plainly. We who have lived out beyond where the gas posts used to be now have something for the taxes we pay for lighting the streets.

Gen. A. F. Wade—"In my neighborhood, North Root street, it was very light. Much more than the gas ever gave us."

Dr. M. M. Robbins—"I was at Aux Sable Grove, in Kendall county, and could see the lights from there. On my way home I could count the boards on the fences as far out as the Squire's farm," (four miles).

After this exhibition was given the council's committee reported in favor of the adoption of the Brush electric light for the city and the report was adopted by a vote of 7 to 4. The committee then arranged a contract with Mr. Hill by which he was to furnish the dynamo electric machine, the power for running it, the help required to attend to it, the wire, 16 lamps, of 2,000 candle power each, and keep them running on the "Philadelphia schedule" for $6,000 per year and $300 per year for each additional lamp that the council might see fit to order. (The Philadelphia schedule is explained by saying it provides for light at all hours between daylight and daylight when the moon is not in the sky; and for twelve extra nights in the year—intended to supply light for stormy nights when clouds obstruct the moonlight.) The committee reported the contract and the council empowered the committee to make all necessary arrangements for the closing contract. The committee has since done earnest and faithful work. Two of its members, Aldermen Denney and Gabel, are especially zealous. The contract as it was closed was to the effect that the city had nothing but the towers, telegraph poles and labor of putting them up to furnish. Mr. Hill furnished all else, the entire expense of running the light included. The beautiful light now stands a shining monument to the wisdom of the council of 1881 and to the untiring and unselfish efforts of the gentlemen of the committee named."

And the following from the Philadelphia Record:

"The electric light is the light for villages. It requires for its production no costly plant like gas works, tanks and pipe. The electric fluid is carried to the points of combustion by wires. Aurora, Illinois, is beautifully lighted by six electrical towers made of iron rods and network, each 150 feet high. These are crowned with electric lamps of 2,000 candle power each, or equal to 125 gas jets. The cost complete for each tower and apparatus is about $1,000. One electric tower lamp, fed by soft coal at $3 per ton, gives a 2,000 candle light at 2¾ cents per hour—a ratio of 2½ to 50 compared to a corresponding use of gaslight."

And the following from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

"The electric lights at the water tower have not attracted the attention they deserve. People who visit the vicinity of the tower in the evening are sometimes disappointed. They anticipate a noonday refulgence, and expect to find the streets as light as by day. But a little investigation will show that the electric light performs more even than is imagined. A reporter of the Post-Dispatch made a tour of the neighborhood around the water tower in order to investigate the results obtained by the tower system of electric lighting. At three-quarters of a mile distant, at a place appropriately chosen away from the street lamps, the shadow of the light could be thrown across the hand. Along the hill leading from the tower, at a distance of a quarter of a mile, a newspaper could be read without difficulty. At over half a mile distant the small second hands on a watch were easily seen. But the most marvelous results were seen in the Lowell and Bremen bottom, near the water works and the Wabash track. All this neighborhood is without lamps, and many of the roads are unimproved. The reporter in his buggy drove at a rapid trot along the various roads, although it was a dark, cloudy evening and no moon. This was fully at a radius of three-quarters of a mile from the electric light. It can be proved beyond peradventure that for a radius of half a mile of the tower the locality is illuminated on dark nights to a brilliancy equal to the light by a half moon. The effects of the light, of course, are not so easily discernable where the streets are lighted

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by the lamps, but in those places where street lamps have not yet been placed the result is evident. Mr. Chase, who placed the electric on the water tower, is enthusiastic over this system of illuminating the streets. The tower is 175 feet high, and there are eight lights. The cost per night of illuminating for a radius of half a mile, after the original cost of plant, etc., is $5. For this insignificant sum, a space equal to about fifty squares can be lit up to the brilliancy of a half moon. Mr Chase believes that the tower system is peculiarly adapted to the needs of small towns of about 20,000 inhabitants, as one tower would suffice, and the cost of illuminating, as compared with gas, would be ridiculously cheap. The only difficulty with the light at the water tower is that in driving towards it the eyes are dazzled; but this is a defect easily remedied by increasing the height of the tower. The workings of the electric lights at the water tower are worthy of careful attention when the results attained in the cheapness of the operation are considered."

I will now close with a word on the subject of expense. The Riverside Worsted mills, of Providence, R. I., report a saving of fourteen thousand, one hundred and ninety dollars per annum over gas, at two dollars per thousand, and the light is so much better than gas that the proprietors think they would have trouble with their help if they should undertake to go back to gas. Here gas is $3.50 per thousand to private consumers. Figures can only feebly represent the cost of a thousand cubic feet where the city pays for it in the street lamps. In comparison with gas, coal oil is so much cheaper that its cheapness is overestimated. Its value is certainly overestimated if it is to be permitted to remain in the position of a substitute for electricity.

Let there be two towers, and let the coal oil region and Reid's addition have more light.

Another consideration may enter into the estimate of comparative cost. The Brush Electric Light company expresses the opinion that many of the gas companies in large cities can produce gas at an actual cost of 25 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. It may cost twice that much here. But the said electric light company claims that it can make the electric light much cheaper than the gas companies can make gas. If the city will take now, into its own hands the lighting of part of the city by electricity, it can do it at a lower cost than it would be done by a company, and will be ready to extend the new light over the whole city when the gas company becomes obsolete in June, 1888.

JOHN SAWBUCK.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7. 1887

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The Talk of Using Edison's Little Invention in Keokuk.

For some weeks correspondence has been going back and forth between a gentleman in this city and the Electric Lighting company of New York City, with the idea of determining the practibility of introducing the light in our city. At the request of the New York company, the following statistics in regard to the gas consumption in our city have been gathered:

The number of gas consumers in the city is about 400, with an average of five burners to each consumer. The aggregate consumption is about 7,000,000 feet per annum. The city has 140 public gas lamps, at a cost of $32 each per year, and the cost for gas in the city offices, engine houses and police stations is about $450 per year. The area at present lighted is about one mile in diameter, though as the territory is somewhat irregular in shape, this is somewhat hard to estimate. The average cost of gas to the consumers is about $3.50 per thousand feet.

The Electric Lighting Company claim that there is no doubt of their being able to furnish their light at a cost of $2, as compared with the above $3.50, besides furnishing a better light. They claim to put in their light at a small cost, as they utilize all the gas pipe in the buildings, as a covering for their wires, and all fixtures, changing only the burners. It is stated that this light is now in successful operation at the Moline plow works, and also in several cities and towns throughout the country. Stranger things might happen than that Keokuk should be lighted by electricity in the near future. And we will all say amen, if it gives us a better light and cheaper.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4. 1882

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

It is Becoming Generally Recognized as a Success—Why Can it not be Introduced in Keokuk?

Time was when it was thought that the application of electricity to the illumination of our streets, public buildings, houses and vehicles, was the furthest genius and invention could go. Plante and Faure were laughed at when they claimed to be able to store up electricity for future use, and there was some warrant for the ridicule, for although Plante did use what he called a secondary battery, he did not find it possible to store up enough of the force to last any length of time, or that could be given off regularly and uniformly. Another Frenchman, Faure, recently patented a storage reservoir, which is claimed to be an improvement in several respects over Plante's invention.

In 1878 the scientific world did not recognize the utility of stored electricity, but in 1882, with the newly invented mechanism which make electric lighting practicabaly possible—as well as the electric transmission of power and the numerous uses for electric motors—the storage of electricity assumes a prominence before the scientific and mechanical world which its applications warrant. The Cleveland electrician, Mr. Chas. F. Brush, whose successes in electric lighting have been phenomenal and at the same time due to his great genius and untiring energy, has been hard at work for some years developing the storage of electricity, and has overcome one difficulty after another until, at last, he has accomplished the thing. His inventions in this field surpass those of Faure or any other inventor whose labors have been made public. Mr. Brush has a secondary battery, now in use, lighting his laboratory, and a wire, over a mile long, connects with his residence, and lights up his library there, the operation of illuminating the apartment being done as expeditiously as that of turning on a gas-jet.

By Mr. Brush's newest invention, the dynamo machine is used at night to give light, and in the day time the same plant stores up the electricity, thus doing away with the cost of an extra plant. With the Edison and Maxim systems, energy must be generated for the whole number of lights in the circuit, whereas with a storage reservoir, just what is needed is used. If for one light, that is all that is used, if for 100 lights, that much, and so on. The enormous saving is patent.

As regards Faure's claim and Mr. Brush's patents, it should be stated that the latter filed his application for ten patents, eight months before Faure filed his American applications. Two of Mr. Brush's cover Faure's American applications. Mr. Brush has twenty-two applications for storage patents, and these describe inventions reduced to practice and seen in actual operation by witnesses more than a year prior to October, 1880. Mr. Brush's later inventions are so much superior to Faure's battery that he does not now use anything that would interfere with Faure's devices. By way of comparison, Faure claims that 50 cells will run 30 incandescent lamps of 10 to 12-candle power for 6 hours. Brush, with 26 cells, will run 30 incandescent lamps of 20-candle power for the same length of time.

Brush's secondary batteries are already in process of manufacture and will be introduced in connection with the Swan incandescent lights and put on the market in the next two months. The new apparatus will be first given to those who are using the Brush machines. The agency of the Brush Electric company in St. Louis, mentioned below, has applications on file from numerous steamers, now using arc lights, for reservoirs and incandescent

Aug 4, 1882 - pg #1 (The Keokuk Gate)

lights for use in their cabins, engine rooms, etc. The arc light is used for large rooms, halls, out-doors, parks, et , and Swan incandescent light is intended to take the place of gas, and is more easily controlled, less dangerous, and cheaper. It should have been remarked previously that with a storage reservoir, one's house can be lighted, and with the help of an electric motor, much of the labor incident to the household economy, such as running a sewing machine, operating dumb waiters, coal hoists, burglar alarms, etc., can be performed.

The Brush Electric association, of St. Louis, will shortly erect a large lighting plant here. This would have been done before, but the city has ordained that all wires shall be put under the ground. Being the first city to do such a thing, it is evident that the association will assume a heavy responsibility, as the project will be an experiment that will entail great cost and trouble. In European cities the wires are passed through the sewers and railroad tunnels. In St. Louis they are not practicable for such uses. Notwithstanding the obstacles confronting it, the Brush Electric Association proposes to erect the plant, and, moreover, will enlarge it to any capacity that the demand will warrant.

The Brush light is being adopted in a large number of cities and is giving good satisfaction. The CONSTITUTION has heretofore urged that some measures be taken in this city to see about its introduction here. There is no reason in the world why we should be behind other cities in this respect, especially when the improvement needed is cheap, efficient and lasting. Let it first be introduced for lighting the streets and the other uses will naturally follow, as the perfection of the light advances.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

JUNE 16, 1885.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The Plant of the Badger Electric Light Company the Attraction Last Night—The Firt Test—Sixty Lamps in One Building—A Blaze of Glory.

The Badger Electric Light Company made the first test of the plant put in here last evening. Sixty lamps were used inside the building and the effect was quite brilliant. A single lamp was placed out of doors. The test attracted a large number of people, including ladies, and crowds kept coming and going from 8:30 o'clock till the machinery was shut down a few hours later. The light appeared to be satisfactory. The company had placed a lighted tallow candle near the lamps and the comparison of the color of the light was rather rough on the candle. At present but two 30 light dynamos are used for generating electricity. These are driven by a Westinghouse engine. The boiler capacity is adequate for all demands. The plant has a capacity for 200 lights by the addition of dynamos when the business demand justifies the expense. The building is owned by the Badger Electric Light company and was fitted up specially for the machinery and business. The Thompson-Houston system of arc light is the one adopted. This system is probably in more general use in the west than any other. When in operation several circuits connected with switch boards permit the changing of any lamp to the dynamo desired. The test last night was very satisfactory for the first one. Mr. J. R. Strugnell, the electrician sent from Boston, says that he has started up a great many plants and this operated more smoothly and satisfactorily than any coming under his observation. Light will not be supplied to consumers until about Wednesday as globes ordered from the east for use on the lamps will not arrive before that date. There is talk of lighting the old coal oil district with the electric light as the company have the poles and wire ready now. A proposition has been made the council to furnish lamps at the rate of $200 per year, to be lighted whenever necessary, until midnight. About a dozen lamps are talked of. The aldermen visited the plant and inspected the light last night.

The Gate City.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

MAY 10, 1891.

TO MAKE PAVING BRICK.

A Company Formed to Engage in the Manufacture of Brick in Keokuk.

Early this week, probably to-morrow, articles incorporating the Keokuk Brick and Tile company will be filed for record. Interested in this scheme are Messrs. William and Charles Weismann and J. C. Hubinger, of this city, and N. W. and J. E. Hubinger, of New Haven, Conn. The new corporation will have an authorized capital stock of $50,000, of which $20,000 shall be paid up. The purpose of the company will be the manufacture of paving and fine building brick. Forty-five acres of land in the vicinity of the fair grounds, rich in deposits of the finest clay, are controlled by these gentlemen and the plant is to be built there. At the beginning it is proposed to put in a $20,000 plant with a daily capacity of 25,000 brick, which will be in operation in about sixty days. Within two years it is expected that this plant will be doubled in capacity and value. At first paving and plain pressed building brick will be manufactured; but as it has been demonstrated that the clay in that vicinity is suited to the manufacture of all the fancy pressed bricks in red granite and cream and fire brick and tiling, machinery for making these will no doubt be added. Only yesterday samples of fine pressed brick made and burned at St. Louis from Keokuk clay were received and are pronounced by experts to be superior in both color and quality to any St. Louis brick used in Keokuk buildings. It is probable that the Andrus machinery, made in this city, will be used in equipping the plant.

The officers of the new company have not been elected but it is probable that J. C. Hubinger will be president, and that a brick expert from Galesburg will be superintendent. Success from the start is sure to attend the enterprise.

Aug 4, 1882 - Pg #2 (The electric light)

Constitution-Democrat

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.
DEMOCRAT—Established 1883.
Consolidated March 26, 1888.

, FEBRUARY 17, 1898

LIST OF TOLL STATIONS OF

The Western Illinois Telephone Company.

Keokuk Office: Hubinger's Central Telephone Office.

DR. J E. CAMP, PRESIDENT, Brooklyn, Ill. T. D. LEWIS, SECRETARY, Brooklyn, Ill.
C. M. ERWIN, GENERAL MANAGER, Bowen, Ill

Augusta, Ill.	Doddsville, Ill.	New Philadelphia, Ill.	Media, Ill.
Avon, Ill.	Denver, Ill.	Plymouth, Ill.	Raritan, Ill.
Astoria, Ill.	Dallas City, Ill.	Pine Grove, Ill.	Olena, Ill.
Adair, Ill.	Elm Grove, Ill.	Pennington Point, Ill.	S. Henderson, Ill
Adrian, Ill.	Frederick, Ill.	Pleasantview, Ill.	Biggsville, Ill.
Alexandria, Mo.	Ferris, Ill.	Quincy, Ill.	Gladstone, Ill.
Bowen, Ill.	Golden, Ill.	Ray, Ill.	Oquawka, Ill.
Brooklyn, Ill.	Good Hope, Ill.	Rushville, Ill.	Decorra, Ill.
Bentley, Ill.	Huntsville, Ill.	Stillwell, Ill.	Carmon, Ill.
Burnside, Ill.	Hersman, Ill.	Sciota, Ill.	Terre Haute, Ill
Beardstown Ill.	Industry, Ill.	Sugar Grove, Ill.	Lomax, Ill.
Bushnell, Ill.	Keokuk, Iowa.	Table Grove, Ill.	Burlington, Iowa
Bardolf, Ill.	LaHarpe, Ill.	Ursa, Ill.	Lewiston, Ill.
Basco, Ill	Littleton, Ill.	Vermont, Ill.	Browning, Ill.
Blandinsville, Ill.	Loraine, Ill.	Versailles, Ill.	Ipava, Ill.
Carthage, Ill.	LaCrosse, Ill.	West Point, Ill.	Summum, Ill.
Chili, Ill.	Mt. Sterling Ill.	Warsaw, Ill.	Duncan City, Ill.
Camden, Ill.	Mendon, Ill.	Prairie City, Ill.	Leesburg, Ill.
Colusa, Ill.	Macomb, Ill.	Stronghurst, Ill.	Bodors, Ill.
	Sheldon's Grove.	Bluff City, Ill.	

The above towns can be communicated with by telephone from Keokuk by going to the Central Station, which is located at Hubinger's Central Telephone Office, and is of great value to the wholesale merchants, as it is all in territory covered by them.

THE GATE CITY:
1881
TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 8.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Shall We Have It in Keokuk?—The Brush Light in Use at Moline.

Several Keokuk gentlemen have been considering, of late, the feasibility of introducing the electric light in Keokuk. Correspondence with the Edison company has been carried on for some time, but nothing definite has as yet been developed. It is well enough, however, to discuss the practicability of the matter, and to compare the expenditure with that now paid for gas. The Electric Lighting company, of New York, talk of furnishing an equivalent to 1,000 feet of gas, now costing $3 50, for $2. The figure is too high. Keokuk pays more for gas than do many of her sister cities—in St. Louis, for instance, gas costs consumers less than $2 per 1,000 feet, and other cities could be named where the prices are still less. The electric light would be a good thing to have, but let us have it at more reasonable figures. Of the Edison light we have heard but little, of late, while the Brush light is being rapidly introduced and meeting with favor throughout the country. The Deere plow works, at Moline, have just put in an 18-lamp Brush, Cleveland electric light, and pronounce it a success Let us have Keokuk lighted by electricity, if practicable, but let us have that light at a reasonable figure, and let us be sure that we get the best, be it the Brush or Edison.

The Gate City.
NOVEMBER 4, 1890.

ELECTRIC LAMPS.

Keokuk Will Soon be the Best Lighted Town in the Country—Where They Will be Located.

The arc electric lights will be located as follows:

Sixteen will be on Main street, the first one on First and the last one on Nineteenth street; six on Blondeau beginning at Water street, the other lights being on Second, Sixth, Eighth, Twelfth and Fifteenth; seven on Concert and located at First, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Fourteenth streets; one on Second and Fulton; eight on Johnson, at Water, Second, Fourth, Eighth, Twelth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth and and Eighteenth; eight on Exchange, at First, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Twenty-first; seven on Bank, at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth and Sixteenth. The other lights will be placed as designated below:

On Morgan, at Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Fourteenth streets.

On Fulton, at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth and Thirteenth streets.

On Franklin, at Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Twelfth and Fifteenth streets.

On Orleans, at Fourth, Eighth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets.

On Seymour, at Twelfth and Fourteenth streets.

On Grand avenue, at Sixth, Eighth, Fifteenth and Seventeenth streets.

On Exchange, at First, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Twenty-first streets.

On Timea, at Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Nineteenth streets.

On Des Moines, at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Twelfth and Fourteenth streets.

On Palean, at Sifth, Seventh, Tenth, and Fifteenth streets.

On Carroll, at Third, Sixth, Ninth, Sixteenth and Eighteenth streets.

On Ridge, at Seventh, Tenth and Fourteenth streets.

On Cedar, at Third street.

In Reid's addition: Ninth and William, B and Reid, J and Reid, C and Oak, H and Bank, D and Park and at pork house and Bloody run.

The Gate City.
APRIL 16, 1891.

WHERE THEY WILL SHINE.

Location of the City Electric Street Lights Determined.

Many are interested in learning the location of the street lights ordered at a recent meeting of the city council. Following are the points selected and designated by the mayor and gas committee for the location of the 125 arc electric lights, as provided by the contract between the city and the J. C. Hubinger company. On Main at the intersection of every cross street from First to Fourteenth, and also at Seventeenth and Nineteenth; on Blondeau at Water, Second, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth and Fifteenth; on Concert at First, Third, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Fourteenth; on High at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth and Fifteenth; on Morgan at Third, Fifth, Seventh Ninth Eleventh, and Fourteenth; on Fulton at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth and Thirteenth; on Franklin at Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Twelfth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth; on Orleans at Fourth, Eighth, Eleventh, Thirteenth and Seventeenth; Seymour at Twelfth and Fourteenth; on Grand avenue at Sixth, Eighth and Fifteenth; in calaboose alley; on Johnson at Water, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Twelfth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth and Eighteenth; on Exchange at First, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Twenty-first; on Bank, at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth and Sixteenth; on Timea at Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Nineteenth; on Des Moines at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth Twelfth and Fourteenth; on Palean at Fifth, Seventh, Tenth and Fifteenth; on Carroll at Third, Sixth, Ninth, Sixteenth and Eighteenth; on Ridge at Seventh and Fourteenth; in Reid's addition at A and William, B and Reid, B and Bluff, E and Bluff, F and Reid, I and Reid, C and Oak, H and Park, D and Park, Pork house and Bloody run.

The first seventy-five lights are to be in operation by April 30, at the following locations: Fifteen on Main, ten on Johnson, seven on Blondeau, six on Concert, seven on High one at Second and Fulton, eight on Exchange, eight on Bank, six on Morgan and seven on Timea. The remaining fifty are to be in operation by May 28. The contract is for five years at $68 a light a year, to be lighted on the Philadelphia schedule. Failure to have the light in operation by the time specified shall work a forfeiture of $1,000 deposited by the Hubinger company, but such forfeiture shall not operate to release the company from any of its contracts.

The Gate City.
MARCH 7, 1896.
THE GATE CITY COMPANY,
KEOKUK, IOWA.

THE CITY LIGHTING.

Mr. Clemens Submits Some Suggestions on the Subject.

[To the Editor.]

I judge the council has run against the constitutional limit. The constitution of this state provides that no city shall incur indebtedness in excess of 5 per cent of the value of the taxable property within the city. From a speech I heard in the council last Monday night I guess the council concludes that it cannot buy an electric lighting plant on credit and pay for it in installments, because that would be making a debt. And I guess the council doubts whether it is best to try to raise enough to buy a plant by a single tax levy.

Would it be legal for the city to contract to pay Mr. Hubinger $75,000 in five years in annual installments of $15,000 each, he to keep the plant after the expiration of the five years; but illegal if he should contract that at the end of the five years he would turn the plant over to the city?

The question answers itself.

The council may find that it can contract with some company that builds

electric light plants, on better terms and with better service than proposed by either Mr. Hubinger of Mr. Ray.

Mr. Hubinger proposes to furnish at the price above named for five years, Philadelphia schedule, 150 arc lamps of "nominal" 2,000 candle power. This is too indefinite. I understand "nominal" 2,000 candle ranges from 800 to 1,200 candle.

Mr. Ray does not say whether he would furnish nominal 2,000 candle or something less; or light by Philadelphia schedule or something worse—if anything worse has been invented.

Mr. Ray provides if the city will pay him $60,000 in about five years, payable in yearly installments of $10,000 each, and give him all he can make out of the private lighting, he will bestow upon the city "the life time use of plant and property." He does not say whose life time. He may mean his own. He is a stranger. He may be old or sickly.

I am glad the council is investigating. The more it investigates the more light it will get for the city's money.

The council may find that it can contract for a plant with a company that will operate it five years through its own employes or city officials at a less cost per annum than either of the two bids rejected by the council at its last meeting, even for the first five years, when the cost of the plant would be included.

ORION CLEMENS.

RESIDENCE OF J.C. HUBINGER, KEOKUK, IOWA.

J. C. HUBINGER CO.

SUCCESSORS TO

KEOKUK ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO.

KEOKUK BRICK CO.

Keokuk, Iowa,

To F. S. Hughes
Mayor of the City of Keokuk

If the City of Keokuk will defer advertising for bids, for Public Lighting until July 20, 1896 -
In consideration of this we will agree to light the city - under the terms and conditions of our present contract, for a period of one month beyond the expiration of the present contract, or until May 8th, 1896 - J. C. Hubinger Co

July 6 - 1896 -

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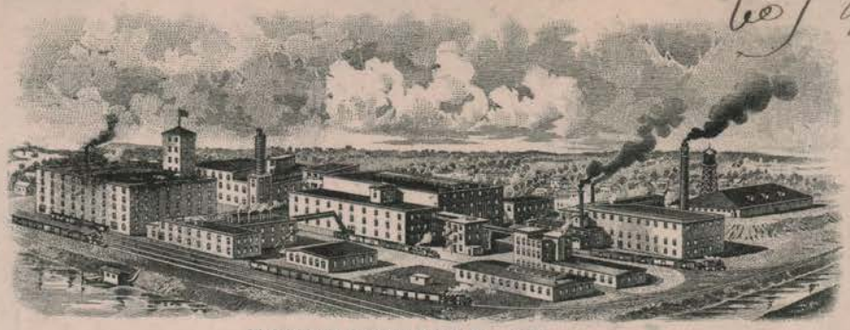
N.W. HUBINGER, President. J.E. HUBINGER, Sec'y & Treas.

J. C. HUBINGER BROS. CO.

60/ 9



MANUFACTURERS OF

STARCHES,		SYRUPS ETC.	
ELASTIC	POP'S CORN	CORN SYRUP	DEXTRINE
TIGER LUMP	THIN BOILING	CORN OIL	BRITISH GUM
RAINBOW	CONFECTIONER'S	CORN OIL CAKE	GLUTEN FEED
PEARL AND POWDERED			

EASTERN DIVISION, NEW HAVEN, CONN.
WESTERN DIVISION, KEOKUK, IOWA.

QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ALL AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON STRIKES, ACCIDENTS, DELAYS OF CARRIERS OR OTHERWISE UNAVOIDABLE OR BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

KEOKUK, IOWA. July 3, 1914.

Mr. D. H. Sage,

Alexandria, Mo.

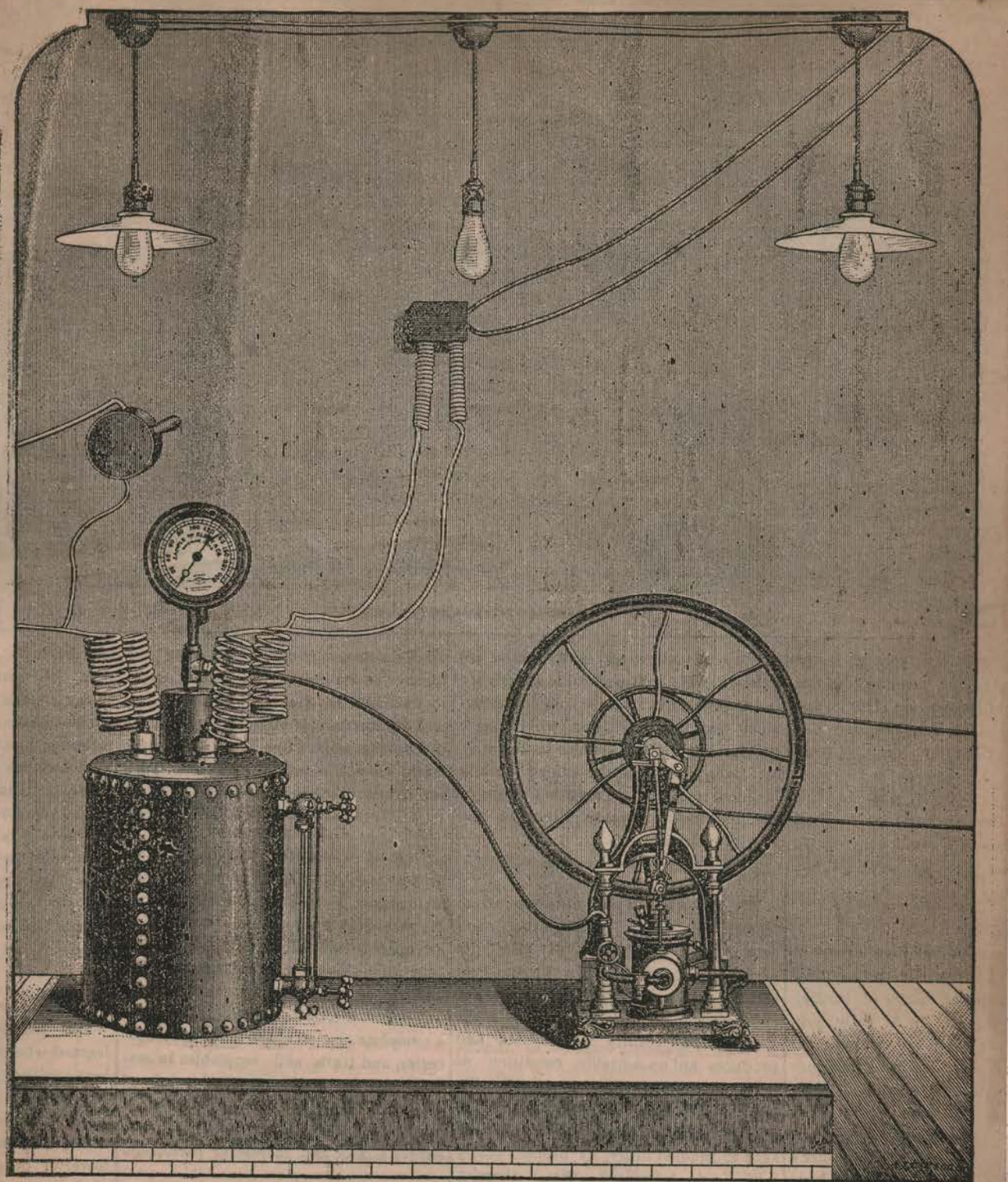
Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith check for $60.00 to cover premium on policy No. 3402.

Yours very truly,

Enc.

W. N. Sage.



Hubinger's Electric Steam Generator.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

Constr: AUGUST, 1889.

HUBINGER'S HIT.

Hidden Secret of Nature Discovered by Genius.

The Most Remarkable Electrical Discovery of the Present Age.

Wonderful Possibilities of an Ingenious Scientific Device.

No More Smoke, Soot, Filth, Wood or Coal.

The Electric Steam Generator Will Run the Factories.

Blocks of Buildings Heated by One Central Boiler.

Steamers and Railroads Propelled by the New Power.

Light, Heat and Power, all From the Same Source.

Civilization Benefited by the Wonderful New Device.

Electric Baths, Boiled Dinners and a Trip to the North Pole.

The Magical Innovations to be Wrought by the Motor.

It is only the close student of the past, he who delves in the records of the sciences and industries of the past, whose mind is stored with knowledge of scientific discoveries and their effect upon the life, manners and customs of cotemporaneous people, who can fully realize the startling innovations resulting from discoveries of scientific minds of the nineteenth century. Great as has been the progress, rapid as has been its march, the possibilities seem yet to be inexhaustible. But to the unobserving and inattentive mind, a proper value is not given to a nineteenth century discovery, because nothing, however wonderful it may be, is unexpected in our own times. There are discoveries being made which are revolutionizing the habits of mankind. There are changes being made which stamp their effects upon nations and alter the personality of a whole people. "Through what variety of untried being, through what new scenes and changes must we pass!" The prospect which lies before us is truly wide and boundless. The world of late has witnessed many of the wonders, the products of the delving of the minds of scholars and savants. It has witnessed the startling things discovered by men of genius who are not college bred, discoveries which have benefited countries and mankind generally, and which will benefit posterity. There are living to-day people who know nothing of illumination, save that provided by the tallow dip. There are in the most civilized countries people who know naught of transportation save that provided by the ox and the horse. In one instance we have witnessed the wonderful procession of oil, gas, the arc and incandescent lights. The steam horse came and now he must soon be laid aside as he at present exists, when electricity is introduced into his bowels. Electricity, the wonderful, mysterious force, comes to increase the awe of the living, for nature's power, when bridled and manipulated by man for the comfort and enjoyment of fellowmen.

These reflections are inspired by the knowledge of a most wonderful scientific discovery made by a distinguished gentleman of Keokuk, which is destined to revolutionize certain existing methods throughout the whole world, as well as the daily customs and habits of households. The discovery and its boundless possibilities will be treated of further on in this article. It is first proper to make our readers acquainted with certain facts in connection with the ingenious inventor and his personality. We refer to J. C. Hubinger, Esq., who is personally known by everybody in the vicinity of the city, which is his home, and impersonally throughout the United States, through his connection with products which are used in nearly every household in the United States, and through whose genius, energy, and business ability a colossal business was built up, which has extended throughout the confines of this country and has invaded others as well. The history of the starch enterprises of Hubinger Bros. has been given heretofore, and our readers are familiar with them. It is for the benefit of our outside readers that we say a few words concerning J. C. Hubinger, which in the light of the important invention we propose to describe, will prove interesting to them. What we say concerning the inventor is merely personal and not biographical. We refer to him as a citizen of Keokuk, as the executive head of several vast business enterprises, and as an electrical scientist. When he returned to this city after many years' absence in the east, where he was instrumental in establishing the great Elastic starch industry, and which has brought him an immense revenue, he came to make his home here. With this determination he at once actively engaged in the work of advancing the city's interest, in a matter befitting his business abilities and his ample means. That which he undertook to accomplish, he entered into with that indomitable spirit and activity which characterizes the man. He does not know what failure means, and success ever crowns his efforts. It is unnecessary to enumerate the many public enterprises he has set on foot and brought to successful consummation, nor yet to name the private ones which have resulted decidedly for the public good. He was always ready with money and work for any worthy enterprise which was intended to advance the interests of Keokuk. He has shown his faith by his works. It was J. C. Hubinger who gave the impetus to the general movement towards obliterating the unsightly and replacing it with the new and beautiful. He bought property for the especial purpose of improving it, so that it would be useful and ornamental as well. To-day as one walks along Main street he will continually pass business houses upon which artisans are at work reconstructing and bestowing their artistic skill in decorating and making attractive and beautiful. There is no end of new fronts, plate glass and jewelled work, and all are vieing with one another in producing attractive places of business, and in making homes resplendent with art work. This is commendable and praiseworthy. But we are digressing. It was to talk about J. C. Hubinger personally that we intended, and we are confident that our readers want to know about him, before we describe his wonderful invention.

Those who are not informed as to the manner of man he is in appearance, will need no description of him, if they will examine the excellent portrait which appears in these columns. He is possessed of a remarkably active mind, which acts with great rapidity, and upon matters which would seem to require much reflection and consideration, his decisions appear to be arrived at instantaneously, and once made are seldom changed. Matters of moment are disposed of in a manner which, to those who were not familiar with the man, might appear careless, yet every detail is gone over with so much readiness and rapidity, that all the mental work necessary has been done before one would realize it. In manner Mr. Hubinger shows the character of his mind, being quick in motion and enunciation. He is a sociable gentleman, and is approachable to everybody. His demeanor is courteous and affable. He appreciates humor, and possesses the sunniest kind of a disposition. He will listen to you with the most courteous attention, and if you have a reasonable proposition to make, you may be assured it will be favorably considered. It is in his own hospitable and palatial home where you see him at his best, when not engaged with experiments or in his study, for there he is host par excellence, and your entertainment, if you are numbered among his privileged guests, will be worthy of the host and his beautiful, luxurious home. For, assisted by his worthy wife, Mrs. Hubinger, his intimate friends can relate of entertainment baronial in kind, and to say that they duly appreciate the good fortune of J. C. Hubinger's friendship is not at all necessary. But this is another little digression. We must mention something of J. C. Hubinger in another phase, in order to lead our readers to the main object of this article. When Mr. Hubinger was planning the

grounds for his elegant home, he determined to construct within them a beautiful lake, which would be as near the real thing as an artificial one could be made. This lake is 600 feet in length and 150 in width, and has a capacity of 8,000,000 gallons of water, which is supplied by several artesian wells, one of which plays from the beautiful "Rockery" in the center of the lake. He is now engaged in the work of making material enlargements to the capacity of the lake. Mr. Hubinger, as is well known, has been a student of mechanics and other sciences, and devotes much of his time to investigations and experiments in his laboratory. For some time past he has been interested in the subtle science of electricity, and became thoroughly imbued with the realization of the infinite possibilities for the benefit of mankind resulting from the use of electricity, if certain things could be accomplished in controlling it, as desired. The water daily flowing into the lake was to be utilized by him for generating electrical power. How was this accomplished? Those who are unacquainted with the glorious situation of Mr. Hubinger's home property, should be informed that it is upon the avenue bluff, lying along and above the river. It is precipitate in the extreme. The waste water from the lake, in an easily regulated stream, pours over the precipice. At the foot of the bluff he located the necessary machinery for generating electricity, and the stream of water which falls into a powerful turbine wheel is sufficient to do the work necessary for furnishing electric lights for the whole city of Keokuk. But this is anticipating. We did not and do not propose to go into details of this branch of J. C. Hubinger's business, but simply to explain some preliminary details necessary for the reader to know in order that he may understand what is to follow. The plant referred to furnishes incandescent lights to the stores and residences of Keokuk, and the quantity of the mysterious fluid desired by Mr. Hubinger for use in his experiments. And now we are coming to the subject matter of that which we started to narrate, to the public, the disclosure of a hidden secret of science, which will shortly be used by mankind throughout the world, and produce comforts and conveniences never even dreamed of before. Mr. Hubinger had hinted to a few intimate friends that he had discovered an electrical secret, and that when he had experimented and developed it, he would prepare for them an ocular demonstration of its workings.

The time arrived, in accordance with the inventor's program, for the practical demonstration of the theory which he had announced. A few gentlemen friends had been favored with an invitation to be present at the Hubinger mansion, in order to witness the first test. The guests, interested in science, passed away a pleasant hour in friendly contest in the elegantly appointed billiard room, while the host was busying himself in his laboratory, arranging the necessary preliminaries for the anticipated test. Finally it was announced that all was ready, and the party in waiting were ushered into the laboratory of Mr. Hubinger, which is located a short distance away from the billiard room upon the third floor. Numerous incandescent lights were pendant from the ceiling, and it was ascertained that these were utilized for experimenting upon the matter of regulating the currents of electricity. Numerous wires formed a regular network, but as to their separate uses, that was a mystery to those who were uninitiated in the occult science of electricity. Peculiar oval shaped affairs were attached to some of those insulated wires, and these were discovered to be "switches," by means of which the force of an electric current may be regulated, or shut off entirely, and instantaneously at that. In the center of the room stood a neat one-horse power engine, and near it a diminutive boiler. Four of the insulated wires were observed to run into the boiler. Mr. Hubinger then said that he was ready to generate steam by electricity in very short order. He stepped to the balcony through the window and signalling to some one in the distance, he said:

"All ready! Let it come."

Then he took his watch in his hand and requested those present to keep their eyes upon the steam gauge. In three minutes the hand upon the dial indicated that there was considerable steam in the boiler, in fact enough to turn loose upon the engine. There was a hissing sound of escaping steam, and immediately the engine began to work at a lively rate. To say that the spectators were astonished does not cover the case. The pointer on the dial of the gauge continued to indicate more pressure, and the engine became more lively as to its gait. The inventor then exhibited the complete control the operator might have over the machine. The wonderful little switch was utilized. With a quick turn the pressure was made to fall instantaneously. Then he demonstrated that it might be caused to increase or decrease at will, independent of the mechanical appliances of the engine itself to regulate the amount of steam which should go through the connecting pipe into the cylinder. The switch was available to stop the engine and the generation of steam instantaneously. Our readers do not care for a scientific explanation of how the thing is done, so that they know that it can be done, and is an accomplished fact. Nor do we believe that the inventor would care to enter into details, even if a disinterested party should have the indiscretion to inquire of him for an explanation of the manner of its accomplishment. He did, without solicitation, furnish many interesting facts concerning the possibilities of further development, and much concerning what he was confident of accomplishing in a short time, and results have borne him out in his statements, as he has since demonstrated the further powers of his discovery.

The first demonstration of the generation of steam by electricity was made by the utilization of an ordinary steam boiler of diminutive size. A second experiment was made at another time and place in which a large engine was used, and for the first time Mr. Hubinger's "Electric Steam Generator" was brought into play, which of course will not in this connection be described as to its inner working. Suffice it to state that the steam generator is of steel, and in the form of an elongated arch. The electric current was introduced into the generator after the manner heretofore described. As in the former instance, in a very few minutes steam was raised, thus demonstrating the entire practicability of the discovery. This was the important part of the whole matter. It was not a question as to whether steam could be generated, but that which caused the public to doubt was as to whether it could be utilized practically—that is, whether the proper electrical appliances could be discovered to control it in the necessary manner, for the almost innumerable purposes to which it could be put. Mr. Hubinger has settled this phase of steam by electricity beyond any doubt whatever.

Further experiments continued to demonstrate the mighty possibilities of the most wonderful of latter day inventions, and Mr. Hubinger continues his labors in solving the problems as to the different styles of generators required for the numerous purposes to which they will be put. A most vivid im-

agination is required to grasp the limitless uses to which the generator may be devoted.

The first point which will strike the inquiring mind is the fact that after the Electric Steam Generator has made steam, this may be utilized in turn to operate the dynamo, the dynamo produces electricity, and electricity more steam and so on in succession. At first thought it would seem that Mr. Hubinger has come very near solving the vexing problem of perpetual motion, and that all that would be required to bring it about, is a little water. For as long as there is water in the generator there will be steam, subject to any use to which it may be desired to be put. It almost surpasses human comprehension, when reflection is given to the subject. How vast indeed are its resources and its different fields of operations.

Let us consider one of its possibilities as a blessing to the inhabitants of a city. Most of us in this severe climate are cognizant of the trials to which we are subjected in winter time, in producing heat sufficient for the comfort of the family. The dread of winter, hardships and discomforts leads the provident people to fill their cellars with dirty coal, or their wood houses with that article of fuel, both of which are attended with difficulty and vexation in handling. And then comes the time lost in caring for the fire in order that the temperature may be maintained at a proper degree and uniform; and besides we reflect upon the direful results of carelessness, which will happen in the best regulated family, where the fire dies out and must be rekindled. We contemplate with horror the dirt attending coal and wood fuel, and damaged walls, ceilings and costly arcicles of furniture and decoration. It causes the heart to leap with glad anticipations when we think of what J. C. Hubinger's Electric Steam Generator will do, in vanishing all the terrors, discomforts and unhealthfulness of the old style methods of producing the necessary warmth for the family residences the business houses and offices. "How is it going to be done?" it may be asked. That is answered in the easiest possible manner. Mr. Hubinger's Electric Steam Generator will be made in styles to suit any house, large or small. The generator will be placed in an odd corner of the cellar, and will consume but a trifling space. The electric wires will be attached to the generator, and the same source which produces your incandescent light will furnish steam to heat your house or place of business. In the rooms intended to be heated by steam, there will be something like the ordinary steam heater or coil. But it is not necessary to control the steam in the old manner, by opening or shutting a valve. That matter will be much more easily and conveniently controlled. In the room to be heated there will be an appliance which will allow the occupant to regulate matters very readily. A simple turn of the switch, and in from five to ten minutes the room is warm. Another turn and it is cool in two or three minutes. By all means the appliance for regulating the heat should be placed near the bed, for upon a cold morning by simply reaching out the arm, the heat could be turned on and the room warmed in a trice. While we are touching upon this use of the steam generator, it may be stated that it will work automatically, the water flowing into the generator in exactly the quantity necessary; no more, no less. The automatic arrangement renders explosion utterly impossible, and in its use there is not the most remote possibility of danger to buildings, or of loss of life, or of any injury whatever to property or person. You can picture to yourself the difference between this kind of heating and the old. The superiority of the new method can be discerned without any mental effort whatever. On a day when it is neither cold nor warm, but chilly enough to prove uncomfortable, the self-regulating appliance will allow one to turn on any degree of heat required, until the temperature of the apartment is pleasant and healthful. This is impossible under the system now in vogue. The heat from a stove cannot be exactly regulated. It is seldom just right. Too hot or too cold is the rule, and doors and windows must be opened, thus causing draughts which are productive of colds and much ill health. Without Mr. Hubinger claiming it, it may be yielded that among the many benefits and blessing, the Electric Steam Generator will confer, will be less distress of mind and body, less care, consequently more contentment, more rest, and an improved state of health. These things are very pleasant to think about now, and when the winds of winter begin whistling around the eaves, and the fierce northern blasts cause humanity to shiver, the contemplation of the Electric Steam Generator will be still more pleasant to reflect upon, and there will be universal gratitude over the fact that the wonderful machine has come to melt the vicissitudes which attend King Winter's trail, and banish them forever. Thus it is seen that the heating of houses is not the least by any means, of the beneficent uses to which the generator may be devoted. The time will soon come around when the whole city will be accommodated with this convenient method of bringing comfort into the family, the store and the office. There is no limit to it in this direction, and other communities will be able to enjoy the same transcendent benefits with us.

Now let us consider another possibility which Mr. Hubinger has hinted to us. As is well understood, the use of electricity has become a very important element in the practice of medicine. The benefits which result from its use are recognized by the learned medical profession, and in special cases it is used with wonderful effect. It is conceded that electric baths, when properly given, are strengtheding to the system, and remedy many of the minor ills to which the ordinary mortal is subject, as well as more serious ones. But the fact is conceded that electric baths are desirable, and would be used generally but for the exceeding inconvenience and expense in obtaining them. Mr. Hubinger proposes to abolish these obstacles, and in every home where there are bathing appliances the electric accompaniments may be readily adjusted. Hot baths are desirable in cold weather, whether the medicinal properties of electricity are wished or not. By means of Mr. Hubinger's system water may be heated in the tub in five or ten minutes. This is a convenience and a luxury that not all homes could possibly enjoy under the old system of obtaining a supply of hot water. This is one very important item. Yet, let us go further. The electric current passed through the water by this practical system produces the electric bath, which stimulates the system wonderfully, strengthening the mind as well as the body, and this in a general way, an invalid condition not being considered in this connection. But above all it may be stated that Mr. Hubinger's electric system as applicable to the bath, will be hailed with pleasure by those who are subject to rheumatic complaints. This places the boon of relief subject to their wishes, and pain will no longer vex and annoy, with the simplest of all appliances at their beck and call. In bathing, Mr. Hubinger's apparatus is so designed that there can be as much, or as little heat given the water as the subject may desire, and the electric currant which passes through the water whilst the bather is in it, may be regulated at will by a simple turn to the wonderful little machine, called the switch. This is an unscientific statement of one thing which can be accomplished by the new method,

Hubinger's Hill

which the ordinary mind may enlarge upon at will and without difficulty.

The good house-wife will certainly be interested in a further disclosure of the merits of Mr. Hubinger's invention. We have seen from the foregoing some of the benefits which are to be derived by the household, by means of the generator, but if she will give yet a little further attention, she will realize that there are other good things in store for her from the same source. "A merry heart goes all the day"—except wash day, but on that day it "doeth not like a medicine," for its trials cast merriment and even temper out into the yard and over the fence. How will the tribulations of wash-day be ameliorated? If you were to put the question to Mr. Hubinger, or to any one familiar with the working of his electrical discovery, they would answer readily enough. An application of the new principle would make it wonderfully easy to do away with most of the difficulty in boiling the clothing on wash-day. And let it be supposed that the said house-wife wished a boiled dinner upon that day, or any other day when such a repast is desired, especially in the summer time when the heat from the kitchen range would render the whole dwelling uncomfortably hot for hours at a time. Under the new system the cook would accomplish her work in a manner comfortable to the household and herself as well, and her condition of servitude ameliorated in a large degree. Mr. Hubinger will develop cuisine appliances so extensively that it can scarcely be estimated to what breadth the innovations will reach. To alter in a slight design an old proverb, the present is the best prophet for the future. The limit in this direction has not yet been reached by any means. If one is of an imaginative turn, there is a pleasing field for day dreaming, and the dreams will not be at all improbable in connection with the subject of steam by electricity. The most imaginative flight of the mind could scarcely take a pathway out of the scope of what would be real. Supposing in your mind you see a beautiful steamer gliding through the water with no unsightly furnaces, no begrimed stokers, no soot nor smoke accompanying her, and imagine her propelling power coming from an electric source. This would not be an unusual picture. For Mr. Hubinger can bring about the realism of that which your imagination has pictured. He may make it apply to any and all conditions of steam heating. Inventors everywhere have for many years devoting their best energies in heretofore vain efforts to discover an effective method of giving power by electricity, to satisfactorily operate railroad trains, and they have only secured unsatisfactory success, for under the present discoveries the end has only been partially secured, and even this is attended with great expense. It can readily be seen that all old methods are to be revolutionized by the Electric Steam Generator, and that travel by rail will be rendered as comfortable and pleasant as by steamer. There will be no vile-smelling smoke to oppress the lungs of the traveler, no soot to soil his linen and other apparel, and no cinders to endanger his eyesight. There is a prospect for contemplation and congratulations.

Take another look into the future. The past has witnessed many heroic attempts in the interest of science, to solve the mystery of the north pole, which no human being, or possibly any living thing, has ever reached. These attempts have all been attended by terrible sufferings, and there are many ice covered lonely graves in those far away frozen fields. The expeditions of Kane, DeLong, Greeley and others bring up reflections upon what mankind has sacrificed in the seemingly impossible task of discovering the great northern secret. Nations have aided adventurers in their utopian schemes. Can we not say that J. C. Hubinger has furnished the means by which the north pole may be reached with comparatively little difficulty, through his new electric system. An apparatus, with the Electric Steam Generator furnishing the motive power, could be arranged, which would sail like a fleet bird, speedily and gracefully over the ice fields of the arctic regions, and there would be no necessity for stopping until it is anchored right at the north pole. To the thoughtless this might possibly appear to be a chimerical scheme. But who can question its possibility in the face of what has already been accomplished by learned inventors in the present century. Twenty years ago, if anyone had told you that it was possible for a person in one city to converse with a person in a far distant city, with every tone and modulation of the voice entirely audible, that person who would presume to make such a wild claim, would have been deemed a fit subject for confinement in a lunatic asylum. If anyone had been presumptuous enough to tell you that a person could talk in the presence of the little machine, the phonograph, and that the words would be repeated back at any time desired, he would have been placed in the same category with the other. If one had dared to say that cities and houses would be lighted and illuminated by electricity he would have been written down a crank of the most visionary description.

We have now stated in a general way what can be accomplished by Mr. Hubinger's invention, yet to particularize in a certain line, it may be announced that by the use of the arc system, he can furnish heat for houses on a whole block, using one central boiler, and the necessary heating pipes encircling the block.

Another point: With the electric current he can heat water to 225 degrees in an open vessel, which is truly intense, for with steam only from 210 to 212 degrees may be obtained. And yet another fact: starting with cold water, in twenty-five minutes 60 pounds of steam may be raised with the Electric Steam Generator amply sufficient to operate a six-horse power engine. Experiments have fully demonstrated these facts, and while upon the subject we will disclose the fact that Mr. Hubinger has just ordered a twenty-five horse power boiler. He will heat the Hotel Keokuk, a vast structure of about seventy-five rooms, and the Hubinger mansion itself, a mammoth building. To fully understand this, it may be necessary to explain that an electric motor horse power is one amphere, or 746 volts, but with the Electric Steam Generator better results are obtained, as there is very little loss if any, and Mr. Hubinger thinks there is a gain. He has not experimented sufficiently to determine definitely upon this point, and has not tested an engine larger than a six-horse power, but one of the main points is sufficiently proven, and it is clearly established that he can heat houses cheaper by far than can be accomplished with the old system of coal.

It is plainly apparent that the public not only in Keokuk, but everywhere, must sooner or later become patrons of electric service. There is no question about which, as far as the public is concerned, is veiled in obscurity, and about the workings of which so little is generally known. It has invaded and become a part of commerce. It has become an absolute necessity and indispensable in private life. Whatever new possibilities may develop, belongs to the future. The present brings full realization that electricity must furnish light, heat and power. The old order of things draws the eclipsing cloak of electricity around about it, and vanishes into oblivion. Electricity has its opponents, yet this is in the nature of things. Education as to its uses and its value progressses. Mr. Hubinger has demonstrated what great strides may be taken by progress in the development of the power of electricity,

and soon the whole world will be investigating his discoveries, and will be utilizing the good which they bring. It has been truly said that light and power on the foundation necessities of civilization. He who furnishes the best and cheapest methods of obtaining these is the most worthy benefactor of man, for he is the one who furnishes the fulfillment, the desire for comfort and prosperity. Some may be slow to put away the old and assume the new, but eventually they will do it. They must do it if they would keep up with the procession. The development of the use of electricity has been so rapid that few have been able to keep pace with it. How few are there who read these words, who are aware that it is practicable to distribute from one central station all the light, heat and mechanical power necessary throughout the whole city, and that it can be divided and delivered in any quantity needed. From the same central station, from the same generator, the electric current places at the disposal of the poorest member of society the two basic requirements of civilized life —light and heat, and through Mr. Hubinger's discovery, power as well. You turn a key and light appears where the sun cannot shine. Turn a key, and you have motive power to run the largest factory in the universe. A new force has come but the old is not abolished. It is utilized by the new. It has come to pass that while water was subservient to steam, steam in turn is subservient to water, and what is the meaning of all this? Reflect and see. Instead of myriads of small steam plants scattered all over a city, each requiring considerable of an investment, with the attendant cost of water, fuel and numerous other materials, also the expenses of engineer and firemen; each attended with the attending risk of life and property, by fire or explosion; instead of all there will be but one, and that one the central station.

The advent of electric steam power means much more than all of this. It means that the skilled mechanic can obtain power to operate several machines anywhere in the city. Sewing machines may be operated, as Mr. Hubinger has publicly demonstrated in this city, by mechanical power, and this wonderful motor may be now obtained by every city in the country. The electric steam service is destined to gather to itself the strength of invested conservatism from the water power, steam power, the railroad, telegraph, telephone and illuminating gas interests. Each of them had a separate territory in their advents. There will be complete divorce from the past.

Another important consideration is the fact that no insurance will be required where a building is lighted and heated by electricity. When the wiring is well done, the boiler is thoroughly insulated from the electric current, and consequently there will be no danger from fire.

Another suggestion, and this an important one, because it concerns the health. The great medical journal, Health, says that electric lighting, as a means of preserving and promoting health, has not been sufficiently appreciated. It may be safely said that the electric light is the only form of artificial illumination which is not injurious to health. It is the only method which does not pollute the air more or less. Then when we take into consideration the further question of heating by electricity, the healthful advantages will readily be realized. Truly, it appears that the electric industry is to turn the tables upon all competitors.

To return to the Electric Steam Generator for a moment, it should be stated that it will operate in any ordinary temperature, and in any climate, provided it is kept dry. It gives out no injurious heat while at work. Even when it runs at a very high speed, it is safer, as far as any mechanical injury is concerned, than any other form of machine or motor. When not at work, the motor is at complete rest and all cost of maintenance ceases. Added to these advantages, the Electric Steam Generator receives its supply of energy through a wire.

Before dismissing the subject of electricity, let us draw attention to an extract from an address delivered by President Duncan, of the National Electrical Light association, in which he reminded the electrical fraternity that in the early days of the association the all-important question was of arc lighting. The incandescent light had scarcely come into commercial use. Following closely upon the problems involved in incandescent lighting came the question of electrical distribution of power, first for stationary motor purposes, and afterwards for the purpose of electrical locomotion. He thought this question was the most important one before the electrical fraterternity. To say that electrical power is not to-day a success would be to reflect upon the great progress made in electric motors. The president would have been still stronger in his opinion, if he had known of Hubinger's Electric Steam Generator, which is destined to be of the greatest service to the commercial as well as private wants of man.

The revolution is at hand. The illustration which is published herewith, shows to the reader the pioneer electric steam generator, as first developed by J. C. Hubinger. But the limit has not been reached by far. There will, as in other inventions, be farther and greater developments made than has been described. In fact, Mr. Hubinger has already advanced far beyond his first important discovery of the principle upon which the steam generator is based. And there is at present no means of knowing how far beyond the present stage he may lead the science of his assimulated steam and electrical powers. His first application for letters patent is based upon an improvement in the art of heating water and generating steam by electrical means, without employment of fuel or ordinary combustion, and in his petition he sets forth the means by which he accomplishes it, but these things must, for the present at least, remain a mystery to the public at large until the proper time has arrived for disclosing the scientific principles involved. For the present it is sufficient to know that a citizen of Keokuk has given to the world one of the most beneficial of the scientific discoveries of the century.

THE DAILY CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT:
SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 1, 1891

John C. Hubinger.

HE MAKES LIGHT.

J. C. Hubinger's Finely Equipped Electric and Power Plant.

A Few Facts of Interest Concerning Lighting by Electricity—Growth of the Business—New Machinery Constantly Being Added.

There can never again exist in Keokuk "darkness which may be felt," and never again will the belated pedestrian be compelled to take a "leap into the dark" as was the case not so very long ago. There was trouble, not a little, but excessive indeed. There were a series of complications and misdirected efforts in the matter of city lighting which vexed the souls of the entire community and made them so weary that they involuntarily thought of Paradise Lost, and of Milton's lines

"Long is the way
And hard, that out of hell leads up to light."

But out of the aggravating complications came system, and after unavoidable delays and mishaps the darkness of night has been dispelled by the refulgence of electricity. There is a little history connected with the city lighting which is well known to all the people interested because the facts in question have been of so recent concern, and it is not necessary to refer to them at this time. The Keokuk Electric Light and Power company commenced business in rather a modest way and originally was operated by water power alone. The enterprising J. C. Hubinger, who has done so much good work for the city of Keokuk, was the originator of the new enterprise and it was his intention at the start to furnish incandescent lights principally for business houses and residences. Yet his business grew steadily and its increasing proportions demanded constant additions to the generating machinery. In consequence, after additional wells had been sunk for greater supplies of water to the big lake, steam was added to water and a powerful Corliss engine was placed in the power house to whirl the generators, and supply an adequate quantity of electricity. The business still increased, arc lighting added, and additional power was still required. It was forthcoming and three immense turbine engines of 440 horse power capacity, now busy when the shades of night have fallen and adds its tremendous force to the work of furnishing light. So much as to an all sufficient power. This is not all. There are miles upon miles of wire strung upon substantial poles and these must be kept in perfect working order all the time. A regular army of men are required for this purpose. Then there are scores of employes engaged in the other departments and an idea of the amount of money which is paid to these men and put in circulation through the business houses of Keokuk, may be gained by a glance at the crowd which assembles at the business office of J. C. Hubinger on Sixth and Blondeau street every Saturday afternoon when their wages are handed them. Every detail is now so complete and in such admirable working order, that there are no interruptions whatever. The incandescent light as now furnished by Mr. Hubinger is the best. In contrast with other lights its cleanliness and other advantages are at once apparent. They are absolutely no trouble at all. The simple turning of the button gives you the bright light, and when you wish to extinguish it the same operation does the business, and there is satisfaction to think that there is no danger of asphyxiation or ill health from escaping gases. The lights are always ready and convenient. Having brought his system to its present state of perfection. Mr. Hubinger is ready to make low estimates for lighting churches, storerooms, factories, residences, hotels and other buildings, and the best of service is assured. The incandescent light is by far the cheapest light now in existence and the least trouble. The arc lights which are now illuminating the city are performing efficient and most satisfactory work, and it can be confidently said that there is no city of the size of Keokuk in the union which enjoys better lighting facilities. While the name of the Keokuk Electric and Power company is still retained, the entire plant is the sole property of J. C. Hubinger and he is now the only man in the United States who is the sole proprietor of such an extensive and costly electric lighting and power plant, which lights a city of nearly 20,000 population. He has met with discouragements which would have caused a less courageous and energetic man to lose heart and interest. Yet J. C. Hubinger is a man who has made a success of everything he ever undertook, and when the number of the important enterprises he has inaugurated in our own city and elsewhere are taken into consideration, this is saying much. He is a man who deserves to enjoy success and prosperity for he earns it by faithful work and intelligent efforts. His friends are legion, for he is a genial, hospitable gentleman with a large heart and open purse when his city's interests are at stake.

Office Building of J. C. Hubinger.

The Daily Constitution
KEOKUK CONSTITUTION CO.,
JUNE 23. 1887.

A STARCH FACTORY.

HUBINGER BROS. WILL PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH ONE HERE.

A Description of the Works of This Enterprising Firm in New Haven, Conn.

The Hubinger Bros. will some of these days make a proposition to the citizens of Keokuk to establish here what promises to become one of the large manufactories in the west. As an idea what these gentlemen are thought of where they established their large business at New Haven, Conn., we print the following article from the New Haven *Union*. It will be a grand thing for Keokuk if we get this factory.

There has no business ever been started in this city in a small way that has grown to so great proportions in so comparatively few years as was that conducted by the Hubinger brothers, manufacturers of the Elastic Starch.

A brief account of the wonderful success that this firm has experienced cannot fail to be interesting, as such successes are indeed rare.

In 1880 the Hubingers, J. C., N. W. and J. E., commenced the manufacture of starch in a very modest way in a little store on Grand avenue. The brothers were practical men, did all their own work for a time. Nearly all the wholesale grocers in town laughed at the idea of these then enterprising young men setting up a starch manufactory, and with great assurance prophesied that the new concern would not last six months. The six months came and went and, behold, the little business had increased and the brothers were forced to employ help. The ones who had prophesied that the concern would go to the wall in six months now extended the time to 9 or 10 months, but when this time elapsed and the concern's business was still increasing the prophets reluctantly crawled into their holes and pulled the holes in after them.

In 1882 the store on Grand avenue became too small to satisfy the growing demand for Elastic Starch and two buildings on State street were secured.

Here the business continued to grow and increase. The Hubingers were obliged to add more help from time to time as the demand for their product increased. About two years ago the building on State street became too small for the business and the concern moved to 11 Custom House square, where the business is now conducted.

During the first year the brothers employed two hands, but now over 40 are employed at the factory on Custom House square and 29 Long wharf.

Elastic Starch is now being manufactured at the enormous rate of 10 tons per day. In 1880 the starch was only sold locally, but now it is for sale in every town and village from Maine to California.

The wonderful success that this starch has attained is due to the peculiar properties it possesses. It is made entirely unlike any other starch and by its use the housewife can do up her household linen with all the polish and stiffness that is the result of the best laundry work. Some of the other peculiarities and advantages this starch possesses over other starches, lie in the fact that it requires no cooking and that it will keep the iron from sticking and the linen from blistering while ironing.

These advantages are readily appreciated by the housewife and after once trying the Elastic Starch she will henceforth use no other.

The fact that the wonderful merits of this starch are appreciated generally is shown by the number of imitators that have sprung up during the past two years. These people know the value of Elastic Starch and seek to make a few dollars by palming off an inferior article as the Elastic. However the people know the difference and are not likely to be deceived.

An idea of the amount of business done by the Messrs. Hubinger can perhaps be obtained by the statement that they use more paper boxes than any other concern in the country, and their order calls for 50,000 boxes of a certain size and pattern every week.

The making of these boxes is the principal contract of one of the largest paper box making establishments in the country.

It is really gratifying to note the success which this concern has met with, and the indications that their prosperous business will prosper and continue to prosper.

GONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1890.

A STARCH FACTORY.

A Proposition to Establish a Large Starch Plant in Keokuk.

The Capital Stock Placed at One Million Dollars—Part of it Subscribed—The Hubingers Will Take Stock.

Our fellow townsmen, J. C. Hubinger, is a hustler of the most pronounced type. He is a splendid example of the energetic, enterprising and successful business man. No obstacle, however monumental, is encountered but what he immediately sets about to overcome it—and he succeeds, too, in a remarkable degree. As is well known he is at the head of the J. C. Hubinger & Bros.' and the Wax Starch companies, whose goods are pronounced among the best the market affords. From a very small beginning, the business of these companies has grown to nearly $1,000,000 annually. They do not manufacture starch but process it by a method known only to themselves, which transforms common starch into one of the most meritorious articles of the kind on the market. The sales of the Wax and Elastic starches have reached an enormous figure, and no one factory in the United States can supply the demand of the Hubingers for the raw material. Recently, an English syndicate has gained control of the starch product of the country and has announced that the price will be materially advanced. The syndicate made an effort to gain control of the Hubingers' secret and their immense trade in the Wax and Elastic starches, offering a handsome sum for the same. The offer was not considered sufficiently large and was declined. The Hubingers are the only parties extensively engaged in the starch business in America outside of the English syndicate, and now that the price on the raw material is to be advanced, the former cannot afford to pay the price to be fixed by the syndicate.

This state of affairs will redound to the interests of Keokuk to a great degree, for the Hubingers, together with local and outside capitalists have decided to establish in Keokuk one of the most extensive starch factories in the United States. The new enterprise will be known as the Keokuk Starch company and will be incorporated with a capital stock of $1,000,000. The steps preliminary to organization are now being taken and the success of the enterprise is assured. This morning Mr. Hubinger spent an hour calling on local capitalists and in that time $75,000 of stock was taken.

Keokuk is peculiarly fortunate in the possession of unexcelled advantages for an enterprise of this character. In the first place the city is located in the very heart of the corn region, and this grain is the principal source of starch. Pure water is one of the most essential accessories to the manufacture of this domestic product, and the artesian wells will furnish the purest of water. Then, the water power being so abundant and costing so little will naturally reduce the expense of manufacture. Keokuk's railways, radiating in all directions, and that great natural waterway, the Mississippi river, provides shipping facilities of the most advantageous character. The fact that the Hubinger Bros'. company and the Wax Starch company will take the entire output of the proposed factory, is probably the most important advantage, as it assures the new factory an established trade of wide proportions at the very start.

Verily, matters in Keokuk are looking up, and the record of the year 1890 promises to be a bright one indeed.

GONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

MARCH 28, 1890.

Notice of Incorporation.

Notice is hereby given, I. That the Keokuk Starch Company has been organized with its principal place of business at Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa.

II The business to be transacted shall be the manufacture and dealing in starch and other business incident thereto.

III The capital stock of the company authorized shall be one million dollars, divided into shares of $100 each to be paid in as subscribed in installments.

IV. The corporation shall commence on the filing of the articles and continue 20 years

V. The affairs shall be conducted by a board of three directors, to be elected annually at regular meeting the first Tuesday of March each year.

VI. The corporation shall at no time become indebted to a greater extent than two-thirds the capital stock.

VII. The private property of the stockholders shall be exempt from liability for corporate debts.

VIII. The company is authorized to issue preferred stock in certificates of $10, which may be entitled to a preferred dividend of 8 per cent per annum to be to the extent of dividend to preferred stockholders

JOHN C. HUBINGER, President.
JAMES H. ANDERSON, Secretary.

GONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1890.

CITY NEWS.

—Mr. Hubinger is making arrangements to have samples of Wax Starch left at every house in the city. It is his intention to have a full package left at each residence. Wax Starch is a cook starch and is unequaled for ladies' and children's summer apparel. Try the sample that you will receive.

Keokuk Constitution.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION CO.

MARCH 14, 1888

Entered at the Postoffice at Keokuk as second class mail matter and all postage prepaid according to the laws of the United States.

Incorporation of the Hubinger Starch Company.

Articles of incorporation of the John C. Hubinger Brothers Company have been filed in the office of the county recorder. The company is for the purpose of the manufacture and sale of Elastic starch and such other articles as the corporation may see fit to make and sell; the principal place of business Keokuk, and the capital stock $24,000. The directors are John C. Hubinger, Nicholas W. Hubinger and Joseph E. Hubinger.

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION.

Notice is hereby given that under the general incorporation laws of Iowa there has been incorporated:

1. The John C. Hubinger Brothers Company, with its principal place of business at Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa. 2. For the purpose of the manufacture and sale of Elastic starch and such other articles as the corporation may see fit to make and sell. 3. With a capital stock of $24,000, divided into shares of $100 each, to be paid when subscribed. 4. Corporation to begin on the filing of articles, and continue twenty years. 5. Affairs to be conducted by three directors, to be elected by stockholders when a vacancy occurs: John C. Hubinger, Nicholas W. Hubinger and Joseph E. Hubinger to be directors until a vacancy occurs. 6. No indebtedness shall be incurred exceeding two-thirds the amount of the capital stock. 7. Private property of stockholders shall not be liable for corporate debts.

JOHN C. HUBINGER BROTHERS COMPANY.

INCANDESCENT LIGHT

MR. HUBINGER ABOUT TO PUT A PLANT IN KEOKUK.

The Building to Be Located at the South Corner of Sixth and Blondeau Streets—The Starch Factory.

J. R. Work, of Chicago, is in the city and is putting up wires at J. C. Hubinger's new residence on the avenue for the incandescent electric light, which the latter will put in at Keokuk, and which has been greatly desired here. Mr. Hubinger said this afternoon:

"I have 800 lights already subscribed for and within sixty days I expect to have the incandescent electric light in operation in Keokuk. I will put up a brick building at the south corner of Sixth and Blondeau streets for the plant. The size of the building will be determined by the number of lights desired. If I can secure subscriptions for 2,000 lights, I will be able to furnish the incandescent light for 15 cents per burner, per week."

Regarding his starch factory, he said he contemplated running it with the electric motor. He stated he expected shortly to employ about fifty hands at his starch packing establishment at Fourth and Exchange streets, and from twenty to thirty at the one on Water and Blondeau streets.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1951

An Enterprising Man—

J. C. Hubinger Parlayed a Dozen Brooms Into Huge Corn Industry

Editor's Note: In the 31st of a series of articles illustrating the steady growth of industry in Iowa, the Iowa Development bulletin has selected The Hubinger Company of Keokuk as its subject.

—o—

KEOKUK—A business which was started on a bicycle here 70 years ago now is one of Keokuk's—and Iowa's—big and important industries.

When J. C. Hubinger traded a dozen brooms for a recipe for quick elastic laundry starch in 1881, he unknowningly bought a business which was to fill a mill and a refinery during his lifetime, and would grow to employ more than 400 people. Today The Hubinger Company uses 22,000 bushels of corn each day, and probably will grind seven million bushels of corn this year.

Many Products Now.

Much more than laundry starch is wrung out of the corn kernels at the big Hubinger plant. Oil, protein, fiber and a large variety of special syrups and starches are produced from Iowa's staple crop.

Some of the food starches are not only extracted, washed, purified and refined—they are pre-digested into syrups and sugars, to save your stomach the work.

It is the original laundry starch, and the special syrups and starches, which set the pace for the factory, according to R. S. Fisher, president of the company. The livestock feeds and oil products have been added mainly to keep the cost of starch and syrup as low as possible.

Hubinger, who had been a broom-maker in Keokuk, went into the starch business in the most modest way possible. He bought corn starch, mixed the laundry formula, packaged it in candy sacks and peddled it house-to-house on his bicycle.

By 1900, housewives were buying so much of his product that he had to start manufacturing starch himself, to guarantee a supply. He moved into an old packing plant, set up a mill, and ground about 500 bushels of corn a day, intermittently. He kept livestock in the old stockyards, and fattened them on the wet corn mash that was left after he extracted the starch.

Profit from Residue.

As business grew, he had more corn residue than he could feed, so he began to install equipment to dispose of it in other profitable ways. He added an expeller, to press the oil out of the corn germ (that's the part that sprouts) and he added a dryer, so he could dry and ship the livestock feed. In 1905 he built a refinery to make corn syrup out of starch.

After Hubinger's death, his heirs managed the business for a while, then sold it. None of the Hubinger family has been associated with the firm since 1926.

Management of the firm has been in Keokuk since 1939, when the present owners assumed control. They are: R. S. Fisher, chairman of the board and president; R. L. Krueger, assistant to the president and treasurer; A. M. Robinson, vice-president in charge of sales; L. C. Watson, vice-president in charge of production; H. J. Jackson, secretary and assistant treasurer.

In Almost Every Industry.

The Hubinger name has been appearing on more and more packages every year. The present owners have engineered constant expansion, adding a number of new products.

"We get into almost every industry in the country, in some way," comments Fisher.

When the corn enters the plant, it is first soaked for 48 hours. Then the soft kernels can be torn apart without being crushed. The oily germ is floated out in a water bath, and sent to the oil presses.

The rest of the kernel is ground to a pulp. Starch and gluten (the protein portion) mix with water and pass through sieves which filter out the hull and fiber. The water mixture, in which particles of starch and gluten are suspended but not dissolved, is then channeled to centrifugal machines somewhat like cream separators. The starch is heavier, and can be drawn off like cream. The gluten portion is concentrated for protein livestock feeds.

Wet starch is purified and filtered. It may be sent to the driers to become cornstarch in one of many forms, or it may go to the refinery to become corn syrup or corn sugar.

Starch Into Sugar.

By much the same process used in the human stomach, warm corn starch can be digested by weak hydrochloric acid, and is changed to sugars which can be directly absorbed into the blood. Corn syrup is a starch solution which has been partly digested; corn sugar is the result of more complete digestion of the starch.

To the last ounce, all the corn that enters the Hubinger plant emerges in some salable form. Each 56-pound bushel of corn contains about nine pounds of water. It yields 33 pounds of starch or 35 pounds of syrup, both of which contain some moisture; 15 pounds of livestock feed and 1½ pounds of oil.

The Hubinger Company sells its crude corn oil to refineries, where it is processed into cooking and salad oils. Livestock feeders buy the corn oil cake meal—what is left of the germ after the oil is pressed out—and the gluten, hulls, etc.

It is of corn starch and syrup that Mr. Fisher speaks truly when he says "we get into almost every industry in the country." These products have more buyers than a good five-cent cigar.

Used as Sizing.

Corn starch dries naturally in little glossy pellets, and is sold as pearl starch to size paper or cloth. Pure powdered starch—the housewives' cornstarch—is the mainstay of the pudding-mix and pie-filling business. It also thickens commercially canned soups and vegetables, ice cream and candies.

Corn syrup sweetens many candies, table syrups, jams, jellies and ice cream. Its sweetness and ability to retain moisture are useful in making chewing gum and processing tobacco. Corn sugar is popular as a source of caramel color and flavoring.

Cornstarch's power to jell makes it important in industry. It holds chemicals together, yet keeps them far enough apart for safety in dry cell batteries, explosives, etc. Dry starch does the same thing in baking powder and pudding mixes. Dry starch is used for molds for candies, since it absorbs any excess moisture.

"Thin Boiling" Starches.

In addition to a variety of laundry starches, Hubinger makes several "thin-boiling" starches. These starches have been treated with acid, which takes away some of their jelling ability. A very heavy concentration of these starches can be dissolved in water, without making the solution too stiff to handle. They are sold chiefly to textile mills. One of the essential uses of these thin, penetrating starches is to strengthen and smooth the warp threads, so they won't fray and wear during the weaving process. The heavy size is washed out before the cloth is dyed or printed.

Corn starch in various forms is used in foundries to hold sand in molds for heavy metal parts, and so is essential to all heavy industry. Corn syrup is essential to the manufacture of rayon—a syrup bath makes the liquid rayon congeal into fibers. Corn sugar has an important role in leather tanning—it is necessary to the process which makes hides supple.

Only a small percentage of the annual corn crop goes into industry, but those corn products are so useful that The Hubinger Company—and other corn processors—have been classified among the critical industries. Last year 150 million bushels of corn went into industrial channels; this year, with government encouragement, probably 150 million bushels will help keep defense production in gear.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

HOWELL & CLARK, Publishers.

APRIL 29, 1897.

DECIDE FOR HUBINGER.

Retail Grocers Agree to Use His Telephone to the Exclusion of the Bell Company's.

A special meeting of the Retail Grocers' association was held Friday night, and the results were of much importance and interest. The subject considered was the telephone situation. The association numbers forty-two members, and the meeting was the most largely attended one yet held.

When Mr. Hubinger decided to put his telephone system in Keokuk, he did not take the precaution he did at Burlington and secure sufficient contracts from prospective users for a term of five years to warrant him in proceeding with the construction of the plant. He relied on the municipal patriotism of Keokuk people to make his venture a success, should he undertake to furnish them with telephone service at rates half what the Bell company had charged for years; and said it would continue to charge, until competition should force a reduction. It was further intimated, when the matter was first discussed by the Business Men's association some time prior to Mr. Hubinger's taking hold of the question, that the Bell company would restore the old rates, when competition should be removed. Believing that Keokuk people would appreciate his good work and enterprise, Mr. Hubinger did not ask any advance contracts.

The result, however, has been that the business houses have been required to have two telephones. Although the cost of the two is about equal to the cost of the one in former days, there is a measure of annoyance in having two telephones. The expense has not been materially reduced; and that was the primary object desired by the public.

The Retail Grocers' association came to the conclusion that the only way in which the public could have the advantage of a cheaper service with the old (if not increased) extent of the service, was to agree to the use of one telephone to the exclusion of the other. The meeting last night was to determine which system should have the patronage of the grocers. They were encouraged to take the initiative by men engaged in other lines of business and by many who have telephones in their residences. These others said that they would endorse and imitate whatever action the Retail Grocers' association might take.

The question was thoroughly discussed and it was the general opinion that, other things being equal, it was the duty of Keokuk people to patronize a Keokuk citizen in preference to a foreign corporation, when it was deemed necessary to make a choice between them. And it was further urged by many of the members present that the party-line plan of the Bell company was quite unsatisfactory and that in every way it was more desirable to patronize Mr. Hubinger. Accordingly, the association unanimously agreed to patronize him and to order the Bell telephones taken out of their several places of business at the end of the next quarter, which ends July 1. The grocers not only agreed to cease paying for the Bell telephone after that date, but to see that the instruments were taken out, no matter how low a rate the Bell company might make.

It is plain to see what will be the result of this course of action if it is rigidly and generally carried out. It will mean that Mr. Hubinger will have the field to the exclusion of the Bell company. The contracts which Mr. Hubinger is now asking his subscribers to sign provide for the present low rates for a term of five years. That means that the rates will never be raised. The public having once experienced the economy of low rates, would never submit to paying high rates; and Mr. Hubinger is not the sort of a man to break faith with the people and ask them to pay more than is just and equitable. It must be very gratifying to him to find that Keokuk people do appreciate his enterprise and public spirit and show it in this practical way.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MARCH 15, 1888

INCANDESCENT LIGHT.

Mr. Hubinger Sanguine of Success—Brief Description of the System.

Some four or five months ago it was announced that Mr. J. C. Hubinger intended to establish an incandescent electric light plant in Keokuk. He has already had subscribed 800 lights and if the number is increased to 2,000 he says light can be furnished for fifteen cents per lamp per week. This is an exceedingly low rate and one which would permit of general use of the incandescent light by those who prefer it to other modes of illumination. The difference between the arc and incandescent light lies largely in the intensity of the electric current, the latter being furnished by a low pressure current, it being so mild that a person can take hold of the wires without serious results, although they are safely insulated. In nearly all cities where the system is introduced there are three separate currents, one supplying stores and dwellings and the other two are used in lighting the streets if a contract is made for that purpose. If one-half of the lights are turned off in the evening the engine automatically regulates itself. The low pressure current established at the plant passes over the wires to the incandescent lamps, each one of which is independent of the other if so desired or they may be arranged in groups of any number desired. A sinple lamp in a dwelling may be regulated by itself or the lamps may be run in a group of five or six in a store or in groups of any number in any location. The incandescent lamp is a pear shaped glass four and one-half inches long exhausted of air and into which is sealed a filament of carbonized bamboo. This filament becomes incandescent by the passage of the electric current through it and emits a soft white light that is steady and constant and not flickering like the arc light. The current can be turned through the bamboo or turned off just as gas is controlled.

Constitution-Democrat

MAY 9, 1896.

SOME WONDERS.

J. C. Hubinger Purchases Electrical Inventions Which Are Surprising the World.

J. C. Hubinger returned this morning from the east. While in New York he attended the great electrical exhibition and made some important purchases. Among these is the eidoloscope, which throws on large screens scenes from life in which the actions of animate objects are shown with every minuteness of detail. Mr. Hubinger saw this instrument give an exhibition of a Mexican bull fight, in which the battle was given in detail, even to the spurting of the blood when a wound was inflicted. Clouds of dust rose in the ring just as they would in the genuine fight. Dances and drills, with thousands of soldiers, were given. Mr. Hubinger expects to have this machine here in about a month, and will give exhibitions with it.

Among Mr. Hubinger's purchases were two complete X ray outfits and their latest improvement, a floroscope, by which a man can see his own skeleton. Mr. Hubinger says it is his intention to build a laboratory where he will carry on experiments and give exhibitions. He also states it is his intention to give exhibitions with the eidoloscope in the vicinity of Rand park this summer.

Mr. Hubinger also purchased a set of megaphones, instruments used for talking long distances without the aid of wires, simply speaking through the air. With this instrument a person can stand on one bank of the Mississippi and talk to a person on the opposite shore who holds a duplicate instrument to his ear.

Mr. Hubinger states that he intends to devote much time in the future to experimenting, and will, from time to time, give exhibitions, to which his friends will be invited.

The Gate City.
DECEMBER 12, 1895.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

BIGGEST IN AMERICA.

Mr. Hubinger Owns the Largest Undivided Tract Possessed by One Person.

John C. Hubinger and G. M. Law have just returned from Crawford county, Mo., about 100 miles southwest of St. Louis. Their mission is thus told in a press dispatch from Steelville, the county seat:

"One of the largest real estate deals that was ever consummated in this section of Missouri was effected here Saturday. The property sold consists of 50,000 acres of Crawford county lands owned by the Midland Blast Furnace company of St. Louis, on which are located the company's blast furnace, the town of Midland and several good farms. John C. Hubinger, a wealthy capitalist of Keokuk, Ia., is the purchaser and is here in person, accompanied by G. M. Law, a real estate broker of Keokuk. The Midland Blast Furnace company was represented in the transaction by Thomas R. Gibson, cashier of the bank of Steelville, and J. T. Woodruff, president of the Woodruff Fruit and Orchard company. Mr. Hubinger buys the land for fruit and orchard purposes and will begin preparing the ground at once for a large planting in the spring. He was attracted here by the splendid reports of Missouri's advantages. The people here look upon the deal as one of great importance, as Mr. Hubinger is already making estimates for an apple orchard of 2,000 acres. The consideration paid for the property is $500,000. Mr. Hubinger proposes to bring fifty families from Iowa to the property within the next few months. The orchard industry in this county is assuming great proportions and the shipments this year aggregate more than 20,000 barrels of apples, besides a great quantity of the smaller fruits."

The fame of his big transaction had gone abroad and Sunday a Quincy Herald representative met Mr. Hubinger and Mr. Law on a K. line train returning from the scene of their big transaction. The Herald says: "Mr. Hubinger had a satchel full of specimens of iron and lead ore and red-cheeked apples, sound and handsome as a Keokuk belle. Both parties are more than enthusiastic over the project The section is eighty miles southwest of St. Louis, and Mr. Hubinger says the climate and soil is simply superb. 'We rode for three days and then only got over about half of it. It's nearly forty miles around and contains about eighty square miles. There's quite a little village on the strip, too, with some forty or fifty houses, called Midland. They all went with the deal. The total investment costs me about $500,000. In the deal I turn over the Keokuk brick plant, which I value at some $150,000. The rest of it is entirely cash. It did not take me long to settle the business. After looking the ground over I came in to the bank Saturday and said "I'll take it," and drew them a check for $50,000 to clinch the bargain.'

"'Yes,' added Mr. Law, 'and you ought to have seen that cashier's eyes. I thought he was going to have a fit. I suppose that was the biggest check he had ever seen in all his banking business.'

"Mr. Hubinger proposes to establish a big settlement there right away and will probably give Adams county people a chance to better themselves if they should be so disposed There is fine ore on the land and it is being mined and shipped to St. Louis all the time, but the fruit culture is what will be most largely undertaken. He will set out 178,000 apple trees to start with. It's about the biggest undertaking in which Mr. Hubinger has ever engaged but he knows what he is doing. It does look as if Keokuk's capitalist was after Vanderbilt."

This purchase makes Mr. Hubinger the owner of the largest undivided tract of land possessed by any one person in the United States. The deal was engineered by Mr. Law who is winning a reputation for large transactions. The Herald made this reference to him: "G. M. Law, the attorney who engineered the big deal, is a hustler. He is well known in Quincy by reason of some work done recently for some of our citizens. Just recently he closed up a land partnership matter for Captain Williard Blakeslee in Chicago and secured a settlement in an intricate mess which placed $20,000 to Mr. Blakeslee's credit in Bull's bank."

THE GATE CITY had a talk with Mr. Law about the matter yesterday Mr. Law is a member of a national association of real estate brokers and in that way comes in contact with the large dealers. This big tract of land has been on the market some time, but the owners would not sell a part of it. They held it at $12 an acre for the whole lot. Mr. Law attempted to organize a syndicate to "swing" the deal and met with partial success. Then Mr. Hubinger placed the big $150,000 pressed brick plant in Mr. Law's hands and negotiations were opened between owners of the Missouri tract and Mr. Hubinger. Secret agents visited Keokuk, inspected the brick plant and investigated matters generally. Their report was favorable and on invitation of the St. Louis parties the Keokuk gentlemen went to Crawford county in company with the St. Louis gentlemen. W. H. Lee, president of the Midland Blast Furnace company is also president of a national bank in St. Louis. They spent three days in driving over the tract which contains seventy-eight square miles and saw only a part of it. Then they began talking business and in a very few minutes the deal was closed, much to the amazement of the St. Louis capitalists, who were not used to such quick work. They privately asked Mr. Law "is there were any more men like Hubinger up in Keokuk," and like the loyal citizen he is Mr. Law stretched a joint to assure his questioners that "the town is full of them." This is the largest deal ever engineered by an Iowa real estate man and Mr. Law is deserving congratulations on that point. He told THE GATE CITY some of the main points about this tract.

It contains 50,000 acres, unincumbered. A great deal of it is under cultivation and the land is very rich. There are some thirty or forty small improved farms on it worked by tenants. Those farms are Mr. Hubinger's.

There are about 3,000 acres in heavy timber. The trees are very big and are valuable. That forest belongs to Mr. Hubinger.

There is an iron mine, very rich in ore, and of such a magnitude that from six to twelve car loads of ore are daily shipped to St. Louis. That iron mine is Mr. Hubinger's.

The town of Midland stands on the land and the whole town belongs to Mr. Hubinger.

There is one of the largest springs in the world on the land The water comes up in a flood and the spring is 100 feet or more across. One-fourth of the volume is sufficient to turn the wheels of a flour mill. That mill is Mr. Hubinger's.

There are very valuable stone quarries on the land. In one place the stone has been taken out from the side of the bluff, forming a very large deep, clean and dry cave. The temperature in this cave is almost down to the freezing point the year round. There are large orchards of the largest, soundest and most deliciously favored fruit. Mr. Hubinger intends planting 2,000 acres more in apples and will use that cave for cold storage purposes.

The Meramec river runs through the land. It is a stream about twice as wide as the Des Moines when the latter is full and the water is clear as crystal and alive with fish.

It is understood that the brick plant will be operated by St. Louis parties and the entire product, perhaps, shipped to that place.

TWO BIG PROJECTS.

A Practically Free High Bridge and the Largest Starch Factory in the World.

OCTOBER 4, 1896.

HAVE LONG BEEN NEEDED.

J. C. Hubinger to Organize Two Large Stock Companies for the Purpose of Building Them—Will Submit a Proposition Soon.

An opportunity is about to present itself whereby the city of Keokuk may secure several important enterprises that will mean the infusion of new life into commercial activities and afford profitable employment to at least 500 people. The Gate City is in a position to speak authoritatively concerning the matter so far as anything is said with any degree of definiteness. John C. Hubinger, who is one of the largest

J. C. HUBINGER.

property owners of Keokuk, and who has displayed the utmost librality in all public enterprises, is to be the head of two companies, which propose to do two things: Construct what will be practically a free bridge across the Mississippi river at Keokuk and erect here the largest starch factory in the world. These enterprises have been uppermost in his mind for several years and if he is accorded the assistance that is desired he says he will do exactly what he now purposes doing. Aid that will be solicited from Keokuk will be embodied in a definite proposition and made public at a later date, probably within a short time after the election. Mr. Hubinger will organize a company, in which he expects to engage the interest of many leading citizens, for the purpose of erecting a high bridge over the Mississippi, which he says will bring at least two new railways into Keokuk. Tolls for foot passengers and vehicles are to be one-half what they are at the present time and on Saturday the bridge is to be absolutely free. If Mr. Hubinger is enabled to build the bridge as he now expects he will erect in Keokuk what he claims will be the largest starch factory in the world. The company will have a capital stock of $1,000,000 and J. C. Hubinger will be at the head of it. He is confident that these enterprises would give steady and profitable employment to from 300 to 500 people.

Mr. Hubinger in the manufacture and shipment of his starch product annually uses 3,000,000 boxes, now manufactured in Cincinnati, Rochester and New Haven, Conn. It is proposed that all this manufacturing shall be done in Keokuk. Mr. Hubinger also uses annually 10,000,000 pounds of raw starch in the manufacture of his finished product, which he proposes to supply by erecting and operating a big starch factory in Keokuk. To manufacture that immense quantity of raw starch 400,000 bushels of corn would be required annually, so there would be a market here for just that much additional of the corn crop. It may be stated in passing that Mr. Hubinger has a standing offer of a $50,000 bonus to locate a starch factory elsewhere of similar magnitude to the one he would like to erect in Keokuk and intends to do if the conditions are not extremely adverse. These figures will suggest how important would be the acquisition of a high bridge, a starch factory and a box factory. It would certainly give a decided impetus to all our commercial and industrial activities. It looks as though any reasonable proposition Mr. Hubinger may conclude to submit ought to be concurred in and given encouragement. Statements made to a representative of The Gate City last night indicate that he is thoroughly in earnest and desires to centralize his big starch industry in Keokuk. It is not likely that these projects will assume distinct form until the excitement attendant upon the presidential campaign is allayed. The time is opportune or at least near at hand to secure for Keokuk a high bridge and a big starch factory. When the direct proposition to be subsequently presented is submitted to the city the matter may then be given the consideration required and an affirmative or negative answer given.

The Valley Whig.

THE DES MOINES VALLEY WHIG

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 15.

Keokuk. 1860

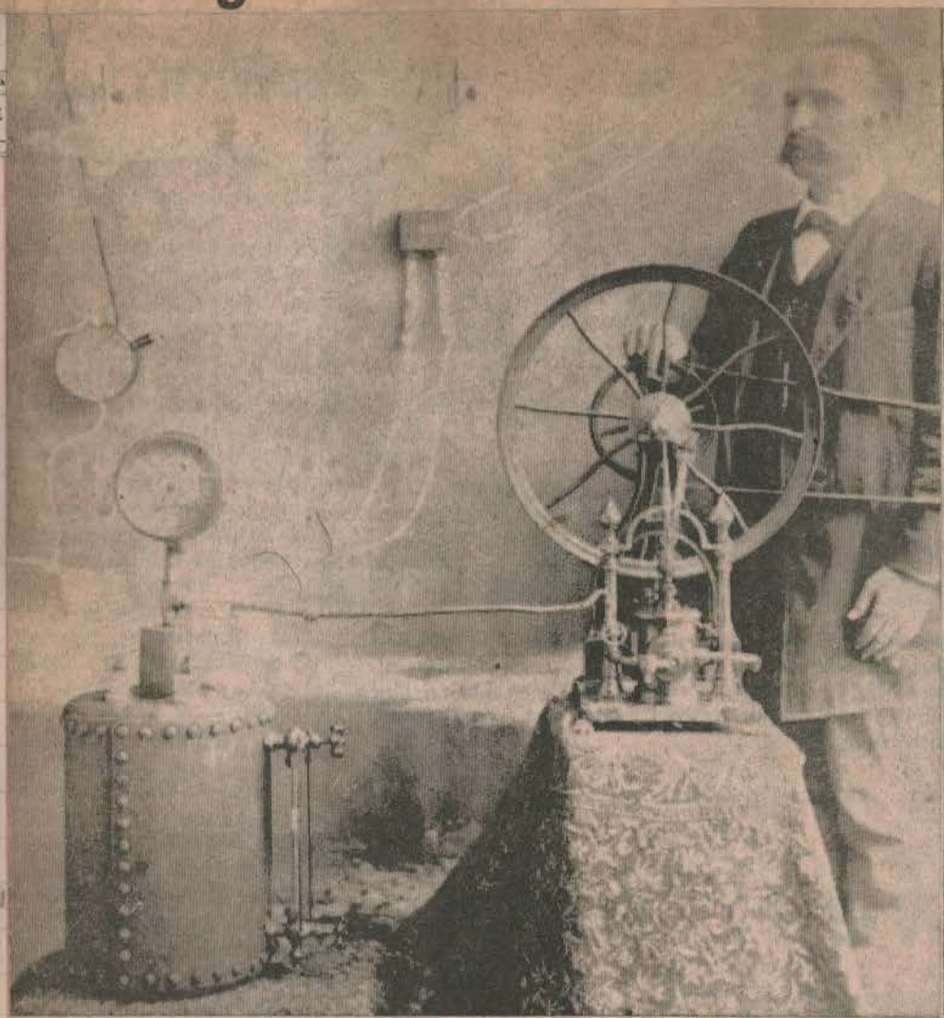
We copy from "Appleton's New American Cyclopedia" the following notice of our city:

"Keokuk, a city and semi-capital of Lee Co., Iowa, situated in the S. E. corner of the State, at the foot of the lower rapids of the Mississippi, and two miles above the mouth of the Des Moines, 205 miles above St. Louis. Population in 1850, 2,478; in 1857 about 12,000. It is built partly at the foot and partly on the summit of a bluff 150 feet high, which contains excellent limestone, and has broad regular streets, with many handsome houses. It is the seat of the State Medical College, a Female Seminary, and a number of academies. A public school edifice here, erected at a cost of $13,500, is said to be the handsomest building in the State devoted to education. The city has 10 or 12 churches, and a large number of lumber and brick yards, mills, founderies, &c. Its manufacturing establishments in 1857 numbered about 50. It has an active and rapidly increasing commerce, and an incomplete table of its trade in 1856 gave the amount of goods sold as over $5,000,000.—The rapids in the Mississippi, extending 12 miles with a fall of 24 feet, render Keokuk the natural head of navigation at low water; but a canal around them capable of admitting large steamboats and of affording a vast water power has been projected. The city has most of the trade of the rich Des Moines Valley, and is the terminus of two railroads—the Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minnesota, finished as far as Bentonsport, and the Keokuk, Mount Pleasant and Muscatine, finished as far as Fort Madison. It has steamboat communication with St. Louis."

This Cyclopedia is a library in itself, and there is not a subject of the least interest to the general or critical reader which will not be found in it, and treated in a masterly manner.

Messrs. Ogden, Brownell & Co. are agents for this work. See their advertisement.

J. C. Hubinger made steam from electricity in 1889



JOHN C. HUBINGER stands here with his invention of 75 years ago by which he converted electricity from his incandescent light plant to steam (in the boiler at the left) and then fed the steam into the little engine at the right, thus producing motive power. The old picture has been in the possession of I. L. Younker for many years but no one was able to identify the apparatus until last Saturday when an item in the Gate City's 75 years ago column mentioned that Hubinger had invented a machine to produce steam from electricity.

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA — 7
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12, 1964

John C. Hubinger, Keokuk's pioneer starch manufacturer and man of many parts, came up with an invention 75 years ago which, he believed, would revolutionize the production of motive power and be a godsend to the housewife for domestic culinary and heating purposes.

In The Gate City of August 8, 1889 it was announced that he had developed a machine for the generation of steam from electricity. Just how he generated electricity in his electric light plant is not stated but it must have come from steam.

To the layman it would seem the height of inefficiency to convert steam into electricity and then reverse the process to obtain mechanical energy, but perhaps electrical motors hadn't been perfected in those early days.

Hot water heaters

At any rate Mr. Hubinger appears to have anticipated modern electric water heaters, coffee pots and other heating devices.

The article said that Mr. Hubinger believed he had made a highly valuable discovery, one that will reduce the expense of motive power and revolutionize domestic service to a certain degree.

"So deeply impressed is he with the importance of his invention, that he has hired B. J. Ball of Burlington, ex-commissioner of patents, to patent it in this and European countries.

Worked six weeks

"For six weeks or more Mr. Hubinger has been, and still is conducting experiments with a view to attaining as great a degree of perfection as possible. Since his introduction of the incandescent light in Keokuk, he has been interested more or less in the subject of electricity and the result of his personal investigation and experimentation has been the invention.

"It consists of what are termed electric boilers of greater or less degree of capacity through which the wires conveying the electric current are run, or rather attached to copper plates. When the current is turned on the water boils and steam is generated in a surprisingly brief period. In this manner a degree of power can be secured necessary to operate machinery in any manufacturing establishment.

Globe for tub

"In domestic service it can be employed for heating water and for cooking and bathing purposes. For the latter a small glass globe containing strips of copper to which electric wires are attached is placed in the bath tub and the water is speedily heated to the desired degree.

"Mr. Hubinger expects to enlarge the capacity of his electric light plant and supply electricity and power to all who care to use it. He is confident he can supply power cheaper than it can be produced by the consumption of coal."

The article goes on to state that 646 volts of electricty is equivalent to one electric horse power and by the use of a continuous circuit it is expected that the power generated will accomplish much more than if consumed and partially wasted at one given point."

What became of the machine is not known but it was a reversal of the modern process which uses steam to generate electricity, not vice versa.

61.

A True-Life Romance—

Tumelty Relates Fabulous Rise And Fall of J. C. Hubinger Here

Around the topic of "Keokuk's Forgotten Man," John Tumelty wove a fascinating series of reminiscences about the fabulous J. C. Hubinger at the luncheon meeting of the Rotary club in the Keokuk Country Club Wednesday.

Son of poor German immigrants who settled in Keokuk, he laid the foundations for the oldest as well as one of the city's most substantial industries of today by making and peddling laundry starch from door to door, amassed a tremendous fortune for that day, became one of the city's greatest benefactors, and eventually lost his wealth trying to buck a growing industry which was to become the nation's communications colossus.

Eight Children

Grandfather Hubinger, a Swiss, and his wife, a German, landed in New Orleans and came up the river by boat to Keokuk where he entered upon his trade as a baker and lived at 822 Blondeau in a house which was torn down many years ago.

They had four sons and four daughters, most of whom worked in the baking business while the mother kept a boarding house with the majority of her custom coming from the old Buckeye Foundry at Ninth and Johnson.

The oldest boy, John, who was always known as J. C., had an itching foot and left town early to work as a laborer for Tim Ford, a railroad contractor. His wandering bent would not be denied, however, and he made his way down the Mississippi and up the Ohio, eventually reaching New Haven, Conn., where branches of the family remain today.

Peddled His Starch

His landlady in New Haven also took in washing and, while helping her, he became convinced that he could improve upon the starch she was using. Using her woodshed he tinkered with various formulas until he hit upon one which was much more efficient than the others and that was the birth of the present Elastic starch, now manufactured by The Hubinger Company.

He continued to make it in the woodshed and peddled it from door to door in a basket, often instructing New Haven housewives in its use. Short of capital, for expansion, however, he wrote to two of his brothers in Keokuk, Nick and Joe, who were working at Schouten's bakery and invited them to invest their savings and join him in New Haven.

Nick showed up with all he had, $100 in cash, and Joe with nothing but they worked together as partners there until in 1885 J. C. Hubinger decided to return to Keokuk. The two brothers remained in the East operating the starch factory.

Once back in Keokuk, J. C. established his first factory at 208 Main and later, in 1900 moved to Bank street while maintaining offices at Sixth and Blondeau where he also built a telephone exchange.

Lavish Splender

With the development of his plant, the money began to roll in and he soon accumulated what amounted to a fantastic fortune for the day. He was lavish in its spending, however, building a magnificent mansion on Grand avenue, complete with two lakes, four artesian wells, swimming pool, landscaped terraces down to the river, and even a chute-the-chutes.

Across the street he also built a spectacular layout called Hubinger park with baseball diamond, horse racing track on which he was probably the first to experiment with night lighting, and a huge theatre called the Casino. Railroad excursions brought visitors from as far away as St. Louis to see the park and attend performances in the Casino.

Fought Telephone Co.

SHOWPLACE OF MIDWEST in the early 1900's was this magnificient mansion of J. C. Hubinger on Grand avenue where the Rich apartments are located. One of the two lakes on the property can be seen in the foreground. It also had a swimming pool and beautiful terraces extending down the bluff to the river. Across the avenue to the north Hubinger built his fantastic amusement park with a huge casino where theatrical companies played, a baseball diamond and horse racing track.

2 The Daily Gate City Keokuk, Iowa
THURSDAY, AUG. 8, 1957

In his hey day there was no unemployment in Keokuk for men willing to work because he was always willing to find something for them to do, with a shovel if nothing else. In addition to his other interests he operated an electric light plant but the beginning of the end came when he entered the infant telephone business as a protest against what he thought were excessive rates. He also acquired several thousand acres of land in northwest Missouri and was financially trapped in St. Paul, Minn., when he entered a losing fight with the Bell Telephone Co.

The situation became so acute, Tumelty recalled, that the editor of a Keokuk Sunday magazine wrote an article bitterly attacking the former financial genius. When Hubinger threatened to sue him for $1 million, the editor wrote him a check for that amount and said he hoped he would have better luck collecting than he had enjoyed.

In closing Mr. Tumelty suggested that Keokuk do something to perpetuate the memory of this remarkable man. An appropriate project, he declared, would be to tear down an old building at Second and Blondeau where chickens roost in empty windows and replace it with a statue to Keokuk's "Forgotten Man." Pete Nepote was program chairman.

John Kall, former Keokuk ball player and now coach for the Baltimore Orioles was a guest of Carl Huiskamp.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
MARCH 11, 1918
C. F. SKIRVIN.....Manager

HUBINGER HOME IS BEING RAZED

One of the Show Places of Keokuk Is Being Dismantled by Workmen to Make Room for New Residence.

STOOD THERE 30 YEARS

House When Built Was Wonder for This Section of the West and Excited Considerable Comment.

Workmen are dismantling the old J. C. Hubinger house at the corner of Thirteenth and Grand avenue. The house was built by Mr. Hubinger about thirty years ago, and was one of the show places of Keokuk, and has through all the years it has stood there, been pointed out to visitors as the Hubinger home. The house and grounds at one time were most elaborately kept up. The lake and sunken garden at the south end of the grounds were worthy of some old chateau.

The house, when originally built, contained some rather unusual features for a city the size of Keokuk, then, and the ball room and billiard room in the big house with its cupolas and all of the fancy finishings on the outside was the object of considerable comment on the part of residents here. Later when the towers and the observation platform were added to the rear of the house, people declared the towers would pull the big house down and over the bluff. Some of the rasher spirits among the residents offered wagers as to how long the towers would stand.

The grounds were later landscaped and pieces of statuary were added. Majestic elks reared their heads near the lagoon, deer guarded the steps nearer the house, and two big mastiff dogs and two handsome lions were placed on guard immediately in front of the entrance to the house. On either side of the porch pillars a woman's figure stood.

The house and grounds were brought into prominence again, people here declared, when Rupert Hughes wrote his famous story of The Gift Horse. He described a big house and grounds, and people who read the story declared that it was the Hubinger house that he had in mind.

Since the death of Mr. Hubinger and the changes in the family, the house has not been occupied save for a caretaker for a number of years. It is now being razed to make room for the residence which C. M. Rich is planning to build here. The plans for the Rich house call for a residence on the colonial style of architecture. It will face toward Twelfth street, the rear of the house toward the Thirteenth street side of the grounds.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
MAY 29, 1888.

NEW HAVEN TROTTERS.

Something About the Fine String of Steppers Owned by Hubinger Bros.

A New Haven paper says that the Hubinger brothers, Joseph E. and Nicholas W., have at 827 and 831 Elm street in New Haven, eighteen of the most speedy horses in that city. The barns are adjoining and are well fitted for caring for the animals. Each horse has a roomy box stall, well lighted and ventilated, and every part of the building is kept scrupulously clean, while the glossy coats and bright eyes of the animals show the effects of the care they receive. All the horses are used for track purposes and have been for some time in active training for the summer's races. The nearness of the stables to Hamilton Park, which is leased by the Hubingers, enables the brothers to have the horses speeded and exercised regularly. Some of the horses are entered for the circuit races of the National Trotting Association, which will begin at Poughkeepsie, the first week in June.

Mollie Mitchell and Elastic Starch (formerly known as the Derby Wonder) will start next week. Fannie Burroughs and Ella C. are entered for the fall meeting at Charter Oak Park. Fannie Burroughs was to have been sent with the two other horses to Poughkeepsie, but a week or so ago became lame, having run a hook into her foot. The injury was not at all serious and she has so far recovered that she is now exercised on the track daily, although not yet in condition for speeding.

Elastic Starch is entered for the $10,000 race in Rochester, N. Y.

Of the horses owned by Nicholas W. Hubinger, Fannie Burroughs is perhaps the best known. She is a bay twelve years old, and stands fifteen hands, three inches in height. She was sired by Ashland and she has a record of 2:27¼, made on Hamilton Park track last fall.

Elastic Starch, better known as the Derby Wonder, is a dark bay gelding by Dick Loomer; he by Dictator. He is eight years old and sixteen and a half hands.

Ella C. is Mr. Hubinger's latest purchase and is a white mare, seven years old, fifteen hands and one inch, and sired by Blue Bull. She is in daily practice and will be entered at Hartford next fall.

Gum is a two-year-old roan stallion, 15.1, by Dick Loomer, the sire of Elastic Starch.

Another two-year-old stallion is Eureka Pilot, a handsome black, standing fifteen hands and one inch. Eureka Pilot is by Pilot Knox (record 2:19¾), and he by Black Pilot, sire of the dam of Maud S.

Nick H., another two year old, is a pure inbred Hambletonian gelding, standing sixteen hands, one inch.

Harry Mulholland, four-years-old, sixteen and a half high, is another inbred Hambletonian, sired by the Bonner horse, he by Old Rysdyk Hambletonian.

Lady Silk is a dark bay mare, eleven years old and standing fifteen hands in height. She is speeded daily in preparation for the fall races.

Mary is a seven-year-old mare, fifteen hands high, now in foal by Eureka Pilot.

Joseph E. Hubinger has in his barn, adjoining his brother, an equal number of valuable animals. First on the list is the well known gray mare Mollie Mitchell, with a record of 2:21, made on the Hamilton Park track last fall.

Lottie is a promising yearling colt. She is out of a Hambletonian mare, and is a half-sister to Eureka Pilot.

Lady is a dark bay, fifteen hands, three inches in height, five years old, by Volunteer; dam Moonshine. Moonshine is half-sister to Brandywine, which has a record of 2:22¼.

Maud is a dark bay, by Watchmaker, is four years old and stands fifteen hands, three inches.

Tom and Fred are the black pair driven by Joseph Hubinger. Tom is a half-brother to Jay-Eye-See and Fred is of good stock.

Banks, seven years old, is a half brother to Little Brown Jug, the fast pacer. He is himself a pacer and is quite speedy.

New Haven Boy is a handsome bay stallion standing sixteen hands high, sired by Young Rolf.

Archie C. completes the list. He is a young horse standing fifteen hands three inches high and is, in company with the others, put through daily practice at Hamilton Park.

It is the intention of the Hubingers to bring their entire stable to St. Louis this fall, and they will also visit the Keokuk races provided the purses offered are a sufficient inducement for them to do so.

NAME

ADDRESS

THE DAILY GATE CITY
JULY 28, 1887.

HUBINGER'S HOME.

The Plans and Specifications for a Beautiful and Costly Residence on the Avenue—Other Residences.

Mr. J. C. Hubinger intends to erect a beautiful and costly home on the Avenue between Eleventh and Twelfth streets and surround it with lawns and handsome grounds. Yesterday morning the plans and specifications arrived from New Haven, Conn., where they were prepared by C. H. Stilson, an architect of considerable reputation, and cost $500. The plans and elevations are finely drawn and the residence when completed will be the most ornate in the city. Its extreme width will be thirty-eight feet and the extreme length sixty-four feet. There will be metal and slate roof, with porticos and piazzes extending almost completely around the structure. It combines several styles of architecture, but the Queen Anne predominates. There will be an octagon tower with oriental cupalo. It will be an exceedingly ornate structure and will front on Grand Avenue, about sixty feet in the rear of the east line of that thoroughfare. It will be supplied with every possible modern convenience. There will be electric bells in every room, the interior is to be elegantly and elaborately furnished. A number of the rooms will have mirrors on the walls extending from the floor to the ceiling. The same degree of elegance and elaborateness will pervade the entire structure. It is to be three stories in height. The contract for the basement and stone work has already been let to Mr. James Cameron. Mr. Hubinger intends not only to build a handsome residence but he expects to have the most beautiful grounds, laid off in walks and drives, and illuminated by electricity at night. On the east side of the residence a large artificial lake three hundred feet in length will be constructed, in the center of which will be a miniature island and fountain. This will probably be supplied with water from the canal, it being the intention to purchase a pumping engine. There will be a sodded walk around the lake and to the left of it will be a large flower garden, through which there will be two drives that intersect it diagonally. A road will be graded from Chris. Hills' property along the bluff to Mr. Hubinger's residence and thence to the Avenue. Mr. Hubinger will construct opposite his proposed residence several residences to cost four or five thousand dollars each. His own home, including the improvement to grounds, will cost about $20,000.

THE DAILY GATE CITY:
OCTOBER 9, 1887.

THE HUBINGER RESIDENCE.

An Elegant Structure, Beautifully Located.

The GATE CITY in noticing the elaborate additions made by Coey & Co. observed that persons who confine themselves to the business portion of the city, have very little idea of the extent of the improvements going on in the outskirts. From the papers the general public has been informed that Mr. J. C. Hubinger, a capitalist of New Haven, Connecticut, intended to build a residence on Grand Avenue and remove here with his family to reside and bring with him also the extensive business enterprise now managed by the Hubinger Bros. in that city, but the full detains which the GATE CITY gives herewith will show that the residence of this gentleman is going to be elegant in the extreme and a fine ornament to that portion of the city. The building will be located on Grand Avenue overlooking the river, at that particular point where the scene looking up the river is of unsurpassable beauty—a view that tourists have pronounced equal to any view they have ever seen on the famous Hudson or the far-away Rhine. This point Mr. Hubinger has selected for the site of his residence, the foundation of which is already completed and ready now for the superstructure. This will be of frame, 38x64 feet, three-stories in height. Verandas 10 feet wide, with turned work ornamentation, will extend almost entirely around the building, which will contain fifteen rooms. The main hall will be 16x30 feet and in connection with this, and as part of it, will be a circular wing, or stair hall, 16 feet in diameter, in the center of which will be located a fountain. This circular wing will continue on up to the top of the building surmounted by a stained glass skylight and ventillator, and will contain a stairway which will be a model of the carpenter's skill. The parlors will be fourteen feet square, sitting-room 15x18 feet, dining-room 16x19 feet, library 22x14 feet, and billiard-hall, located in third story, 24x40 feet. The roof will be of slate and the outside ornamentation of wood and metal. The inside finish will be of oak, yellow and white pine woods oiled. The building will contain all the modern fittings of a first class residence, will be heated by steam, and illuminated by electricity. The grounds surrounding the residence will be in keeping with the same, and no expense will be spared to make the entire place a thing of beauty and a joy to those who own and occupy it. Mr. Will Cobb is the contractor for the erection of this elegant building and he says it will be impossible to complete it before sometime next spring. In order that the public may not be shut out from the river view, which at this point has been enjoyed so much, Mr. Hubinger will construct a graveled roadway encircling his property so that those who may desire can drive out on the bluff and return again to the Avenue at pleasure. This residence, together with the extensive grounds that surround it, when fully completed as contemplated by the owner, will be as elaborate probably as any in the state. And Keokuk is to be congratulated on so costly an improvement.

THE DAILY GATE CITY
JULY 7, 1887.

STARCH FACTORY.

Proposition of J. C. Hubinger to the City.

The following proposition made by J. C. Hubinger relative to the establishment of a starch factory is under consideration by the Business Men's Association.

KEOKUK, IOWA, July 5.—To the Young Men's Business Association of Keokuk: The undersigned, John C. Hubinger, has been trying to arrange his business matters so that I might remove the starch factory business from New Haven, Conn., but have been unable to make the arrangement which I hoped to make. Personally, I will agree that if a half block on east side of Johnson street, between Tenth and Eleventh, or Ninth and Tenth streets, where I can get access by a side track to the railroad down Johnson street, upon which is built a substantial, solid building fifty feet deep from Johnson street to the alley between Johnson and Main streets, on both streets, and along Johnson street, made strong to hold grain, built of stone and brick, and the property and money invested were exempted from city taxation for ten years and the property converted to me fee simple title, I will take the property and agree to establish a factory for the manufacture of starch, etc., therein, and will give employment regularly to from 100 to 200 hands right along and will manufacture from 1,000 to 2,000 bushels of corn daily. JOHN C. HUBINGER.

It is estimated $25,000 will be needed in order to accept this proposition, which, if correctly interpreted, asks for ground and building and remittance of taxes for ten years. It will doubtless receive attention in a few days and if the proposition is considered equitable and reasonable probably another important industry will be established.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Enter APRIL 12. 1888 matter

AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS.

Progress Being Made on the Hubinger Residence and Grounds.

Probably the busiest scene in the city is that presented at the J. C. Hubinger residence and grounds on Grand avenue, where one hundred men and a large number of teams are employed. Carpenters are engaged in completing the interior of the beautiful residence, which will be an architectural ornament that will adorn the avenue and attract the attention of passengers traveling up and down the Mississippi river. The plans which have been prepared for the surrounding grounds and are being executed with all the expedition that men are capable of indicate that the yard adornment will be of surpassing loveliness. Excavation for the lake is progressing with due rapidity and will be completed in a short time. Near the centre of it will be the artesian well where there will be located a large and handsome fountain. Below the fountain there will be constructed a bridge with asphaltum walk. It will have an arched opening so that skiffs and small boats may pass through beneath. At the west end of the lake there will be two rustic bridges and an attractive little summer house. Directly in front of the residence are the terraces, which are now being sodded, an asbestine walk leading to the lake, which will be protected by an iron railing. At either end of this railing will be a huge bronze deer. Around the lake, which will be five hundred feet in length, will be a handsome asphaltum drive and walk for pedestrians. Mr. Hubinger has already expended $13,000 on his residence and grounds and expects to make improvements that will require fully $40,000. He would like to have Grand avenue paved with asphalt and would assist liberally if the city would order it done.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Ent MARCH 20. 1888 matter

—Mr. J. C. Hubinger has reason to feel angry at the actions of some of the people who visited his new residence and grounds on Sunday. Considerable damage was done to his terraces and slopes. Mud was tramped over his porches and the damage is considerable as well as exasperating. Mr. Hubinger proposes to make his grounds so ornamental that it will be a treat to visit them. He will make them free to all, provided this privilege is not abused. But if visitors persist in doing damage he will be obliged to close them to all. Mr. Hubinger is prompted by a generous motive in making his grounds free, but visitors will be expected to exercise some precaution to prevent injury to property.

Constitution-Democrat

MARCH 24, 1896.

HUBINGER TALKS.

He Makes Some Statements About Electric Lighting of Cities.

It has already been announced that J. C. Hubinger has acquired a large interest in the Davenport electric light, and had a contract with the city of Davenport to light its streets, at a price less than he asks to light this city. This fact has occasioned some comment and Mr. Hubinger was seen today and told that it had been asked why he could not furnish light in Keokuk as cheap as in Davenport.

"The number of lights furnished Davenport," replied Mr. Hubinger, "is nearly thrice what I furnish Keokuk, and besides the Davenport company furnishes nearly 15,000 incandescent lights, and gas enough for that many more jets. Our contract there runs for twenty-five years, with an arbitrating clause, which provides that at the end of each five years, if in the meantime the expense of producing electricity has been lessened, the cost of the lights to the city shall be reduced in like proportion.

Mr. Hubinger said that if he made a twenty or twenty-five year contract with this city, the city would receive like benefits; that in case the cost of electrical production becomes less, or in case the water power is developed and electrical power can be furnished half as cheap as it can now be produced with coal for fuel, he would have to make a corresponding reduction of the price of the lights furnished to the city.

The arbitration clause in the Davenport contract Mr. Hubinger explained much in the same way as in the proposition he made to the Keokuk city council. It provides that every five years the city shall appoint two men and Mr. Hubinger a like number, they to agree on and fix the price to be paid per light for the ensuing five years; if they are unable to agree these four shall agree on a fifth man and they shall then settle the question by arbitration. Another plan provided for if the first is not satisfactory, is for the city, every five years, to select three cities of like size and conditions with Keokuk, and Mr. Hubinger will do the same; the prices paid for city lighting in these places to be averaged and that would be the price for Keokuk.

In his conversation Mr. Hubinger advanced several arguments against municipal ownership. He stated that in procuring data on the question the council had overlooked an important point; that none of the plants of which they had obtained figures have been running more than five years, during which time the expense was small; but after from five to seven years nearly all the machinery in an electric light plant has to be replaced with new, thus making a great expense. He said Keokuk now had a good plant and it would take two or three years to fit up a new plant and get it in as good condition, and furnish as good light as the present one. Mr. Hubinger insisted that he was losing money on his present contract, and stated that if any of the council were skeptical about this statement, his books were open for their investigation. The city of Lyons, Iowa, where municipal ownership of the electric light plant had been tried and failed, was cited by Mr. Hubinger in support of his argument.

DAILY GATE CITY
NOV. 8, 1928

DIVORCE CASE IN EAST IS OF INTEREST

From New Haven, Conn., comes this story of the Hubinger divorce a number of local people recalling the principals in the divorce action:

Mrs. Mabel S. Reynolds Hubinger of Brownell Street, today received a divorce from Nicholas W. Hubinger, son of the starch manufacturer. Judge John Rufus Booth in superior court also awarded her alimony of $145,000.

Hubinger filed an answer to the suit and the case was listed as contested, but his attorneys did not examine witnesses or enter the proceedings except in the matter of alimony.

The Hubingers were married July 7, 1909. Hubinger was under the care of a conservator for eleven or twelve years, the conservator having been appointed when it was claimed that he was spending his money too freely. He was released early in 1927, when the divorce action was filed.

Hubinger, the former manager of a billiard parlor, receives only $2,500 a year from the estate of his father as do four other children. When his mother dies the $1,500,000 estate will be divided among the five children.

Constitution-Democrat.

FEBRUARY 14, 1899

ART IN DECORATION.

Newly Furnished Hubinger House Excites Great Admiration

It Is One of the Finest Specimens of High Art in the Country and Correct in Every Detail of Its Decorations.

The housewarming party Monday evening furnished the first opportunity to see the new furnishings of the Hubinger residence and the rooms in the addition recently completed.

The residence is very large and the addition improves the proportions of the whole as viewed from Grand avenue or Rand park. It stands on the highest part of the bluff and affords full view of one of the finest bits of scenery in America. Indeed, many travelers say that the old world has nothing better than the long stretch of the Mississippi, the terraced hills of Iowa nearly to Fort Madison in the mist, and the wooded bluffs of the Illinois shore with openings of highly cultivated farms and picturesque creeks running down to the father of all the waters.

The interior has been entirely made over regardless of everything except the best results. Each room has its own decorative scheme, but all are joined in one grand chord of color and harmonious whole. Everywhere is the handiwork of the best artists in the world, with not only technical skill, but that soul which is the essence of true art.

Through the vestibule of the main entrance one enters the reception hall reminding one of the baronial halls for immense mirrors multiply the space greatly, and the hall itself is a large one. Overhead the space is clear to the dome three stories above, but it is broken by the stairway which passes to the upper floors. The ceiling is in the dark Flemish oak with massive beams, beautifully hand carved, the detail being exquisite. The floor is tiled with mahogony, rosewood and oak, and the walls are hung with old Flemish tapestry, figured in heraldic designs. Fine carving is seen on the furniture of Flemish oak, each piece being an exact reproduction of actual sixteenth century work. Mediaeval statues in bronze hold up the electroliers on the newel posts of the stairway, and the electrolier depending from the ceiling is very handsome. The windows are all of stained glass and are hung with the richest of velvet in Flemish designs.

Acme of the Beautiful.

The drawing room is of the period of Louis Quartorze and the tone there is white. The walls are covered with white satin hand embroidered in designs of the court of Louis XIV, with wreaths of dark green and baskets of roses. The frieze is in old rose satin, also hand embroidered to match the walls, and the tapestries were made to order for Mr. Hubinger in Paris. The ceiling did not arrive in time for the party and is of Doughitt tapestry made in one piece and copied from a ceiling in a French palace of the empire. One end of the drawing room is an immense French plate mirror, the frames of the mirrors being upholstered in rose colored satin, the wood work being enameled in white and gold. The cabinets, tables and screens are painted with scenes in la belle France and are by Vernais-Martin. The statues are of Carrara marble and are masterpieces of sculpture. The carpet is royal Wilton in three shades of gold.

From the drawing room one enters the Moorish room through portieres of white satin embroidered in Vienna in gold by hand. The Moorish room is the most elegant in the house, but the dining room and perhaps some others dispute with it the palm for artistic decoration. It is the most elaborate of all, naturally, but its character prevents any sense of the decorations being overdone. The carpet has the splendor of color appropriate to the general design and the tapestries are all Moorish designs done in blue, cream and scarlet, the doorways and ceiling being hung with curtains from Armenia beautifully embroidered. The grills over all the arches and doorways are of the best work to be obtained among the Armenian wood carvers. A score of mosque lamps give light, dulled to poetry by shades, and some of them are centuries old. A richly inlaid standing lamp is the piece de resistence among them all. There are Turkish couches richly draped in the corners, and Turkish pipes and coffee sets are scattered here and there, while the room, while the room is nearly filled with appropriate bric-a-brac. There are several tables inlaid with pearl, and all the furniture is rich and in keeping with the design of the room. The bookcase is hung with draperies and has decorations of Benares brass and Damascus work. All the draperies are of Gagres-Fulkares and very old pieces of Damascus embroidery. On the walls are any number of Moorish scimetars, shields, armorial bearings, poniards and other things, each genuine and of enormous cost, in the aggregate. The windows are of stained glass in keeping with the room and elegantly draped.

The music room is in strong contrast to the Moorish room, but in passing from one to the other one does not notice that, owing to the shading down from one to the other being so artistically done. It is in French rococo, the woodwork in green and gold enamel, and the walls hung in silk brocaded frou-frou in pink and green. Figures pertaining to music are handpainted on the ceiling and frieze in relief, the frieze having song birds and festoons of roses, and the ceiling cupids singing carols. The carpet is in two shades of green with a border to match the frieze. The draperies in rose colored and green satin over rococo lace, are embroidered with cupids holding garlands and the piano cover matches them. A very fine statue of Diana occupies a niche.

Works of Art.

The billiard room is in crimson, the woodwork being mahogany and the walls upholstered in silk velour. Scenes of the chase are painted in panels on the wall and a magnificent elk's head occupies a niche. There are some fine oils here also. The draperies of green valour are embroidered with oak leaves and the furniture is elkhorn.

The dining room is of the time of the empire and a symphony in green and blue, a very difficult problem perfectly worked out. The walls are of velour velvet with fleur de lis figures and the hangings are of Viennese blue silk velour embroidered in gold with wreaths and fleur de lis. The ceiling has tapestry figures of fruits and the chairs are upholstered in the same design. The furniture is of mahogany.

The ball room is spacious and at the entrance is a canopy of mahogany velvet. The woodwork is in white and gold, and the walls are of pale rose shading to lighter tints in the ceiling. Overhead are cupids and dancing figures, and in panels in the walls are Doughitt tapestries of dancing girls of different nations. One end of the room is filled completely with an immense mirror. The windows are hung with silk brocatelle over Brussels lace, and in nooks and corners are inviting seats.

The reception room on the second floor is in five shades of blue combined with charming effect and is as beautiful as the rest of the house.

Passing through the Florentine upper hall, one goes to the third floor to the smoking room with its fine pictures, its cozy alcoves and its card table. The floor is covered with imported rugs. The guest chambers on this floor are in keeping with the magnificence of the rest of the house, one being of the Napoleonic era and the other being finished in pink and blue, the walls frescoed in rose and the hand painted elaborate decorations in light blue. The furniture is white enamel with hand painted decorations in Dresden figures.

To Speed the Parting Guest.

When the chimes of the clock warns one that it is time to leave, one notices a very handsome, tall Flemish clock in the reception hall, the chimes of which are the sweetest imaginable, and the case of Flemish oak a delight to those who love the antique.

It is very creditable to Mr. Hubinger that he had all this fine work done by and through Keokuk parties. W. P. Darwin is to be credited with the general designing, and it is something that he may be very proud of, the work being not excelled by any eastern decorators. The Wyman-Rand company obtained the materials and importations for Mr. Hubinger, and thus the whole house is not only a delight to the owner, but also something of which Keokuk may be very proud, not only for itself, but because it is distinctively a Keokuk production.

Best of all, notwithstanding the tens

of thousands of dollars spent upon the house, it gives one a first impression of homelikeness, and the richest of the rooms does not seem to be merely an attempt at display, but one in which the costly means have been kept subservient to the chief end, that of use.

Constitution-Democrat.

FEBRUARY 14, 1899

THE SOCIETY EVENT.

Hubinger Party Was a Swell Function and Most Beautiful.

Everybody Was There, and Every Appointment Was Recherche in the Extreme and Arranged With Great Artistic Taste.

For weeks Keokuk society has been looking forward to the Hubinger party, given partly as a house warming after the extensive additions and remodeling of the beautiful home of the family on Grand avenue.

The rosy anticipations were more than fulfilled in the event itself, and even those who were talking in advance of a crush and the discommoding details of very big affairs, were vieing with the others in praises of the real enjoyment of the party long before the second dance had started. It was one of those affairs which are not only the aggregation and crystallization of the best society of the city, but also an occasion of genuine pleasure to the guests. This was the result of the fact that there is plenty of room in the house for hundreds and that every detail of the party had been arranged with apparently the one idea of the pleasure of those invited.

In the afternoon there was a reception to part of the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hubinger, and about 125 people came then. The hours were from 5 to 7, but it was after 8 o'clock before the callers departed, time flying so quickly that it was impossible to keep track of the hours. The people invited in the afternoon met with such charming hospitality from the host and hostess that those invited for the dancing party were congratulated as they arrived by those leaving the afternoon reception.

Between the two chief affairs, the ladies who assisted Mrs. Hubinger, their husbands, and a few special friends of the host were entertained at supper. In the poem of a dining room a very pleasant hour was spent between the blue points and the champagne, the party being just large enough for conversation and congenial enough to make this hour one of real enjoyment.

What It Was Like.

By 9:30 o'clock many of the guests of the evening had arrived, and by 10 o'clock the party was as brilliant a picture as one often sees. Everybody was there. The venerable S. E. Carey and the cultured Governor Irwin were in one corner talking about how the kings of a few centuries ago had not castles equal to the one of the Mississippi in the new west.

In nooks in the Moorish room with its art treasures and its softened light coming through pink globes, redolent of the very atmosphere of love, were young couples and beauty listened coyly to the words of the society youth who was one of the first to go to war when his country called. He was more handsome in a dress suit than in a Karka uniform, but not a whit more interesting. In the music room with its very fine statue of Diana in Carara marble were men talking politics and literature, and women talking art and the other things that women delight to chat about.

In the billiard room men were trying to make caroms in spite of the many people looking at the very artistic furnishings of the room. In the smoking room on the third floor late comers were removing their wraps and early comers who had slipped away for a smoke were admiring the pictures and chatting. In the dining room relays were being served to the exquisite menu, and in the reception hall there were young men around the punch bowl as the strains of the Tajada orchestra in the tower came floating down to add its touch to the suggestions of fairyland.

Cordial Hospitality.

In the magnificent drawing room stood the host and hostess. Mr. Hubinger cordial as ever, and Mrs. Hubinger making a striking figure with her queenly poise, fine figure and handsome white satin costume. The courtly air she must have learned in old and aristocratic New Orleans combined with her southern cordiality won at once the hearts of those who had not felt thoroughly acquainted with her before. She changed many acquaintances into friends that night. She wore an elegant brocaded white satin trimmed with pearl passementerie and chiffon, with demi-train and aigrette, and the gown was very becoming to her style of beauty. The other member of the receiving party was Mrs. E. S. Baker, who never looked better and gave added charm to the greetings extended the guests, with her fine culture and delightful manners. She was gowned in gold colored satin trimmed with rare point lace and chiffon with shirred sleeves. She wore some very fine diamonds, including a large brooch.

The friends of Mrs. Hubinger who assisted in caring for the guests in the dining room and other apartments were Mrs. W. A. Brownell, Mrs. Ed. Jaeger, Jr., Mrs. John E. Craig, Mrs. D. R. Craig, Mrs. John N. Irwin, Mrs. D. A. Collier, Mrs. D. B. Hillis, Mrs. B. P. Taber and Mrs. B. C. Taber.

Mrs. W. A. Brownell wore a very becoming costume of black velvet, the corsage filled with white mousselin de soie and point lace. Aigrettes were worn in the hair and the ornaments of her costume were diamonds. She carried a bunch of red roses.

Mrs. John E. Craig wore black satin, trimmed with lavender velvet and jet and white applique. She carried white roses and wore some handsome diamonds and pearls.

Mrs. D. R. Craig was gowned in a becoming black and white satin, trimmed with elegant black ostrich tips and lace, and an aigrette was worn in the hair. She wore pearls for ornaments and carried white roses.

Mrs. B. P. Taber was gowned in a handsome and elegant white satin, brocaded with lavender and trimmed with striped satin chiffon ruffles. She wore an aigrette of ostrich tips and diamonds.

Mrs. D. B. Hillis was very fine looking in a handsome costume of black satin and velvet trimmed with lace and pink velvet. She carried red roses and wore diamonds.

Mrs. Collier was gowned in a handsome white brocaded satin trimmed in fine duchess lace. She wore diamonds for ornaments.

Mrs. B. C. Taber wore an elegant gown of white brocaded satin trimmed with white net and pink flowers for ornaments. She wore some fine diamonds.

Mrs. Ed. Jaeger, Jr., had a gown of delicate pink satin trimmed with pearl passamenterie, lace and chiffon with diamonds for ornaments.

Mrs. John N. Irwin was charming in a gown of pink and black satin, with black satin skirt. She carried roses and her ornaments were diamonds.

In the Ball Room.

Up in the ball room with its one side of French plate mirror glass which made it seem even larger than it really is, there were the loveliest of the Keokuk girls and the handsomest of the men in society making a picture for one to carry in his memory. The Empire orchestra of Quincy was concealed behind palms, and the young people, and youths and maidens of a few more years, gave themselves up to the delights of the waltz, while those who looked on gained equal pleasure from the beauty of the scene. Gowns of pink, and creations in white, with the black of dress suits of the men for just enough contrast, went whirling by in a regularity of confusion, and it was a ball worthy of cities a score of times the size of Keokuk. Opposite the mirrored end of the ball room was a curtain of Spanish moss, with carnations sprinkled among the fine, green lines, giving a very pretty effect.

The supper, served in the dining room, which is perhaps the most artistically decorated in the house full of the best of decorative art, was of special excellence and the Hotel Keokuk was the caterer, its order being filled with the best qualities in Chicago. It was delicate and delicious, with pretty little cards for favors, and the following menu:

Blue points.
Celery. Olives.
Cheese straws. Salted almonds.
Croquettes of sweetbreads, with mushroom sauce.
Charlotte russe.
Individual ice cream.
Assorted cakes.
Coffee.

The special characteristics of the party were refinement and elegance of the artistic type that goes with the highest culture. Everything was re-

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cherche in the extreme down to the most minute detail and every detail was in harmoney with the whole. The lights from the electroliers and the many single globes were very bright to make the reception hall and the drawing room brilliant with hospitality, and in the Moorish room were subdued to give just the right tone to the dream of the east which was there in its magnificent decorations.

While the party was a very large one, it yet was dominated by the quiet elegance which goes with real culture along the best lines and the hearty hospitality which too often gives place to formality in large social functions in these later days. The place of the Hubingers as entertainers was fixed very high by the house warming and heart warming party, which will be talked about for a long time to come.

The Guests.

The invited guests included: Messrs. and Mesdames D. B. Hillis, Wm. A. Brownell, J. C. Daniels, J. N. D. Dickinson, J. F. Elder, A. E. Drake, J. A. Dunlap, J. P. Christy, Geo. F. Collier, D. A. Collier, J. W. Hobbs, A. Hollingsworth, J. P. Hubbell, H. C. Huiskamp, H. W. Huiskamp, John N. Irwin, D. H. Annable, D. J. Ayres, T. F. Baldwin, W. Bancroft, C. P. Birge, J. M. Bisbee, Wm. Blom, D. R. Craig, W. C. Maxwell, J. C. Paradice, A. T. Paul, W. S. Phillips, W. S. Robertson, J. D. Rubidge, J. F. McGrath, H. B. Blood, T. R. Board, Gibson Browne, H. Brownell, W. L. Byers, S. E. Carey, J. R. Carpenter, Ed. S. Carter, E. M. Sherrill, W. H. Carter, W. S. Sample, Wm. Sinton, E. D. Snodgrass, E. B. Newcomb, V. B. Ochiltree, G. R. Parsons, C. S. Pond, George Collingwood Tucker, H. W. Upham, F. J. Weber, Carl Weber, C. F. Weismann, C. S. Whitney, B. P. Taber, G. Walter Barr, E. T. Bartruff, Wells M. Irwin, E. Jaeger, Sr., Geo. F. Jenkins, A. E. Johnstone, D. W. McElroy, E. Jaeger, Jr., Wm. Logan, A. J. McCrary, J. A. McElroy, H. A. Becker, R. H. Bell, M. L. Boyles, F. M. Bennett, J. A. Evans, J. C. Fry, F. M. Fuller, A. C. Goodrich, W. G. Goodrich, T. P. Gray, D. B. Hamill, Wm. Fulton, Ira W. Wills, D. W. Young, Jr., Henry Strickler, E. J. Wolfe, N. Aldrich, J. A. M. Collins, W. B. Collins, H. R. Collisson, A. E. Connable of Hamilton, L. K. Covington, J. B. Diver, Harry Fulton, George Hill, H. Scott Howell, F. T. Hughes, J. M. Huiskamp, F. H. Jones, J. H. Anderson, J. J. Ayres, E. S. Baker, Wm. Ballinger, W. Steele, H. H. Trimble, C. A. Warwick, W. C. Williamson, W. T. S. White of Clarinda, Adams Ballinger, W. H. Bowman, E. French, H. A. Heath, Stewart of St. Louis, Naumann of Burlington, Fulliam of Muscatine, Wheeler of Quincy, O. D. Walker, D. Carwalho, J. F. Hubinger, J. A. Scroggs, N. W. Hubinger of New Haven, Conn., J. E. Hubinger of New Haven, Conn., J. J. Hubinger of Indianapolis, A. E. Matless, Ralph Brownell, I. A. Sawyer, Leonard Matless, Palmer Trimble, F. Wharton Jones of Chicago, F. J. Weess, F. B. Dorsey, W. T. Trimble, F. LeBron, J. C. Weess, H. I. Sawyer, A. Schueler, B. C. Taber, C. R. Joy, H. M. Lourie, C. F. McFarland, D. W. Mills, A. H. Moody, S. W. Moorhead, Frank Nagel, T. H. Pond, T. D. Rickards, W. J. Roberts, T. J. McGrath, A. J. Mathias, T. J. Maxwell, W. C. Howell, J. E. Craig, N. A. Spiesberger, Dan Lyons, Willis H. Davis, T. L. Wales, H. N. Wheeler of Quincy, F. G. Thomas of Mooar, B. C. Taber, O. S. Stanbro, Geo. D. Rand, C. W. Rand of Burlington, C. E. Ruth, Geo. Rix, John S. Moore, H. A. Kinnaman, J. F. Kiedaisch, Luke Huiskamp, Geo. Hassall, W. H. Green of Baltimore, J. G. Erhart, J. W. Delaplaine, A. C. Decker, John Cosgrove, Booge of Sioux City, Henry Bank, Jesse Vail of St. Louis; Mesdames A. B. Chittenden, Kellogg, S. Carter, A. J. Wilkinson, W. S. Ivins, L. B. Field, L. J. Hutchinson, H. B. Riddle, C. Ruddick, J. A. Hanna, Flower, M. C. Wills, C. B. Walcott, A. R. Craig, M. E. Clemens, Sidney Cox, E. Grennell, M. Hedges, A. Hosmer, J. B. Howell, J. C. Hughes, M. A. Howell, M. A. Hoyt, Harriet E. Barney, Augusta Kilbourne, Miller, English, E. A. Leighton, H. Reps, Davis, Brawner, M. A. Runner, Marshall, Starkwather, Aveilhe, Mary Weismann, E. G. Summers, Stanton, Rollins, Minnie Delaplaine, Comstock, Misses Irwin, Graham, Hambleton of Hamilton, Cox of Chicago, Irwin, Annie Graham, Maas of St. Louis, Hontoon of New Jersey,, Florence Alexander, Virginia Alexander, Anderson, Caroline Baldwin, Martha Baldwin, Bancroft, Carver, Hosselton, Collins, Connable of Hamilton, Craig, Wills, Ochiltree, Scott, Ruddick, Sample, Sawyer, Ruddick, Sample, Schueler, Steele, Pittman, Ivins, Pittman, E. K. Steele, Pittman, Evans, Fry, Elizabeth Fulton, Nannie Fulton, Berry, Gage, Celestine Gibbons, Louise Gibbons, Carrie Hamill, Emily Hamill, Gladys Becker, Sadie Marion Becker, Bisbee, Jessica Becker, Blom. Blood, Jenkins, Johnstone, Logan, Lourie, McCrary, Inez McCrary, Townsend, Clara Trimble, Upham, Helen A. Trimble, Upham, Warwick, Brownell, Marshall, Mathias, Maxwell, Mathias, Meigs, Louise Meigs, Parsons, Read, Hill, F. A. Hill, Hobbs, Howell, Huiskamp, Grace Huiskamp, Daniel, Davis, Carrie Davis, Drake, Dunlap, Drake, Carey, Anna Carter, Grace Carter, Irene Carter, Jennie Carter, Clarke, Collier, Hutchinson, Wolcott, Williamson, Renihan, Huiskamp, Hughes, Huiskamp, Caroline Brinkman, Allen, Horne, M. O. Hoyt; Messrs. S. M. Clark, Ed. F. Brownell, Hillhouse Buel, E. F. Carter, R. F. Collier, C. C. Collier, T. R. Craig, J. C. Davis, E. W. Davis, C. F. Davis, Frank Dunlap, A. D. Dunlap, S. I. Sawyer, L. A. Hamill, B. B. Hobbs, C. Hornaday, Jas. W. Huiskamp, J. B. Hutchinson, George Edward Marshall, S. T. Marshall, J. R. Maxwell, M. Meigs, F. G. Moorhead, P. B. Newcomb, H. Robertson, H. L. Titus, J. V. E. Titus, B. B. Townsend, L. R. Titus, W. H. Titus, Howard Tucker, A. Weber, J. B. Weil, H. O. Whitney, W. S. Ivins, M. E. Jewett, L. W. Klein, Maurice Klein, R. B. Lourie, Robt. M. Lapsley, W. A. Logan, W. T. Bisbee, W. G. Blood, H. Boyden Blood, Gibson Browne, E. H. Brownell, Leighton Brownell, T. G. English, G. C. Evans, W. G. Good, C. A. Laubach, J. H. Ruddick, O. J. Sala, E. C. Taber, W. P. Darwin, W. H. McGrath, Geo. Rutledge, J. W. Willis, J. M. Collins, E. W. Collins, J. S. Collins, Walter Covington, G. W. Cox, S. Cox, H. H. Craig, Wm. Fulton, E. O. Sisson, H. W. Allen, I. J. Annable, Ross E. Baker, J. C. Baker, Lees Ballinger, A. Hambleton, O. W. Weyer, J. P. Boyle, M. E. Justice, E. R. Cochrane, Wm. Loeffler, Stern, Sample, Renihan, J. B. Paul, Moeller, Miller of Burlington, Thos. McCalla, J. A. McElroy, J. Kirkpatrick, Geo. Jones, F. H. Jones, Jr., H. A. Heaslip, Hamill Horne, H. T. Graham, French, J. E. Eagan of Minneapolis, Corey, Carwalho, I. Carwalho, R. L. Collier, W. A. Brinkman and F. P. Brownell.

The Gate City.
FEBRUARY 14, 1899.
THE GATE CITY COMPANY,
KEOKUK, IOWA.

A TRIUMPH OF ART

The Magnificent Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hubinger.

WEALTH AND ART COMBINED

Magnificence, Beauty and Good Taste are all Apparent.

The glimpse that Keokuk people had last evening of the magnificent new home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hubinger was the most delightful surprise that has come to them in many years. Ever since the process of remodeling began public expectation had been raised to the highest pitch, but the completed work caused the realization to surpass all that had been dreamed of in regard to what is unquestionably the most beautiful home in the entire west.

All that art, all that wealth, all that taste and refinement could suggest have entered into the construction and furnishing of this palatial home. It is complete in every detail, from the hand-painted flower on one of the friezes to the glories of the Moorish room or the chaste and dainty beauty of the drawing room. Each part and parcel of the myriads of decorations is complete in itself. Taken together they form a grand whole, that is splendid and magnificent, without sacrificing any of the canons of good taste. Each part is so perfectly in harmony with the others, that the tout ensemble is simply beyond description. The beauties of the residence could not be exaggerated and they cannot be described. They cannot even be seen in one visit. Each visit to any of the

apartments reveals some delightful discovery, something new that surprises and delights, so that one is fairly bewildered by the multiplicity of charms.

Time, art, labor and wealth have been required to bring the beautiful conception to its full fruition. Patience and skill have been called in. But the marvel of beauty that has been wrought should amply repay all that has been expended. No city of the middle west contains more beautiful homes than Keokuk, but this is the flower of them all. A fleeting glance, while it bewilders and amazes, does not give one a complete idea. At each turn new beauties are discovered, and only by repeated inspections can a full idea of the residence be conceived. While no descriptive powers could do justice to all that may be seen, a short account of the furnishings of the various rooms may aid last evening's visitors to retain a more vivid picture of all that was to be seen.

Surrounded by its spacious grounds, the house occupies the most commanding situation in the city. Its windows, balconies and porches overlook the great river stretching for miles in its graceful sweep toward the Nauvoo hills. Its towns, turrets and high gabled roofs give it a picturesque appearance and its size suggests something of the spacious apartments that are included in its walls.

Entering from Grand Avenue at the southern exposure one enters through a small but handsome vestibule. Mirrors at the sides give the idea of unlimited room and overhead a handsome electrolier furnishes brilliant light as one passes over the tiled floor and enters the reception hall, which is furnished in Flemish style. The ceiling is made of beams of carved Flemish oak illuminated in ivory white, the panels being of Flemish blue. The rugs on the floor are Geiorges and antique Persian and are the handsomest ever brought to Keokuk. The walls are hung with Flemish tapestry, the figures being heraldic designs. The furniture is all heavy carved Flemish oak, each piece being a reproduction of Sixteenth century pieces. The floor is inlaid mahogany, rosewood and oak. On the stairway serving as supports for lamps are bronze medieval statues. The lights are all in wrought iron lanterns of the same period. The windows, which are all of stained glass, are hung with rich Flemish velvet.

To the right of the reception hall is a Louis Quatorze drawing room which is one of the richest and daintiest to be seen any place. The walls are covered with white satin embroidered by hand in Louis XIV. designs of wreaths of green and baskets of roses. The frieze is done in old rose satin, hand embroidered with the same figures as the walls. The tapestries were made in Paris to order. The ceiling when the room is fairly finished will be a Doughitt tapestry made of one piece of canvas and a copy of a ceiling in one of the French palaces. The wood work in this room is enameled white and gold. One end of the drawing room is completely filled by a large mirror. The frames of the mirrors and drawings are upholstered in padded rose colored satin. The carpet is a royal Wilton self-colored in three shades of gold. The furniture is gold framed and upholstered in gold satin. The cabinets, tables and screens are all of Vernais-Martin, elaborately painted in French scenes. Placed about the room are many exquisite statues of Carrara marble. The hangings of the entrance to the Moorish room are of white satin, embroidered by hand in gold and done in Vienna.

Passing through this entrance from the drawing room, one enters the Moorish room, which is by many considered the handsomest in the entire house. It is perfection, and by competent judges is deemed superior to the famous Moorish room in the Waldorf, New York. The carpet is of Moorish design of splendid colors. The openings and arches all have grills cunningly carved by Armenian workmen and inlaid with mother of pearl. The tapestries are all Moorish designs done in cream, scarlet and blue. All the doorways and the ceiling are hung with curtains from Armenia embroidered with Moorish figures. In the room are perhaps twenty mosque lamps, several of them being many hundred years old. The work is all delicate open work and the lamps are inlaid with silver. One standing lamp, richly inlaid, is especially beautiful. The room has three handsomely draped corners, beneath which are luxurious Turkish couches. The walls are hung with Moorish armorial bearings, scimitars, shields, poniards and other weapons, all handsomely inlaid with silver, hand wrought. The book case is hung with Moorish draperies and has several Benares brass pieces and antique pieces of Damascus enameled work. All the draperies in the room are made of Gagres-Fulkares and antique pieces of Damascus embroidery.. The windows are stained glass Moorish figures, and are hung with draperies of the prevailing style. The room has several inlaid pearl tables and all of the furniture is rich and in keeping with the rest of the room. Every article in the room is a relic and has enormous value. There are Turkish pipes and coffee sets and numberless pieces of appropriate bric-a-brac. Altogether, the apartment is one of barbaric splendor, and the central idea is carried out to the minutest detail.

To the left of the Moorish room and at the end of the hall is the music room, which is done in the French rococo style. The woodwork is enameled green and gold. The walls are done in silk frou-frou brocaded in rococo figures, the colors being pink and green. The frieze and ceiling are hand-painted in relief, the figures being musical designs. The frieze represents festoons of roses with song-birds and the ceiling shows a number of Cupids singing. The chandeliers are all cut glass. The carpet has rococo designs in two shades of green, and has a border with figured garlands of roses to match the frieze.

The draperies are green and rose-satin over rococo laces, embroidered with Cupids holding garlands of gilded lace and flowers. The piano cover is of the same pattern. The mirrors and grills are draped in rose and green satin over silk cords held by gilded Cupids. All the window and corner seats are upholstered in green and rose satin. In a niche in the wall upholstered in crimson plush, is a Carrara marble statue of Diana, over which a rosy light is shed by a concealed lamp.

At the end of the Moorish room is the billiard room, simply and richly finished in crimson. The carpet is a crimson Wilton and the woodwork is mahogany. The walls are upholstered in crimson silk velour. In panels in the wall are four scenes of the chase, done on tapestry by Doughitt, showing hunting scenes from start to finish. The draperies are green silk velour, embroidered by hand in oak-leaves, carrying out the outdoor idea. The furniture is elkhorn upholstered in crimson velour like the walls. The large end window has a handsome canopy.

Through a hall tapestried after old English heraldic designs, one enters the empire dining room, a magnificent apartment. The colors are mahogany, green and blue, with a decidedly artistic effect. The walls are green velour velvet with fleur de lis figures above a high mahogany wainscot. The hangings are Viennese blue silk velour embroidered in gold with Empire wreaths and fleur de lis. The ceiling shades from dark Empire green to light olive in the center, with tapestry figures of fruits. The chairs are upholstered in tapestry with fruits. In an alcove is an exquisite statuette of "Love and Flowers" in Carrara marble. The carpet is a Wilton of mahogany, green and blue.

From the same hallway, one ascends the stairway to the ball-room, entering under a canopy of handsome mahogany velvet. The woodwork is enameled white and gold. The walls are done in pale rose, which shades out to lighter tints in the ceiling, where there are garlands and Cupids and dancing figures. The walls are paneled with Doughitt tapestries of dancing girls of different nations: Neapolitan, French masquerade, Moorish, Grecian, and a large central panel of Egyptian dancers with many figures, over which is a canopy of rose velour. One end of the room is done in mirrors. The panels and mirrors are framed into the walls with mahogany velour beaded with gold. The corners and sides of the room have handsomely upholstered seats. The windows are hung with silk brocatelle over Brussels lace.

Passing out under a crimson canopy, one reaches the upper front hall, the style of which is Florentine. The walls are done in crimson and gold, embroid-

ered with the arms of the famous Colonna family. The ceiling is crimson and gold covered to match the walls. The draperies are grass green silk over black nets with colored embroidery. The hall is a handsome companion to the Flemish hall below, which has also a magnificent mahogany clock seven or eight feet high, with a beautiful chime.

The third floor has the smoking room, which is furnished handsomely with foreign rugs. The two guest chambers in the rear are very handsome. One is done in lavender and green, the walls being frescoed in green. The carpet is green with garlands of lavender and pink roses. The windows, doors and bed are draped with French hand blocked cretonne, with broad bands of lavender embroidery on white applique. The furniture is mahogany of the Napoleonic period. The other is finished in pink and blue. The walls are frescoed in rose, the decorations being painted on in blue. The carpet is pink and the hangings of the bed, windows and doors are of white French cretonne, with painted roses of pink and blue with embroidery like the other room. The bed is brass with a handsome tapestry panel in the back, of Aurora. The furniture is white enamel with Dresden figures painted in colors. A charming reception room on the second floor is done in five shades of blue, from a dark shade in the carpet to delicate tints in the ceiling.

The entire house is in the most exquisite taste, the fittings and furnishings being designed by Mr. W. P. Darwin, who has searched the great houses of the old and new world for the materials he wished. The furnishings were secured through the Wyman-Rand Carpet company and are such as are seldom seen in the west. The entire house is a most beautiful creation, and Mr. and Mrs. Hubinger may well be proud of it. Their many friends were delighted with it and through their generous hospitality are enabled to enjoy it with the owners. It is palatial and handsome, but at the same time is not overdone, and gives that home-like impression that is so often sacrificed for elegance.

Constitution-Democrat.

FEBRUARY 7. 1891

OUR PEOPLE AT HOME

An Index to the Growth and Permanent Prosperity of a City.

The Magnificent Site and Palatial Residence of John C. Hubinger Situated on Keokuk's Beautiful Grand Avenue.

The homes of a city are even more an index to the prosperity and growth of that city than large mercantile houses and towering chimneys bearing off the smoke from immense and successful factories. In these pleasant and oftentimes luxurious places of family abode is exemplified the stability of that city's growth and prosperity. Here is shown the accumulation by earnest effort and the permanency of the growth. Point to us a city of homes and that moment we will show you a city of progress, education, intelligence, morality and permanent success—A safe place to live in and a good place to die in. This is a good test and Keokuk is willing to be tried by it every hour in the day, for no city of similar size can boast of more luxuriant, neat, tasty and happy homes. These are the pride of the city and force the admiration of every visitor who comes here and takes a walk or a drive over the place. Keokuk's growth in the matter of new factories and other business enterprises the past year has been a wonder to even her most sanguine citizens and the increase in handsome and neat residence buildings and improvements made upon those already erected has kept up with the march of progress in other channels.

Then while we are walking about, along the business lines, it was thought eminently proper that we should make an occasional sally into other parts of the city and give our beautiful homes a chance, since it is seen that their erection and improvement are so closely allied to the business prosperity and progress of Keokuk.

J. C. HUBINGER'S HOME.

All of our city readers and many from elsewhere have seen and admired J. C. Hubinger's magnificent home. It is a model of architecture and a gem in taste. Situated upon the romantic bluff of the broad Mississippi, it is one of the handsomest sites to be found anywhere upon the winding banks of that historic stream. The view is sweeping—and such a view. Miles of the beautiful shore along the border of the great Empire state of the west, Illinois, lies out in panoramic splendor before you. The calm river stretches out its miles of length, glistening in the sunlight and growing narrower and narrower as the distance comes between, till it vanishes from sight, tapering like a spear of silver piercing the far beyond. It is of the most attractive modern architecture, combining the Queen Anne and gothic orders, bounded by a most handsome veranda which reaches almost around the entire handsome building, but at the time of it completion, THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT gave a detailed description of its luxuriant interior, rivaling the splendors of the orient, and a fitting habitation for the most exacting votary of ease and luxury. The reader was then taken through the richly constructed and broad storm doors, at the Grand avenue entrance, to the more delicate inner doors leading into the reception hall, and here an object of beauty was met, the transoms over these doors being of costly cathedral glass of facinating design wrought in opalescent, venetian and cut plate glass, with jewels of sapphire, ruby, emerald, topaz, amethyst, amber and crystals, producing an effect marvelously beautiful. The reception hall was passed through and described, with the tower up which the staircase winds prettily to the second floor. The dome of the tower shows magnificently with its beveled plate glass mirrors reflecting the magnificence from below, together with its own wealth of handsomely designed windows of mosaic art glass. Beautiful designs of statuary decorate this hall, and other ideas of art add to its wonderful interest. At the end of the reception hall is the luxuriant dining room magnificent in its hangings of Japanese crystal drapery. To the right of the reception hall is the parlor, and was described as "a dream of fairyland." To the rear of the parlor is the library, tastily in keeping with the other departments. Large plate glass double doors lead from this room to the handsome conservatory. The culinary arrangements are also on the first floor.

The hallway of the second floor is handsomely decorated; then there is the blue room on this floor, the red room and the yellow room, all in gorgeous tints to suit the name by which they are designated. The sitting room is also on the second floor, being located in the southeast wing, where an Oriel window, elaborately embellished with cathedral glass of the most artistic design, lends enchantment to this lovely room which soon became the favorite lingering place of Mr. Hubinger. Then there is the sewing room and the bath room, both being splendidly designed and equipped for the purposes for which they are used, the latter being a perfect gem of its kind, having every appliance necessary.

Mr. Hubinger's laboratory is on the third floor, where his labors and experiments are performed. It is most conveniently arranged and elaborately furnished. A grand view may be obtained from the alcove in front. To the right of the tower dome are two rooms very handsomely furnished for the use of domestics.

The cellar is floored with cement and the laundry is in the basement. The latter is very elaborate in its arrangement having all the conveniences that could be acquired.

Residence of John C. Hubinger.

The beautiful home is lighted throughout with incandescent light and when the shades of evening come and its brilliancy is spread about this jeweled and glittering structure, the interior sparkles indeed like a dream of beautiful wonderland.

The grounds might be spoken of, reaching as they do from Rand park to Eighth street—the new green house; the long lake upon whose quiet bosom now sits moored a pretty skiff as if waiting this cold weather for somebody to skip pleasantly down from the smiling little summer house on the bank near by and paddle it out gaily on the breast of the willing waters. Then again the fine lawn, interrupted here and there by straight and winding asbestine walks, the growing shrubbery, the attractive statuary and other interesting objects that feast the eye of taste for the beautiful—all these might be described, but there would be no end to it. Truly Mr. Hubinger may be congratulated on having one of the most magnificent sites and residences in the west; and this is one of Keokuk's many homes.

WORK OF ONE MAN.

What J. C. Hubinger Has Done for the City of Keokuk.

And Promise Still For Greater Things in the Future.---Vast Business Interests Combined—To Build an Immense Starch Factory.

The numerous enterprises with which the energetic, live, and public spirited business man, J. C. Hubinger, is connected, have been dilated upon in former issues of The CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT annual. It has been related how he has devoted his abilities, his labor, and his money towards the development of our city, and with what success, the many costly improvements which have been added to the list, stand as monuments to his liberality, loyalty and devotion to the city which he has chosen for his home. It was only a few short years ago that, casting about for a place where he could build a home, rear his family, and invest his money to the best advantage, he decided upon Keokuk as the city offering the best advantages educationally, socially and commercially. The average citizen of Keokuk cannot fully realize what he has done for the city since he began his work. He is a man who decides quickly and with rare good judgment. He has never made a failure in any single one of his numerous undertakings. On the other hand his successes have not been ordinary ones. There are degrees in this matter, the same as in others. No one ever imagined that he could change the unsightly strip of ground which crowned the avenue bluffs, into one of the most charming pieces of landscape that the most artistic eye might wish to view. But he did it. Nobody, no matter how lively their imagination might be, would have dreamed of the beautiful avenue he has created out of that wretched public thoroughfare which preceded it. But the lakes, broad walks, terraces, rare trees, shrubs and flowers, are there as witnesses. But all of this aside. J. C. Hubinger has decided to concentrate his many and vast interests into one, and it promises to exceed even the greatest of all his former successes. His starch business, as is well-known, is that to which he devotes most attention. Heretofore this firm has not manufactured the crude starch, although using vast quantities in their business of processing for the celebrated Elastic starch of the New Haven plant, and the Wax starch of the Keokuk industry. Lately a trust was formed by the different manufacturers of the crude starch, and as is invariably the case when competition is prevented, the price of the article has been advanced. This fact determined Mr. Hubinger to organize a company for the manufacture of crude starch which will be independent of the trust, with a capital sufficiently large to fight the trust if necessary. The new company has already been incorporated and capitalized. The interests of his brothers N. W. and J. E. Hubinger in the New Haven starch business were disposed of to certain capitalists of Chicago, who transferred them to the J. C. Hubinger company. J. C. Hubinger puts into the new incorporation all of his real estate and personal property with the exception of his elegant residence property on Grand avenue, and it should be stated in this connection, that in addition to his interests in the enterprises of J. C. Hubinger & Co., he has between $200,000 and $300,000 besides. But the New Haven and Keokuk starch interests, the Keokuk Electric Light and Power plant, his property on Main street, and everything which belongs to him, with the exception named, goes to the new company. So it will be seen that Keokuk, through the enterprise of J. C. Hubinger, will have a starch factory. And what does that mean? It means that an institution backed by about $2,000,000 will be added to those manufactories which are already here, and one which will contribute largely to the wealth and prosperity of Keokuk, in the most satisfactory manner. It will be the greatest starch factory in the world. Employing between 500 and 1,000 operatives, the ranks of labor's cohorts will be recruited in a gratifying degree. This means a fresh impetus to business in general, and nice livings for thousands of people. It means work for the carpenters and mechanics. It must be taken into consideration that there are also indirect benefits to follow the establishment of the new starch factory. Vast quantities of boxes will be used, and they will be manufactured in Keokuk. This is one result. Another will be the creation of a first-class market for corn, as the factory will require from 10,000 to 30,000 bushels of the grain per week. The strength of the new concern will be enhanced by the exceeding

Work of one man - pg #1

prosperity of the Elastic starch factory, at New Haven, and the Wax starch establishment at Keokuk both of which are in a most flourishing condition. The former company declared a dividend of over sixteen per cent on a basis of $1,000,000 last year. This is a remarkable result, for the small capital invested. These benefits accrue to the new company. Keokuk realizes that the credit of this new and mammoth enterprise must go to J. C. Hubinger, a citizen who has that faith in her future, that he is willing to invest all his property, and even all of his money, if necessary, in a Keokuk enterprise. Yet he is clear headed enough to discern the inducements and profits which may be wrested from the future, through the enterprise he has undertaken.

Constitution-Democrat

FEBRUARY 12, 1896.

HE PEDDLED POLISH.

John C. Hubinger, Keokuk's Most Unique Character.

From a Peanut Butcher to a Millionaire—Some Call Him a Fool, Some a Wise Man—He Gets There Just the Same—Has the Stuff and the Starch.

Quincy Herald: Owing to the local prominence into which J. C. Hubinger the millionaire, has sprung, Quincy people would like to know more about the man personally and a Herald man went to Keokuk to find out all about him and to write the truth as it could be carefully ascertained where he is known. The Herald reporter did not make his real object known in Keokuk, but started the people he met to talking about Mr. Hubinger.

And it was not hard to do. Every man, woman and child in Keokuk seizes the first opportunity to tell a stranger about this man and his picturesque character. Picturesque is the only adjective which comes near hitting the mark, and that falls short. He is one of the most original men in America. Few pretend to know him; and most who do so pretend are fooling themselves. The fifteen puzzle, a game of chess, Turkish diplomacy and prophesying the weather are puddings compared with sizing up J. C. Hubinger. In Keokuk some say he is smart, some that he is a fool, some that he is good and some that he is bad, some have been prophesying his downfall every day for fifteen years; and all the time he has gone ahead in his own original way, whipped all his enemies and helped all his friends, and incidentally made about $8,000,000 in less than twenty years with his headquarters in Keokuk. He has been offered $6,000,000 for one of his numerous lines of business with which he is not bothering much lately, and, while the above estimate of his wealth is a guess, because neither he nor his head accountant probably knows within a million of what he is really worth, it is near enough to the truth and enough to make out of nothing in a few years.

He began with practically nothing as a newsboy on a train, making an honest effort to get people to buy magazines, books, bananas and fruit that they did not want. Then he succeeded as a sleight of-hand performer. He did not rival Herrmann, but succeeded sufficiently to save a little money. Then he obtained a recipe for making a starch which applied to a shirt bosom saves the price of a mirror in the house; he had only capital enough to make up a little of the product, which is a combination of common starch and something else, but he made a basketful and peddled it to housewives. Then he made some more, and the other day he changed his starch business into a corporation with $6,000,000 of paid up stock, all of which he controls.

Born in Keokuk, he often come back there to visit his parents, and every time he came he bought some city lots that the real estate men kept on hand especially to sell to suckers from the east. The agents gave a private banquet to themselves every time they sold Hubinger a block of "worthless" lots at a good figure. These lots are now among the most valuable in town, and the same agents are trying to buy them for about twenty times what they sold them for. The city grew in the direction Hubinger thought it would and the real estate men thought it wouldn't. And so it went from that time to this. He has been continually making a fool of himself, and in about five years realizing cent per cent on his foolishness, and furnishing cash to the wise men who as continually thought him crazy.

The everlasting conundrum in Keokuk is, what will Hubinger do next? and no one is rash enough to try to guess it. If he tells a reporter some day that he is going to lay a cable to Hawaii, it is a dead sure thing that some nice new cable will be lying on the bottom of the Pacific before long. And he does everything in a rush that is rather confusing to an ordinary mind. Let a man with a scheme come into his office and gain his attention by good luck to propose a plan involving about $100,000. Hubinger will ask him, "What is it?" keep one ear and both eyes on him, call out several orders to his clerks in the outer office at intervals, ask about three questions that cannot be dodged, and before the man has really opened up the subject, Hubinger says at a three-hundred-word-a-minute clip: "All right; I'll do it. Come in next Tuesday at 2 o'clock and I'll have the papers ready. I have to start to New York now. You'll have to excuse me. Nice day, isn't it? Good day." And a new factory goes up, or a new business is bought.

If, on the other hand, he breaks in with, "No; I am short of money now; I have to put a new engine in my light plant; glad I met you; good afternoon," the promoter might as well go home, for that is the last time he will ever get into Mr. Hubinger's office at the same time the owner is there. The fact is that he probably can think of two things at once constantly, and think, too, about ten times as fast as even a newspaper man has to produce thoughts. When he has made a decision he has thought the matter out as thoroughly in ten minutes as some men could do in ten days.

He likes to do his own work. He is his own chief electrician and electrical engineer; his own superintendent of a brick plant that cost $265,000; his own architect when he built a $100,000 residence, and so on. They do say he forgot to put in his plumbing until all the finishing was done; that he coupled his engine to the wrong end of the machinery; that he had came near killing himself several times with his dynamo, and similar tales; but these are most of them exaggerations of the mistakes which must happen to a man who is a novice at a certain work—even such a man as J. C. Hubinger.

At present he owns the starch business mentioned above; the Keokuk opera house; the consolidated electric plants of his home city; the street railway lines; numberless artesian wells, (and that is another good story); the recent purchase of nearly a whole county in Missouri, with mines and towns; and, if the recording angel knows what else he owns, she is an angelic bookkeeper—entitled to be called an expert.

Why such a diversity of interests?

That is a natural question that puzzles most of his neighbors. The true answer probably is, that he is getting all the amusement possible out of life. He buys property worth $50,000, or builds one which costs twice that, as other men buy billiard tables and bicycles. To him intense occupation is a recreation. He plays with the new and expensive toy for a while, and then drops it; sometimes he sells it, and sometimes he stores it in the attic of his attention for years and loses the interest on the investment. The only reason the people of Keokuk do not canonize him outright is because he sometimes stores a big thing away before they get done using it themselves. Some big project stops before it is finished, occasionally.

In the last ten years J. C. Hubinger has spent more money in Keokuk than the rest of the population combined. The laboring men simply worship him. If he has no work when an application is made, he starts something new to give a man a job. He has kept out of politics, but all the politicians know that whenever J. C. Hubiuger announces that he wants certain men elected to any city offices, they will go in by good majorities and parties will be forgotten in the wards where the laboring men live.

Mr. Hubinger is of late a little dissatisfied with the way Keokuk is treating him. The wiseacres who call him crazy and borrow money from him have succeeded in temporarily blocking some of his pet schemes. He invested in Mis-

uri lands, and will send some hundreds of families to live on them, probably as a shot across the bows as it were. He felt deeply the death of his wife about a year ago, and has been restless ever since. If he should suddenly move to Quincy in an effort to get among more congenial business men, no one need be surprised. The electric railroad is a fad that is now moving in his brain. Undoubtedly he will build it if he gets the right sort of treatment in Quincy.

Mr. Hubinger himself was not interviewed in the preparation of this article and is ignorant of its contemplation. He sincerely loves the truth and frankness in others as well as in himself. Even if it is not what he would have prepared for a biographical dictionary, he will be pleased with it, because it is correct and without a thought for its compliments or the reverse. All he desires is fair play, and that is the only thing the Herald has given him. It has not tried to make him over or polish him up.

The Gate City.
JANUARY 23, 1898.
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
KEOKUK, IOWA.

HUBINGER'S NEW ROLE.

Impression Abroad That He Wants to Grub Stake Klondyke Miners.

J. C. Hubinger is justly considered the most enterprising citizen of Keokuk. No man has a more varied number of business enterprises and his push and energy in maintaining them have made his name well known in many states. But there are disadvantages in having such an enviable reputation and Mr. Hubinger has been unable to escape at least one of them.

At the risk of marring the continuity of this article it is necessary to interpolate right here that this section of the country is full of brave men, men who are willing to go to the corners of the earth for fortune, beside whose aspirations the daring of the much vaunted '49ers pales into insignificance. In short there are men who want to go to the Klondyke. This, too, after reading all the newspaper yarns about the horrors of the Chilkoot Pass and the dangers of the Yukon, of the awful storms and snowslides, of the temperature 50 degrees below zero and last and most horrible of all to residents of this teeming Mississippi Valley, the pangs of hunger and throes of starvation endured by those who strive to win one ghastly smile from the goddess of fortune among the frozen golden mountains in the far north.

This is somewhat of a digression, but its pertinence will be apparent. To return to Mr. Hubinger, his interests are many and varied and scattered, but as yet he has not gone into the Klondyke business. That is, not to his knowledge. However, according to the knowledge of other people who live in the three states, he has. Whether the fever of Klondycitis has caused an effect similar to that said to be produced by the festive pipe and pill, or whether some wag of a drummer has been imposing on the credulity of the natives of the hamlets named below or whether these said natives are taking an ingenious manner of impressing upon the gentleman their own ideas of what would be a good thing for him to do, it is impossible to state. Suffice it to say that the impression has gone forth that Mr. Hubinger is going into the "grub staking" business. For the benefit of those unenlightened in regard to Klondyke terminology we would say that one in that business "stakes" the would-be miner for his "grub," that is to say, furnishes him with an outfit and provisions wherewith to keep the wolf from the door of his shanty, while the man who is the stakee tries to melt enough gold out of the snow to reimburse the staker for his expense and at the same time gain an independent fortune for both.

In some manner the impression has gone forth that Mr. Hubinger is going into this business. For almost a week past, the mails have been laden with missives from men who want to offer themselves on the altar of fortune. Letters have come from Warsaw, Carthage, Canton, Ft. Madison, La Grange, Hamilton and Alexandria, besides other places too numerous to mention. The writers are all anxious to be employed in the Klondyke and offer their services at very low rates, some even as low as $8 per day and expenses. At first those in charge of his correspondence were puzzled and answered the letters, endeavoring to correct the impression that has gone abroad. But the odds were against them. The Klondyke letters increased in geometrical progression with each mail and still they come. Finally the office force has been compelled to give up reading the letters, entertaining though they may be. The thing has gone on until there is no stopping it. Letters pour in like a Johnstown flood and are poured out as fast as they come in.

Down in Warsaw they got so excited that they held a convention, organized a Klondyke league and sent a delegate up to offer their services to Mr. Hubinger on equal shares. He came to Keokuk and the matter was explained but he didn't want that, he wanted a job. He finally went away after vainly trying to convince Mr. Hubinger that he intended to send a regiment to Alaska. He doesn't understand it yet and thinks he didn't see the right man but someone who was masquerading under the name of Hubinger.

All sorts of offers were made. Some men wanted $8 per day and expenses; others were willing to work on shares and take half of what they made; all wanted their expenses paid. Whoever started the story must be having some fun out of it, but it has cause Mr. Hubinger's office force some extra work and some fortune hunters a great deal of disappointment.

Constitution-Democrat
JUNE 10, 1896.

J. C. HUBINGER MARRIED.

Was United in Matrimony to Mrs. Viola Miller, of New Orleans.

There is a very will defined rumor afloat that J. C. Hubinger, of this city, has taken unto himself a wife in the person of Mrs. Viola Miller, of New Orleans. While this is only a rumor in may be put down as a fact that Mr. Hubinger has stolen a march on his many friends in this city, and that on his departure from this city several days ago, ostensibly for an eastern trip, he went to Nashville, Tenn., where he was united in marriage to Mrs. Miller, June 3 at the home of the bride's brother. Mr. Hubinger and his bride are at present enjoying a wedding trip in the east, whence they expect to go to Spirit Lake for an extended sojourn before returning to their home in this city.

Mrs. Hubinger will be pleasantly remembered by all who met her during her visit in this city the latter part of last winter. She is a beautiful and highly cultivated woman, who comes from one of the best families of New Orleans, and will fittingly grace the home over which she is to preside.

Mr. Hubinger's friends here only await the opportunity to extend him their hearty congratulations, after calling him to account for the surprise he has perpetrated on them.

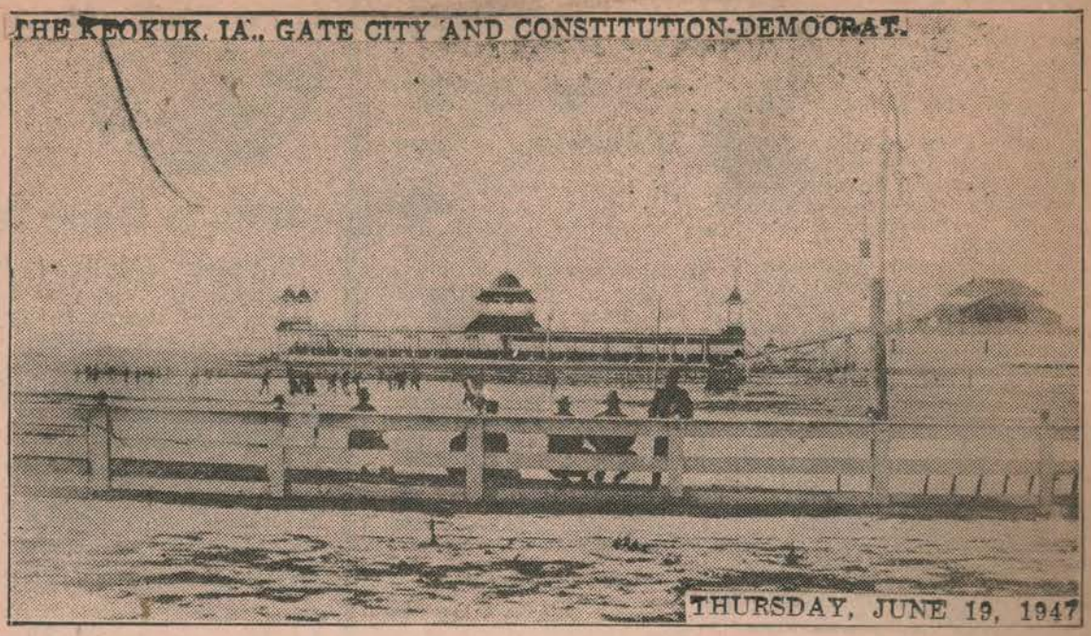
THE DAILY GATE CITY.
Entd MARCH 22. 1888 as matter

The Incandescent Light.

If you prefer to light your store, house or factory by gas, kerosene or tallow it is doubtless your privilege to do so, but if you want a light that supersedes the old method of lighting it is to your interest to use the electric light. The vast superiority of incandescent light over gas or oil has met with full pubiic recognition wherever used. It secures freedom from impure and over-heated air, from the moisture and noxious vapors produced by illuminating gas, which are unhealthful as well as destructive of fabrics and decortions of all sorts. Your ceiling and walls are kept white and clean—never darkened by gas smoke. It affords safety from fire, and yields a steady, brilliant light, which shows everything in true colors, like sunlight. In conclusion, I wish to say that I am ready to receive orders. The price will greatly depend upon the amount of subscribers I receive. If I succeed in placing two thousand lights, the price will be about two and a half cents per light. J. C. HUBINGER.

Huge Hubinger Park Opened 50 Years Ago

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT.



THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1947

This is a vietw of the old J. C. Hubinger amusement park which was nearing completion at this time 50 years ago and was formally opened in a gigantic Fourth of July celebration.

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Keokuk Agog With Preparations for 4th July Program

At this time 50 years ago all Keokuk was running hither and yon in the throes of what was probably its most elaborate preparations of all time with men, women and children bending every effort toward the gigantic Fourth of July celebration which would mark the grand opening of J. C. Hubinger's super-colossal amusement park which covered four square blocks adjoining the present site of Rand park.

The huge Casino, housed in a building 150 by 225 feet and boasting the largest stage West of Chicago, had been open for a week with the Andrews' Opera company presenting matinee and night performances of such operettas as "Bohemian Girl," "Martha," "Fra Diavolo," "Pirates of Penzance," "Pinafore," "The Mikado" and others; and large crews of workmen were rushing the completion of the park's other major attractions—the grand stand, hippodrome, baseball field, running track, swimming pools and "shoot the chutes."

Cherry Sisters Here.

The Fourth of July celebration, which was to mark the debut of Iowa's famous "Cherry Sisters" in the Casino (they were more or less of a bust here, incidentally) had attracted the booking of rail and water excursions from as far away as St. Louis and Peoria, and the steamer St. Paul had arranged a special "J. C. Hubinger Park Run" from St. Louis with plans to reach Keokuk Sunday, July 4, stay over for Monday's events, and then return home Tuesday.

Listed on the program for Monday were three bicycle races, three or four horse races, a baseball game between the Keokuks and Gate City,s the Cherry Sisters, Arthur H. Noel and Marie McNeill, world's greatest cornetists; the Doubt Family, band and orchestra; swimming contests; balloon ascensions by Prof. Stuart and Madame Marionette, and sensational fireworks featuring the Niagara Falls in action.

An article in The Gate City of 50 years ago described the Hubinger amusement park as follows:

Monument to Hubinger.

Off in one corner stands the mammoth Casino, a monument to the push and enterprise of J. C. Hubinger, a vast building erected in 30 days yet as complete and strong as if six months had been consumed in its erection. To the south of it is the grand stand from which the multitudes will witness the field sports on the Olympic field and the track events on the hippodrome. The roof of the grand stand is decorated with airy turrets and pagodas. Three thousand persons will find seats here and further to the south the bleachers will accommodate another crowd.

On the Thirteenth street side of the park the entire side is lined with neat bath houses, 16 by 7 feet in dimensions. There are 71 of them and they will afford privacy for the bathers while the exchange of garments is being made. In front of them and across the big track are the two lakes, Venus and Apollo.

Ornamental Bridge.

An ornamental bridge spans the strait that connects these two bodies of water. They will be filled with artesian water and ocean salt will be added in sufficient quantities to make them a splendid substitute for seaside bathing resorts. Experienced swimmers will be in charge and absolute safety is assured. Springboards, trapezes, floating barrels and seesaws will afford a variety of amusements.

Between the lakes and the grandstand is the great Olympic field, smooth as a floor and large enough for the biggest circus to spread its tents. Here the baseball diamond is laid out and later a football field will be located.

Skirting the great field and the lakes is the big track, 70 feet wide and but little short of a half mile in circumference. Bicycles will have a path 25 feet wide on the inner line of the track and the remainder will be given over to horse races.

Shoot the Chutes.

Sixty-seven feet from the ground and in the rear of the Casino stage a platform has been built from which a magnificent view is obtained. From this platform a steel incline 300 feet in length extends to a shallow lake in the rear of the grandstand.

This will give the means of enjoying what many think will be

the most popular form of amusement, "Shooting the Chutes." Strong flatboats have been built and the passengers will embark on the high platform. Then will begin that thrilling, breathless five-second ride to the lake beneath.

After the descent a cable will be attached to the craft and by means of an electric motor it will be drawn to the platform for a repetition of the trip. By the end of the week a big merry-go-round will be in operation. The big white fence around the four blocks will be ornamented at regular intervals with flags by day and electric globes by night.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matte

MAY 20, 1897.

WHAT WE ARE DOING.

Material Improvements Contemplated and in Progress in This City.

If those who are continually growling about the dull times and trying to make them worse by discouraging every enterpirse and speaking disparagingly of the city would take the trouble to look about them and have a little faith in the future there would be a great revival of business in Keokuk. Nothing is a better criterion of the state of business and the faith that people have in a city than the amount of building and repairing going on. The Gate City this week presents a list of such improvements in Keokuk. The list is incomplete and was prepared without the expectation of giving an exhaustive enumeration of all such enterprises in the city.

However, there is vast occasion for encouragement in the present state of affairs in the city. Contractors and builders and painters, all say that within the past month their business has received a great impetus and to-

J. C. HUBINGER.

gether with work already in progress makes the sound of the hammer and saw an ever present one. Business men almost without exception report a gratifying increase in trade.

A visit to the site of J. C. Hubinger's amusement park is a revelation. Last Tuesday morning work was first commenced and Saturday the place was hardly recognizable. Twenty-five teams and about eighty men are at work and the results they have accomplished are almost astounding. At the corner of Thirteenth and Grand avenue a great excavation has been made for the swimming pool which will be several hundred feet in length. At one end the pool will be deeper for those who care to dive while at the other end the water will be more shallow for beginners. The bottom will be made to slope from one end to the other. It will be provided with lockers and dressing rooms and the bottom will be of sand or cement and will make as a whole a most complete natatorium.

On Fifteenth and Grand avenue the summer theater will be located. Already the foundation for the stage has been put in and the work on the other part will be rapidly pushed. Correspondence is being carried on with a well known opera company with the expectation of opening the theater about the middle of June. The stage is located just beside the Mackey property, which will be used for dressing rooms. The stage machinery and scenery of the Keokuk opera house will be used in the summer theater and thus any delay in providing these accessories will be avoided.

Just south of the theater about a dozen heavy timbers have been placed in the ground and rear themselves to a considerable height. They will form part of the support of the grand stand. The capacity of this will be sufficient to accommodate an immense crowd. Just in front of this teams and scrapers are busily engaged in grading and the same will be done all over the park. The diamond will be laid out first so that work is being rushed just now in front of the grand stand.

Off in another corner of the park will be constructed the great coliseum. The Gate City has already given a description of the plans as they are now contemplated. The construction will be of steel with an asbestos roof. The building will be circular and will have a seating capacity of 5,000. Here will be given great concerts. Conventions of any size can be held here. Promenades are planned and people will have room to move about and yet not miss the music that will be provided for them. A restaurant and cafe will be on the grounds and provision will be made whereby patrons can have refreshments during the concerts. Of course it is understood that only temperance drinks and ices will be served.

It is among the possibilities that an electric fountain will be placed in the enclosure which will be another of the many attractions offered. Around the whole park will be constructed a race track for horses or bicycles. The earth removed from the swimming pool is being piled into a great embankment along Thirteenth street which will be a part of the course. It will fall but little short of half a mile in circumference and will be forty feet in width. The city will grant the use of a part of Thirteenth street in exchange for an equal amount of ground on which that thoroughfare will run making it straight instead of angling east as it now does.

Yesterday the site was a hive of industry. Men and horses were busily at work. Every day that these are employed throws more money into circulation, and when one reflects that this is but the beginning of the many benefits that will accrue to Keokuk through the action of this public spirited citizen one must feel that Keokuk has reason to be proud of J. C. Hubinger. Through his enterprise thousands and thousands of strangers will be attracted to this city whose presence cannot help but be of benefit to the merchants and the city at large. All honor to the man who has the means and the will to be loyal to the city in this substantial way. All honor to the man who employs Keokuk labor in the interest of Keokuk. Mr. Hubinger has public approval behind him and the people will see that his enterprise is rewarded.

While Mr. Hubinger's enterprise is the most extensive on foot in Keokuk, it is by no means the only one. Numerous private residences are being built or improved and other buildings are contemplated.

On Grand avenue between Eighth and Ninth C. R. Joy has put in the foundations for his new home. The plans call for an expenditure of between $8,000 and $10,000 and promise a building that will be an ornament to the city. The Gate City has already published the plans and it will be remembered that the description given then showed that it would be one of the handsomest and most conveniently arranged homes in the city. It will be of frame with brick and stone veneering and will add one more to the number of beautiful homes that line that beautiful street.

The new Christian church will be erected on the corner of Tenth and Blondeau streets. The design shows a handsome and commodious church building. It will front on Blondeau street and the front will be distinguished with two towers fifty-eight feet high and surmounted with cupolas. The total seating capacity of the audience room will be 900. In addition the lecture room will seat 200. There will be parlors, robing rooms, kitchen and dining rooms. Gas and electricity will be used for lighting and the heat will be furnished by two furnaces. Bids on construction will be invited shortly. The cost is estimated at $12,000.

Constitution-Democrat.

APRIL 25, 1894.

CATASTROPHE.

Three Men Instantly Killed and One Badly Injured.

Artesian Well Boiler Explodes at the Electric Light Plant.

James Sterritt, Patsy Keefe and John Roan the Dead.

Charles Jones So Badly Hurt He Will Likely Die.

Terrible Sights at the Scene of the Accident.

Three men instantly killed and one so badly injured that his recovery is despaired of, was the result of a boiler explosion at the electric light plant of the J. C. Hubinger company, a few minutes after nine o'clock Wednesday morning. The dead are:

JAMES STERRITT, aged 42, married, artesian well contractor, blown into a coal pile and instantly killed, bones badly broken.

PATRICK KEEFE, aged 22, single, laborer, instantly killed, badly scalded and body torn open, also skull crushed.

JOHN ROAN, aged 23, single, bystander, top of head blown off and both legs broken.

The injured man is

CHAPLES JONES, married, a plumber, employed about the works, skull fractured in three places, left shoulder and right leg badly injured, will likely die.

About 9:30 o'clock in the morning the business part of the city was thrown into a state of excitement by word that a boiler at the electric light plant of the J. C. Hubinger company on the canal road below Rand park, had exploded, killing three men and injuring one other. Two CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT reporters were at the scene as quickly as swift horses could take them, and the sight there fully demonstrated that the reports sent to town had not been exaggerated.

THE PARTICULARS.

About two weeks ago Mr. Hubinger entered into a contract with James Sterritt to bore an artesian well in the frame building adjoining his electric light plant. Mr. Sterritt had bored Mr. Hubinger's wells on the bluff and was to receive $1.50 per foot for boring this one. In his work Mr. Sterritt used a portable horizontal engine and boiler, the property of L. A. Fox, for furnishing power for the drilling. It had been tested recently. The last place the machinery was used was in drilling an artesian well at Canton, Mo., where it worked satisfactorily. The boiler and engine were set up outside the building and about twenty feet distance from it. The power was furnished to the drill inside by means of a belt. Work at drilling had not commenced and it was only Tuesday that the work of setting up the boiler was finished. A fire was built at that time and everything seemed to be in good working order.

Those who could tell the cause of the explosion are all dead and the real cause must be a matter of surmise. It is probable that the water in the boiler got low and the inspirator would not work. The safety valve is said to have been out of order, thus making it an easy matter to mistake the amount of steam carried. It is likely that the men were trying to force water into the boilers, which caused the explosion. There was a loud report, a large piece of the boiler near the firebox blew out, the boiler turned end for end and crashed through the door of the building and landed some distance inside, tearing away some of the drill machinery as it went. All the men, except Sterritt, were blown in the opposite direction, toward the canal, and two of them were instantly killed, the other, Jones, being badly injured. Sterritt was blown into a pile of slack coal not twenty feet away, and was partly buried in the slack. His death must have been instantaneous, for he was found just as he lighted, lying on his side in the coal.

The accident was best described by Henry Luxman, a plumber working for P. R. Sutton, who was employed in another part of the plant with Jones, the injured man. His story as told to a CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT reporter was substantially as follows: Jones and I were working at the electric light and had just come down the hill with a large iron T. We set it down and I went around the corner of the building to get a drink of water from the pipe there, leaving Jones with the men near the boiler. I got a drink and had come back and passed into the building, when the explosion occurred. This was about 9:05 or 9:10 o'clock. The boiler flew past me in close proximity and small pieces of iron or coal struck me. I was dazed for an instant and when I recovered myself it was all over.

Patrick Malone was wheeling brick near by, and luckily escaped injury. He tells substantially the same story of the explosion as Luxman. The report was heard at the Tri-State Can works a short distance above and men from that place, as well as the whole neighborhood, quickly rushed to the scene. Word was sent to Mr. Hubinger's residence, on the bluff above, and Mrs. Hubinger immediately telephoned to the city for surgical aid.

James Sterritt, whose body was the closest to the scene of the accident, was the contractor in charge of the work. His body, as stated above, was blown into a coal pile but a short distance away. He was lying in a recumbent position on his side. There was a hole in the side of his head, and many of the bones of his body were broken. Of those killed, the remains of Sterritt appeared the best, as the face was not so badly scalded as in the other cases.

Patrick Keefe was employed by Mr. Sterritt on his contract. His body was blown the greatest distance, about forty-five yards from where the boiler stood, and within twenty-five feet of the railroad track. The body laid in a gully, was terribly scalded about the face and the stomach and abdomen were torn open. There was also a hole in the back of his head.

Farther up the river, just outside the wagon road lay the body of Roan. He must have been dead before he struck the ground, for the top of his head was blown clear off and pieces of his brain were scattered along the ground between where he lay and the building. Both of his legs were broken and his face and body were badly scalded. His clothes from head to foot were wet, showing that he must have been enveloped in steam or scalding water. Roan had been employed on the work, but was not working Wednesday. He was watching the others.

Jones laid on the inside edge of the road a short distance below the body of Roan. He was groaning though unconscious, and it was to him, as soon as the others were seen to be beyond human aid, that the attention of those arriving at the scene first, was devoted. His skull was fractured in three places, one of these wounds being near the right eye, and the loss of sight in that organ is probable. The wound is a bad one and is in a very dangerous place. The front part of his neck was badly scalded, as were other places on his body. The tendons above the left knee were cut and there was a severe cut on the right wrist. Besides all this there are strong evidences of internal injuries and there is but the smallest chance for the man's life. He was placed on a stretcher and conveyed in a wagon to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, where his wounds were given attention. Jones is a married man, and has two children. He resides at No 1426 Ridge street and has been employed by P. R. Sutton for about seven years. He was a steady man and had an unusually strong constitution. To this latter fact will be due his recovery if it occurs.

The scene after the accident was indescribably horrible. The wrecked boiler and engine, the bodies of the dead men lying where they were thrown by the terrific force of the explosion, their faces scarred by scalds, the groans of the unconscious, injured man, and the unconfined demonstrations of sudden grief which had overtaken the families of Keefe and Roan, who were on the ground, will never be effaced from the memory of those who were present. Owing to the distance from the city, the crowd attracted to the place was not a very large one, and nearly everyone present was pressed into service in assisting to handle the bodies of the killed and wounded.

By the force of the explosion, the front of the fire-box was blown clear away and is supposed to have landed in the canal, as those who saw the accident say that some heavy substance went into the water. Other small pieces of the boiler were found scattered about, and the largest piece was picked up fifty yards away from the building.

James Sterritt was probably forty-two years of age, and was a native of Canada. He was an artesian well driller by trade and had been a resident of Keokuk for four or five years. He had drilled a number of wells in this city and vicinity. He was an industrious man, an honorable man, and was well thought of by those who knew him. There was no better husband and father than Mr. Sterritt. He is survived by his wife and one daughter, Miss Jennie, aged about fifteen years, who reside at No. 1123 Blondeau street, and also a brother, Charles Sterritt, of this city. The grief of his wife and daughter was extremely intense when they were notified by a CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT reporter of the untimely death of Mr. Sterritt. The remains were taken to the undertaking establishment of Hawkes & Ackley where they were prepared for burial and afterwards taken to the family home.

John Roan was a single man, aged twenty-three years, and resided with his mother near where the horrible accident occurred. He was born and grew to manhood in this city, and his sad death is deeply mourned by his numerous friends. He is survived by his mother, five brothers and two sisters. The almost heart-broken mother and other

members of the family were at the scene of the accident a few minutes after it occurred, and the demonstrations of their grief were painful to witness. The remains were taken to the undertaking establishment of Perkins & Crimmins, where they were prepared for burial.

Patrick Keefe was twenty-two years of age, and he, too, was a single man, and resided with his parents near the scene of the catastrophe. He grew to manhood in this city, and his death is mourned by many of his companions. He is survived by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. David Keefe, and five sisters and four brothers. His remains were also taken to the undertaking establishment of Perkins & Crimmins where they were prepared for burial. The members of his family arrived at the sorrowful place within a few minutes after the explosion occurred. They were grief-stricken and their friends did what they could to console them.

DOES NOT SURVIVE.

One more was added to the death list caused by the boiler explosion which occurred at the electric light plant Wednesday morning, when Charles Jones died Wednesday evening at 6:55 o'clock from the effects of his injuries. His death was no surprise to anyone, as it was almost certain from the first he could not recover. At no time after the accident was he conscious. Jones was born in Orange county, Ohio, in May, 1864, and had lived in this city for thirteen years. He is survived by his wife and four children, two sons, aged respectively seven years and three months and two daughters whose ages are five and three years. His mother, Mrs Esther A. Jones; brothers G. W., E. S., A. V. and I. N. Jones, and sister Mrs. Henry Blankenship, all of this city, also survive him. The funeral was held from the family home, No. 1426 Ridge street, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. R. C. McIlwain conducting the services. The four brothers of the deceased acted as pall bearers.

The jury found the following verdict:

An inquisition held at Keokuk in Lee county, on the 19th day of April, A. D., 1894, before Andrew Brown, coroner of the said county, upon the body of James Sterritt there lying dead by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed. The said jurors upon their oaths do say that the said James Sterritt came to his death by the explosion of a steam boiler, said explosion being caused by an over pressure of steam on account of defective safety valve and steam guages.

W. S. SAMPLE,
THEO. MYERS,
CHAS. H. HUNT.
ANDREW BROWN, Coroner.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered JULY 18, 1899. Matter.

HUBINGER'S PLAN

To Build an Immense Raw Starch Works Soon.

IT MAY BE HERE OR NOT HERE

Will Make a Market for a Million Bushels of Corn and Employ Hundreds of Hands.

Recent movements in the J. C. Hubinger Bros. company have turned up a new scheme sooner than was expected.

J. C. Hubinger told The Gate City yesterday that he is going to build an immense starch works soon.

The product is to be simple starch, like the J. C. Hubinger Bros. company buys to make their Elastic starch from by their secret process.

It is to employ from three hundred to five hundred hands and to buy from a half million to a million bushels of corn and other cereals per annum.

It will require a large amount of labor and material to make the boxes and such things in addition.

It is to be located wherever the best terms can be made with a city—wherever the people will give the greatest concessions in the way of taxes, site and bonus.

It is to be built by J. C. Hubinger personally, not by the company, and is to remain his property.

AN EVOLUTION.

That is the substance of what J. C. Hubinger told a representative of The Gate City in answer to inquiries yesterday. When the ground was bought for the new factory of the J. C. Hubinger Bros. company here, the hope was expressed by all the business men of the city that this is but the beginning of the enlargement of their interests here and that a factory for making raw starch would soon come.

The company has been buying its raw starch in the open market all these years, and has seemed content to do that until recently. There have been signs for some time that the makers of Elastic starch feel that they might as well save the profit of the maker of their raw material, but nothing has been done in this direction yet. There have been some big movements in the company lately, ending so far in the starting of the new big factory for their product here, and this late move of J. C. Hubinger, still a member of the company, looks like the plan is to enter the raw starch field and have him make the starch to sell to his company.

THE LOCATION.

J. C. Hubinger insisted that it was not his present intention to build the new works here. He said that it all depended upon how Keokuk treated his proposition, and made reference to his kicks against some things that have happened here within the last ten years. He said that Keokuk can have the factory if she wants it bad enough in the right way, and otherwise it will go elsewhere. His manner as well as his words said plainly that he was not caring a continental expletive whether he built in Keokuk or not, and he is evidently out of humor with the town.

When asked about the details of what he wanted, he said he had not figured out any details and would not do so in that direction; that the other fellows could do that, do you understand, and submit to him any proposition they pleased, and the best proposition will be accepted, you understand.

When asked about the factory itself, he did some figuring in his head and said so many times such a number is how much in a way that made a lightning calculator necessary to keep up with him. The final figures were from three hundred to five hundred employes and from 400,000 to 1,000,000 bushels of grain. Wheat is now used to make starch as well as corn, when the price of the first named cereal is right, and the location of a big starch factory makes a big market for grain. Of course the country around Keokuk produces the grain, and if the factory of the size named is built here, much of the shipments from the west will be stopped here at the Mississippi river.

TALKING TO QUINCY.

Mr. Hubinger had kept this plan to himself until The Gate City's little bird brought the word that he had talked to some Quincy officials who were up here Sunday about it. When a representative of The Gate City went to him with enough information to start a bluff at knowing more, Mr. Hubinger sat down for a second or two and told him what is given above.

The J. C. Hubinger Bros. company use so much starch that they can easily work up the output of a big factory and cry for more. So there is no relation between this deal and any starch trust, real or hypothetical.

Modern processes of making starch are odorless, and the terrible stench which used to drive everybody away from the site of a plant are now unknown. A starch factory can now be built in the midst of a city without objection from the neighbors.

There is no use of keeping this plan secret here, for Mr. Hubinger knows it and he is going to tell it now to all the available towns in the middle west.

The Gate City.

JANUARY 24, 1896.

MUST BE SOLD AGAIN.

The Supreme Court Holds Mr. Hubinge 's Title to the Street Railway Invalid.

Judge Bank Erred In Confirming the Sale When Others Decided to Make Higher Bids—A Nice Point of Law.

J. C. Hubinger does not hold a valid title to the street railway plant which has been in his possession since March 28, 1894, when he bought it at public auction for $10,000. This statement is based on a decision of the supreme court handed down yesterday and mentioned in this morning dispatches from Des Moines.

Keokuk's street railway has had a tempestuous career. Since long before the glad day when the little mules were turned loose from the delapidated cars of the old line there has been trouble. The electric railway was inaugurated with the glad acclaim by the populace and with fond hopes of speedy wealth on the part of the promoters of the enterprise. But their hopes were doomed to fail of fruition. After awhile the property went into the hands of a receiver. Subsequently it was sold at receiver's sale to a new company. After another period of unprofitable operation it again went into the hands of a receiver and once more was sold at public auction, Mr. Hubinger getting it that time.

That sale was in accordance with the decree of the superior court, rendered March 31, 1894, on application of the American Trust company of Boston against the Gate City Electric Street Railway company, foreclosing the trust company's mortgage securing bonds in the amount of $85,000. Some months prior the road ceased operations on account of lack of remunerative business, and went into the hands of a receiver, H. C. Reiner being made receiver. Once before the road went into the hands of a receiver, Mr. Reiner being that officer, then, and was sold. Mr. Townsend of New Haven received control, hypothecated the bonds, and, it is said, got rid of the property at a profit. The American Trust company held most of the bonds and brought the foreclosure suit. There was a small army of intervenors, but the claims of only a few of those were considered in the decree. However, preferred claims in the way of paving and other taxes, receivership expenses, etc., amounting to $10,542, were first to be paid out of proceeds of the sale before the mortgage bonds were to be considered. The price bid was $10,000, and that lacked $542 of paying even the preferred claims.

May 1 the Central Trust company of New York filed a motion to have the sale set aside. The petitioner alleged that it believed the American Loan and Trust company was represented and was in communication with all the bond-holders, the petitioner not having knowledge of whom the holders of all the bonds were; that subsequent to the sale the petitioner learned that parties in Hartford, Conn., holding $25,000 of bonds, had no notice of the date of the sale. Petitioner believed that by reason of a misapprehension on the part of the officers and agents of the American Loan and Trust company it was believed that the sale would take place May 15; that on account of the reasons stated the bondholders interested in the property were not represented at the sale by anyone authorized to bid for them and had no opportunity to arrange for the purchase of the property. It was represented that the only parties interested in the property were the creditors, bondholders, and the Gate City Electric Street Railway company, all of whom joined in the motion to set aside the sale. It was further alleged that the price for which the property sold, $10,000, was grossly inadequate, the value of the property being largely in excess of that amount, from $35,000 to $40,000, the plant having cost within the prior two years in excess of $50,000.

Receiver Reiner made affidavit that the plant cost $58,750 and was, at the time of sale, worth at least $30,000 or $35,000.

William M. Hewitt of Stillwater made affidavit that he intended to bid but was not notified of the time of the sale; but he was ready to bid at least $15,000.

The American Loan and Trust company of Boston joined in the petition to have the sale set aside. The company claimed to hold $53,500 of the bonds and had, April 26, asked that the sale be postponed, but that motion was overruled by Judge Bank. The company agreed that if the sale was set aside it would bid an amount in excess of the amount to pay off all claims, prior to the mortgage debt, and as an evidence of good faith offered to deposit $2,000. It asked that the sale be set aside on the grounds that the price was inadequate; that the bondholders did not receive sufficient notice of the sale; that by the trust company's offer all prior debts would be paid and the bond-holders would receive some compensation; whereas, should the sale be confirmed the latter would lose all their investment.

May 4 the matter came on for a hearing before Judge Bank and at that time the American Loan and Trust company made a formal offer to bid $20,000 for the property, should it be offered for sale again.

May 8 Judge Bank rendered his decision confirming the sale to Mr. Hubinger. He held that the petitioners had abundant opportunity to bid when the sale was made and that he was convinced that the property sold for more than two-thirds its value; that it would be a bad precedent if parties should first allow property to be sold, then be permitted to make arrangements by which it would pay them to make another bid; that if injury resulted to the parties wanting the sale set aside, it was by their own negligence.

The Central Trust company appealed from this decision and yesterday the supreme court reversed Judge Bank's findings.

This means that the property must again be offered for sale. Of course, Mr. Hubinger will be returned the amount of his bid. But since he has owned the property he has made very extensive improvements and has largely enhanced its value. Whether he will be reimbursed for these improvements cannot be determined until the full text of the supreme court's decision is received here. The people of Keokuk do not wish to see the plant pass out of his hands.

The Gate City.

JANUARY 25, 1896.

THE GATE CITY COMPANY,

KEOKUK, IOWA.

THE STREET CAR CASE.

Report of the Supreme Court's Finding, Appearing In "The Register."

The Des Moines Register made the following report of the supreme court's decision in the street car case, mentioned fully in Friday's Gate City:

"Central Trust company, appellant vs. Gate City Electric Street Railway company et al, defendant, and American Loan and Trust company et al, intervenors; Keokuk superior court, H. Bank, Jr., judge. Reversed; opinion by Judge Granger.

"An action to foreclose a mortgage securing certain bonds. There was a decree for plaintiff and sale of the property. From an order of the court refusing to set aside the sale and grant another, the plaintififf and the intervenors appealed.

"The defendant Gate City Electric Street Railway company issued its bonds and secured the same by mortgage on its plant, and in this suit the plaintiff obtained a judgment thereon for $85,000, and a decree directing the sale of the plant, consisting of real estate, power house, overhead construction, such as poles and wires, cars and other movable property and the company's franchise. Parties other than the street railway company were made defendants and others intervened. The court determined that there were preferred claims to the amount of $10,548, to be first paid from the proceeds of the sale.

"'It appears,' says the court, 'that the conditions of the decree as to the manner of the sale were by consent, and that the court had jurisdiction to enter the same, and the judgment is not now questioned. By consent the sale was to be made by a commissioner, on four weeks notice by publication in certain papers in Keokuk. The notice was given, fixing the 28th day of April.

1894, as the day of sale, and on that day the sale was made to one J. C. Hubinger, for the sum of $10,000. Some three days prior to the sale the plaintiff company applied to the court for a postponement, because the bondholders had not had notice of the sale. This application was overruled. The following is a provision of the sale as fixed by the notice: 'Said sale will be subject to the approval of the superior court, and in case such court shall not approve such bid as shall be made the bidder will acquire no rights at such sale.' Upon the filing of the report of the commissioner, the plaintiff, the defendant street car company, all of the bondholders and some others, including itervenors, filed exceptions to the report and objections to its approval for the reason that the amount bid was grossly inadequate, and that the sale was without notice to the parties interested and who would have bid a larger amount. These objections were overruled and the report of the commissioner affirmed. From this order and the refusal to postpone the sale the appeal was taken.'

"'The court says: 'The showing against the approval of the report is remarkably strong. The American Loan and Trust company, one of the objectors, and which asks for a resale, is the holder of some $53,000 of the bonds in question. It appears that it had no definite notice of the day fixed for the sale until the 26th day of April, when it conferred with its attorney in Boston, Mass., and was advised that postponements of such sales were usually granted upon application of the complainant; that in pursuance of that advise an application for a postponement was made and overruled, and that it then had no time to confer with bondholders or to arrange for the purchase of the property. As an evidence of its good faith that the property can be sold for more than the present bid, it offers to deposit $2,000 that on a resale being ordered, it will guarantee that the amount bid shall be in excess of the amount necessary to pay off all claims allowed as paramount to the mortgage debt. Other affidavits establish the fact beyond controversy that the bondholders, other than the plaintiff, did not have actual notice of the sale, and we think it apparent, that, with such notice for a reasonable time, the property would have been sold for more than the amount bid. No one contests the application for a resale except Hubinger. In this respect the sale is somewhat peculiar. He is not a creditor, nor has he any interest, except such as arises from his bid.'

"The court in concluding the reversal of Judge Bank says: 'The conclusion that a resale should be ordered is supported by the facts that there is neither appraisement nor redemption in this case. The property costs some $60,000 or upwards, and the showing preponderates that it is now two or three times the value of the present bid or more. If the parties could redeem there would be an opportunity to protect their interests to some extent at least, but as the order now stands the sale is final and for a confessedly too small a sum. Even Hubinger offers, rather than submit to a resale, to pay $548 more than his bid, that being the amount necessary to pay the preferred claims as found by the court. The record satisfies us that if a resale had been ordered an advance of from 50 to 100 per cent on the present bid would have been the result. There is scarcely room to doubt this. The justice of such a result in behalf of creditors is manifest, and no one can suffer prejudice by it. We think in refusing the order for a resale, the court exceeded the discretion reposed in it and the order is reversed.'"

Constitution-Democrat.

FEBRUARY 12, 1896.

INCORPORATED.

J. C. Hubinger Bros. Company Incorporates With $6,000,000 Capital.

J. C. Hubinger, Nicholas W. Hubinger and Joseph E. Hubinger filed articles today incorporating the J. C. Hubinger Bros. Co., for a period of twenty years. The principal place for transacting the business of the company shall be Keokuk, Io., and there shall also be a place of business at New Haven, Conn., the board of directors having the right to establish and maintain other places of business.

The capital stock of the company is fixed at $6,000,000, divided into 60,000 shares, all shares to be paid in full when issued.

The general nature of the business to be transacted shall be the manufacture and sale of electric starch, the purchase and manufacture of crude starch, and such other branches of manufacturing and commercial business as the board of directors may from time to time agree upon, and in the conduct of such business the corporation shall have the right to buy and sell real estate.

The affairs of the corporation shall be conducted by a board of three directors to be chosen at the regular stockholders' annual meeting. In case a vacancy should occur the remaining members of the board will have the right to fill such vacancy by appointment until the next annual meeting. Such meetings shall be held at the Keokuk office on the first Monday of January in each year.

The officers shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, such officers to be selected from among the directors. The present officers are John C. Hubinger, president; Nicholas W. Hubinger, vice president; and Joseph E. Hubinger, secretary and treasurer.

Constitution-Democrat.

MAY 20, 1896.

HE QUESTIONS THE TITLE.

A Hitch in the Hubinger Colonization Scheme.

James C. Davis was in St. Louis Thursday and on behalf of J. C Hubinger, of this city, brought an important suit in the United States circuit court there. Of the case this morning's Globe-Democrat says:

A suit involving one of the largest realty enterprises ever projected in central Missouri was filed in the United States Circuit Court yesterday. The litigation was instituted by John C. Hubinger, a Keokuk (Io.) manufacturer, who has planned to colonize 50,000 acres of land in Crawford county, Mo. He has also filed two companion suits in Iowa. The petition filed here requests an injunction to restrain the trustee from selling the land in satisfaction of a note which has become due.

The plaintiff relates that last December he negotiated with Thomas R. Gibson, of Steeleville, Mo., for the purchase of lands belonging to the Midland Blast Furnace company in Crawford county Wm. H. Lee, president of the company, as well as president of the Merchants-Laclede National bank, of this city, certified that Gibson was authorized to make the sale. It appeare that of 50.000 acres sold to Mr. Hubinger by Gibson, 30.000 had belonged to the Midland Blast Furnace company. The deal involved the conveyance by Mr. Hubinger of the "Keokuk brick plant" and the payment of $50,000.

Mr. Hubinger claims, however, that Gibson agreed to produce a good title, and stipulated that if he could not do so Mr. Hubinger was to receive a clear title to an equivalent quantity of other realty, or was to be entitled to a deduction of $4 from the purchase price of each acre not possessing a good abstract.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Ent, MARCH 11. 1888 natter

HUBINGER PUSH.

Keokuk's Starch Factory—A Large Building to be Occupied Temporarily—Better Accommodations to be Built.

J. C. Hubinger, Esq., has found that the factory he is now occupying on Fourth and Exchange streets, is too small to accommodate his increasing business and he has rented the large building occupied by W. D. Steele, on the corner of Water and Blondeau streets. He proposes to use this place to pack a different brand of starch from that packed at his other factory. He feels confident that he will put up during this year a factory that will employ 200 or 300 hands. This is the kind of a man Keokuk has been looking for, and he should be encouraged in every possi- manner to carry out his plans.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Ente, JULY 24, 1887 ter.

Subscription Rates:

Mr. Hubinger's Propositions.

To the Editor.

Mr. J. C. Hubinger offers to establish a starch factory and employ a hundred or a hundred and fifty hands, provided Keokuk will give him the fee simple title to half a block of ground in the center of the city on which to locate the factory, and will exempt from taxes for ten years that half block and the house to be erected and the personal property to be used thereon. The council is now considering this proposition. I like Mr. Hubinger as well as most men with whom I am not acquainted. I hope he will settle among us and make a million dollars out of a starch factory here. But is the city council sure it has the right to appropriate public money for the purpose of buying real estate and donating it to an individual for his private use?

Is the city council sure it has the right to exempt from taxation any fractional part of the city, so long as that fractional part remains under the exclusive control of private owners?

Is the city council sure that it has the right, arbitrarily, to discriminate between persons by imposing heavier taxes upon one than upon another, or by totally absolving one citizen from his obligations to pay taxes, thus casting upon the remaining citizens the burden of increased taxes to supply the deficiency so created, and thereby compelling one or more men to pay another's taxes?

Is the city council sure that the purchaser at a tax sale will obtain a good title when any part of the demand for which the property is sold arises from an attempt by the city authorities to force one man to pay another's taxes?

Is Mr. Hubinger sure that an ordinance passed by this council will protect him against the ravages of any future council that may desire to tax him?

If Mr. Hubinger's hands should turn out to be no children's "hands," but the hands of heads of families only, is it yet certain that the precedent is a good one to set? Are we thus to teach every manufacturer who may think of coming here that he is to consider himself slighted and invited to stay away if no reward be tendered to him?

I have never, myself, smelt a starch factory, but from accounts I have had of the process, I judge that a starch factory, centrally located, would avail itself of changing winds to confer that experience upon me wherever I might reside. Neighboring property might experience some relief in the amount of taxes if there were a conscientious assessor. On the other hand the city of Keokuk would be placed in possession of the unusual distinction that strangers passing us in the night on railroad or steamboat would recognize our locality with their eyes shut. We could throw that up to Fort Madison if she should put on too many airs about the Santa Fe railroad.

It the council should grant Mr. Hubinger's requests it ought to return to Mr. Blom his taxes for ten years past, and should pay from the public treasury to him the difference in value between his ground, in an obscure part of Keokuk, and a half block which a negligent council failed to buy and present to him in the middle of the city for his soap factory.

We could easily have got over the effects of speculation in real estate in 1856. What has troubled us was the rewards we then gave to promising railroads to an amount equal in value to a hundred and fifty tons of nickels. We ought to have made easier terms. We should have purchased them a locomotive apiece, or a train of cars, or a union depot.

For thirty years we have been stooping under the burden of those rewards to good railroads. Now that we have nearly freed ourselves from the weight and are beginning to rise and shine with our pristine prosperity we commence to radiate rewards again.

Thirty years ago a Keokuk man named H. H. Belding expressed the opinion that "the devil reigns in Warsaw." He missed it about four miles.

ORION CLEMENS.

CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT.

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1890.

WILL BE BUILT.

J. C. Hubinger Will Erect a Fine Natatorium in Keokuk.

The suggestion by THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT that there existed a necessity for a natatorium in Keokuk is about to lead to the materialization of such a desirable institution. On the corner of Sixth and Blondeau streets there is a piece of ground admirably adapted for natatorium purposes, being centrally located, and endowed by nature for just such an establishment as is named, the level of the land being quite a distance below that of the street, thus forming a natural basin. The property belongs to J. C. Hubinger, and very fortunately this gentleman is ever on the alert to do anything and everything in his power to advance the city's interests. He announces that it is his purpose to construct, upon the spot named, a fine natatorium and gymnasium, in dimensions 150x140 feet. On the ground floor will be the natatorium and gymnasium. Besides the swimming pool, there will be arrangements and appliances for baths of every description with hot and cold water. The building will be of pleasing architecture. The health-giving qualities of the artesian waters of this vicinity are well known, and the fact is established that they would prove highly beneficial if used for bathing purposes. Water from Mr. Hubinger's well will be used. Mr. Hubinger intends to construct the building in such manner that the upper story may be used as a public hall. The inconvenience and danger attending river bathing precludes ladies from taking a plunge, but with the natatorium, hours could be arranged for their convience. It is a well settled fact that the natatorium will be a great success, affording pleasure and much benefit to the public, and it goes without saying that Mr. Hubinger will receive the heartiest support for his new enterprise.

The Gate City.

JANUARY 7, 1898.

THE GATE CITY COMPANY,

KEOKUK, IOWA.

A GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

J. C. Hubinger Contemplating the Erection of an Office Building.

There is a possibility that Keokuk may soon have a modern office building, one that will be a credit to the city in every way.

For some time past J. C. Hubinger has been considering the feasibility of erecting such a building and should he finally decide to do so everyone knows that the structure will be all that can be desired. Mr. Hubinger has had a well known architect at work on the proposed plans and the result of his labors meets the approval of the projector. Should the structure be built it will occupy Mr. Hubinger's lots on Sixth and Blondeau streets, opposite the opera house and adjoining the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It would indeed be a welcome change to have that unsightly hollow replaced by a modern business building and would give a metropolitan appearance to that part of the city.

Mr. Hubinger's idea is to have nothing lacking in the new building that should have a place in a modern office block. His plans are very comprehensive and include besides offices, sirgly and in suites, sleeping apartments, a large recital hall for musicales, lectures and the like, lodge rooms, a restaurant, billiard room, bowling alley and in fact everything that such a scheme would suggest. The building would be lighted by electricity and heated by steam, each apartment being furnished with these conveniences, besides hot and cold water in each office and bath toilet rooms with each suite of rooms. Janitor service would also be furnished to tenants free. Handsome passenger elevator would be the means of reaching the different floors of the building.

The exterior of the building would be such as to delight the eye and at the same time give the effect of substantiality and massiveness. The architecture would be entirely different from anything in the city and the structure would be handsome and attractive in the extreme.

The only question in connection with his plan that causes Mr. Hubinger to hesitate in carrying it out is, will such a building pay in this city. The Tama building in Burlington, constructed along the same lines, has been a profitable venture from the start, but Mr. Hubinger wants to be reasonably sure of success before he undertakes a plan that will call for the outlay of such a sum as would be necessary. For some little time past he has been canvassing in a quiet way and has met with fair success. He states that if he can see his way clear he will begin the erection of the building early in the spring. It is certain that a building of this kind would find a large clientele but whether sufficient to make it a paying venture is a question that must be determined beforehand, and no one can blame Mr. Hubinger for wanting to be reasonably secure in that knowledge before he starts into it. Already he has the assurance that several important offices will occupy apartments in the structure and he is waiting for only a few more assurances before he lets the contract.

The Gate City.
= MARCH 22, 1891. =
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

HUBINGER GETS IT.

The Contract for the City Lighting Let to the J. C. Hubinger Co.

Proceedings of the Special Council Meeting at Which the Vexed Question was Settled—The City Will Sue for Damages.

The city council met in special session last evening to consider the public lighting question. The mayor presided and all aldermen were present except Riffley.

The mayor stated the object of the meeting and Chairman Kenney, of the special joint committee, submitied its report, which was adopted. The report was to the effect that, as the Gate City Electric company and its assignee, the Fort Wayne Electric company, have failed and refused to carry out the contract for lighting the streets, the claims of the city against the companies and their officers be referred to the city attorney to ascertain the rights of the city in the premises against the companies, their officers and stockholders, and to prosecute such actions in law or equity as may be necessary to compensate the city for its losses and damages because of the companies' failure to perform the contract. The report was signed by Mayor Craig and Aldermen Kenney, Buck, Ballinger, Evans, Ewers and Schmied, the committee.

Ald. Kenney also submitted a resolution (the committee having been unable to agree on that question) to the effect that the J. C. Hubinger company's bid to furnish 125 arc lights, on the Philadelphia schedule, at $68 a light a year be accepted and that the mayor and city attorney and gas committee prepare a contract with provisions to secure the performance of the contract on the part of the Hubinger company.

Ald. Buck offered a resolution that the bid of the Keokuk Gas light and Coke Co. for 164 gas lights at $21.60 a light a year be accepted and that the gas committee be instructed to prepare specifications for lighting the city, redistrict the gas district and submit the same for bids.

The bids submitted were:

Keokuk Gas Light and Coke company—164 street lamps, six foot burners on Philadelphia schedule, as lamps are now located for five years at $21.60 a lamp a year; additional lamps $25.60 a lamp; 100 lamps $26; 164 lights all night $33.60 a light; additional lights $37.60 a light; 164 lamps every night to midnight at same price as first proposition. lights to be in operation in seventy-two hours from date of contract. Fifty arc lights, 2,000 candle power on Philadelphia schedule, $99 a light a year, lights to be in operation on or before May 15. A check for $1,000 accompanied each bid and was to be considered as a forfeit.

J. C. Hubinger company—125 arc lights on Philadelphia schedule $68; every night all night $110; every night up to midnight $69; fifty to seventy-five lights to be in operation in two or three weeks after signing the contract, balance to be in operation in seven weeks.

The Fort Wayne Electric company—125 lights on Philadelphia schedule at $75; same proposition for 100 lights and additional lights; lights to be in operation by May 20.

In support of his substitute, Ald. Buck said that to accept the Hubinger bid would be to pay more for public lighting than the city had ever paid. A short time ago, Mr. Hubinger stated to the committee that he would furnish lights at $58 if the council would annul the contract with the Gate City company. Now he wanted $68. Ald. Evans seconded Ald. Buck's resolution.

All agreed that the price was high, said Ald. Ballinger, and that the city ought to get lights for less money; but he didn't believe they could. Mr. Hubinger's bid was the best one submitted. If it was higher than what he formerly submitted, it was no fault of Mr. Hnbinger's that that other bid was not accepted.

Ald. Kenny thought that the city had a pretty sure case for damages against the Fort Wayne company. If the city won its suit, they would get the difference between $68 and $60—the Fort Wayne company's contract price. The alderman favored home industry. He said he was just as warm a friend of the Gas company as he was of Mr. Hubinger, but the latter offered the best light at really the cheapest rate.

In the opinion of Ald. Ewers, it was the city's own fault, not Mr. Hubinger's, if the city was required to pay more for the lights now than formerly would have been the case. He thought the bid should be accepted.

Ald. Buck disclaimed any attempt to make a personal matter of the question; but he thought Mr. Hubinger should have put in the low bid when he had a chance of securing the contract.

Ald. Evans thought the council had begun the question wrong and had been going wrong ever since. They didn't take time to investigate before they awarded the contract. They mayor had said that 100 lights were sufficient. Under the first bids, the city could afford to take 125 lights as it was the cheapest bid. Now, by accepting the gas company's bid, the council would be getting lights at the cheapest rate—twenty-five per cent less than the original bid.

Ald. Kerr didn't favor going back to old fashioned ways, and he favored Ald. Kenney's resolution.

Some interesting figures were presented by Ald. Kenney. By accepting the gas company's bid the city would get 164 gas lamps of thirty candle power and fifty arc lights of 2,000 candle power each, a total of 104,920 candle power for $8,492.40. By accepting the Hubinger bid they would get 125 lights aggregating 250,000 candle power for $8,500. Or an excess of nightly illumination of over 145,000 candle power for an added yearly expense of $7.66.

By a vote of two to nine—Aldermen Buck and Evans voting aye—the substitute was defeated. Ald. Evans then moved as a substitute that Mr. Hubinger's bid for 100 lights at $72 be accepted, provided he would agree to furnish additional lights at $68 instead of $72. This Mr. Hubinger declined to do and the alderman withdrew the condition.

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(Hubinger Lets City)

March 22, 1891 - #3
Hubinger Bids #3

After some more talk this substitute was also defeated by a like vote. Then by a unanimous vote Ald. Kenney's resolution was adopted and the Hubinger bid accepted.

After some minor deliberations the council adjourned.

An interesting feature of the question was that up to nearly 8 o'clock the committee had agreed to report in favor of accepting the Gas company's bid. This was on condition that there should be eight electric lights on Main street, two on the levee and the remainder placed elsewhere; and that where there were gas and electric lamps on the same corner, the gas be dispensed with and a rebate allowed. Late last evening the Gas company declined to accept that provision, and the committee again went into session. They were unable to agree and at about 3:30 o'clock reported to the council, when the majority report, expressed in Ald. Kenny's resolution, was presented.

The Gate City.

FEBRUARY 5, 1896.

THE GATE CITY COMPANY,
KEOKUK, IOWA.

OWNS IT ALL.

J. C. Hubinger Acquires the Entire Title to the Opera House.

For some time J. C. Hubinger has held nearly all the stock of the Keokuk Opera House company, and what shares were possessed by others were held for his benefit and in his interest.

Last evening a meeting of all the stockholders was held at Mr. Hubinger's office and the formal transfer of all stock to him made. The stockholders instructed the directors to accomplish this and after that the company was ordered to be dissolved. Now Mr. Hubinger is the sole owner, the price at which the transfer was made being $40,000.

Constitution-Democrat

CON APRIL 23, 1896.

FINAL PROPOSITION.

J. C. Hubinger Makes One on the Lighting Question.

Will be Presented to the Council This Evening And Mr Hubinger Says It is His Final One.

At the special meeting of the city council to be held this evening J. C. Hubinger will present the following, which he says is his final proposition on the lighting question:

I will make a contract to light the city for five years according to moonlight schedule this latitude, (when two hours intervene between sunset and the rising of the moon, or between the setting of the moon and sunrise, there need be no lights) at $94 per arc light (nominal 2,000 candle power) per year, for the five years. Dark nights light to be kept lighted up to 12 o'clock midnight and thereafter according to Philadelphia schedule, the city to order the extra light when needed, according to the following clause taken from the report of the gas committee:

"The schedule of lighting has proven so unsatisfactory to the citizens that your committee in preparing specifications for bids provided that the successful bidder, in addition to lighting when the moon was not shining, should also light during such hours as should be ordered by the mayor or some one delegated by him." J. C. HUBINGER CO.

Mr. Hubinger stated today that there might also be another proposition submitted but it would differ from the former only in detail.

In an interview today Mr. Hubinger stated that the special committee appointed to confer with him was composed of the best men in the city, but that they are not practical electricians and are not qualified to judge as to the actual expense of producing an amphere or volt of electricity with a given amount of coal. He asked why these men should be selected to confer with a man in business, regarding his line of business, of which they had no practical knowledge. You might as well, said Mr. Hubinger, select half a dozen of the best preachers, in the land without mechanical experience to tell an engineer the best thing to do in his work.

By statistics gathered by him, the chairman of the gas committee, continued Mr. Hubinger, learns that the actual average cost price of electric light is $75 per lamp per annum. If that is the cost price why should I be asked to furnish light for nothing? Burlington pays $100 per light per year, Philadelphia schedule, and even at that price the company is not getting rich. From 80 to 85 per cent of the electric light plants in the country have either failed or are losing money, and the money made by the remainder is a comparatively small amount. The maintenance of an electric plant is so expensive that it eats up most of the profits.

The proposition made by the committee to me at the conference was $75 per lamp per year, moonlight schedule, lights to be furnished on additional dark nights up to midnight and after that by the moonlight schedule, to be paid for pro-rata, making the amount per year about $95 per lamp. I am willing to accept this with some changes as set out in my proposition. Suppose the lights were extinguished by schedule at 10 o'clock and at 11 o'clock a big storm would come up. After I was notified I would have to start up my boiler and engine which would take from half to three-quarters of an hour. Time would be lost in notifying me in case telephone communication could not be had and the city would be in darkness during that time. Another objection is that I would have to have my men on watch for cloudy nights and would have to pay them for labor they did not perform. What the people want, said Mr. Hubinger, is light on dark nights when they need it. I am not trying to bulldoze the city. I put in my bid against the whole world, for everybody had a chance at it.

Now as to municipal ownership, he continued. Suppose the city puts in a plant of its own. It will cost from $35,000 to $40,000 and nine chances out of ten are that some second hand dynamos will be worked off on them, for the companies are constantly trying to realize something on their old goods, which they had to take back. In a few years the city will have to replace the machinery at a great expense. It would take two or three years to get the plant in smooth working order; it took me three or four years to do it. Then there would be jobs to give out which would be changed with every administration. Sometimes we would have democratic light and sometimes republican light. The service would suffer and the taxpayers would swear. The operation of the plant would cost a big sum. The interest on the cost of the plant, $35,000 at 7 per cent, would be $2,500 per annum; fuel and oil, $1,500; depreciation of 10 per cent in value of plant, $3,500; carbons, lamps and holders, $1,200; labor for operation, $4,620; making a cost of $13,320 per year. This would be an expensive luxury, for this is a fair estimate for a plant such as Keokuk would need.

Gate City Constitution

CONSTITUTION CO.

NOV. BER 5. 1887.

INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Mr. Hubinger Secures Subscriptions for 400 Lights to Date, and the Success of the Project is Assured.

Mr. J. C. Habinger has secured subscriptions for four hundred incandescent electric lights to date and the project is an assured success, thanks to his energy. Anyone desiring the incandescent light can have it by applying to Mr. Hubinger. He will go to work at once toward securing a [illegible] for the plant and before long the lights will be in operation. The Santa Fe railroad, a first-class fair established, an elegant new hotel, a new hospital, and the incandescent electric light, all secured in a few months. That is good enough!

Mr. Hubinger is also talking of making necessary improvements upon the opera house. His beautiful residence and grounds upon the bluff are approaching completion.

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Constitution-Democrat

Co APRIL 24, 1896.

CHANGED HIS MIND.

J. C. Hubinger Accedes to the City Lighting Proposition.

Will Furnish Lights For $75 Per Year Each, With Extra Pay For Extra Light — City Will Accept.

After drawing up what he called his final proposition to the city on the lighting question Thursday, which was published in this paper, J. C. Hubinger changed his mind, and in its stead presented a proposition to the city council, at its special meeting Thursday evening, acceding to the price set by the gas committee as a reasonable one. This price is $75 per light per annum, with extra pay for extra light. The proposition will be accepted by the city and the lighting question will be settled for another five years.

All the aldermen were present and Mayor Hughes presided.

The following petition from the J. C. Hubinger Co., which was handed to the clerk earlier in the evening, was read:

From J. C. Hubinger Co.:

Proposing to light all the city offices, police station, and fire stations, with incandescent lights for $35 per month.

Referred to light committee.

From J. C. Hubinger Co.:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Keokuk.

The undersigned agrees to make the contract with the city of Keokuk for electric lighting of the city, one hundred and forty arc lamps or more of 2,000 nominal candle power, according to the Philadelphia, (40 degrees north latitude,) schedule, for seventy-five ($75) dollars per lamp per year.

The lamps to be lighted dark moonlight nights, when required by the city, on the written order of the city, and its officers, and to be paid for pro rata, for the time the lamps are lighted, according to the rate aforesaid.

Notice in writing to be given by the city when the lamps are required to be lighted, one hour in advance of the time the lamps are to be so lighted, and no such notice to be given after midnight.

When two hours intervene between sunset and the rising of the moon or between the setting of the moon and sunrise no lights to be required.

J. C. HUBINGER CO.
Per J. C. HUBINGER, M'g'r.

Keokuk, Io., April 23, 1896.

Ald. Fuller, chairman of the light and gas committee, in connection with this communication, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the proposition of the J. C. Hubinger company be referred to the mayor, the gas and light committee and the city attorney and that they be empowered to make a contract with the above mentioned company for lighting the streets in accordance with this proposition.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The police pay roll for April, $553.33, and the fire pay roll for the same month, $342.50, were allowed.

The special committee appointed to confer with Mr. Hubinger regarding the lighting of the city, presented the following report, which was received and filed, and the thanks of the council tendered the committee:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Gentlemen—Your committee appointed to confer with Mr. Hubinger in reference to the contract for lighting the streets by electricity submit the following report:

The full committee met at the office of the Business Men's association on the afternoon of Saturday, April 18, with Mr. J. B. Paul in the chair, J. H. Cole was elected secretary and Mr. Hubinger being present the chair called upon Mr. Fuller for information as to the status of the question as between the contracting parties.

Considerable discussion followed, bringing out the cost of erection, maintenance, operation, etc, etc., of a plant to furnish 150 arc lights. Your committee believe that the citizens generally would rather pay Mr. Hubinger a little more than the lighting was actually worth, rather than do him an injury by refusing to contract wih him, and have the city proceed to erect a plant of her own which the proofs submitted showed could be built for from $32,000 to $35,000, including real estate and all other things necessary to erect a modern plant equipped with the latest and best machinery for the purpose.

Acting upon this idea Mr. H. C. Huiskamp submitted the following resulution, which was formulated to meet the views of Mr. Hubinger as well as your committee and which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That this committee do now rise, and that it is the sense of the committee that the proposition submitted by the gas committee of the city council to Mr. Hubinger, should be adopted as the basis of a contract for lighting the streets for five years at a yearly cost of seventy-five dollars per light of nominal 2,000 candle power, burning under what is known as the "Moonlight schedule." That any extra lighting that may be ordered by the city previous to midnight shall be accounted for upon the same basis of cost, and that no lights shall be ordered as "extra" after midnight unless it be a continuation of lights already burning. That the ordering of all extra lights shall be made by the city leaving notice to that effect at the "lighting plant" of said J. C. Hubinger.

Other details of minor importance to be left to the mutual arrangement of the parties contracting.

Adopted and committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J. B. PAUL, Chairman.
J. H. COLE, Secretary.
Keokuk, April 18, 1896.

The special committee appointed to examine the assessment lists for 1896 reported that they found no assessments which in their opinion should be raised. The report was received and filed.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered at Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

AUGUST 8, 1889

HUBINGER'S INVENTION.

Discovery of a New Method for the Generation of Power by Electricity—Value of the Invention.

John C. Hubinger, the starch manufacturer, is perfecting an invention for the generation of steam by electricity and the utilization of electricity for motive power and use in the household for culinary and heating purposes. Possibilities of electrical development have by no means been exhausted and Mr. Hubinger believes that he has made a highly valuable discovery, one that will reduce the expense of motive power and revolutionize domestic service to a certain degree. So deeply impressed is he with the importance of his invention that he employed B. J. Hall, of Burlington, ex-commissioner of patents, to patent it in this and European countries. For six weeks or more Mr. Hubinger has been and still is conducting experiments with a view to attaining as great a degree of perfection as possible. Since his introduction of the incandescent electric light in Keokuk he had been interested more or less in the subject of electricity and the result of his personal investigation and experiments has been the invention. It consists of what is termed "electric boilers," of greater or less degree of power and capacity, through which the wires conveying the electric current are run or rather attached to copper plates. When the current is turned on the water boils and stream is generated in a surprisingly brief period. In this manner a degree of power can be secured necessary to operate machinery in any manufacturing establishment. In domestic service it can be employed for heating water and for cooking and bathing purposes. For the latter a small glass globe, containing strips of copper, to which the electric wires are attached, is placed in the bath-tub and the water is speedily heated to the desired degree. Mr. Hubinger expects to enlarge the capacity of his electric light plant and supply electricity and power to all who care to use it. He is confident that he can supply power cheaper than it can be produced by the consumption of coal. If this is a fact the value of the invention will at once be established and its success assured. Six hundred and forty-six volts is equivalent to one electrical horse power and by the use of a continuous circuit it is expected the power generated will accomplish much more than if consumed and partially wasted at one given point.

THE NEW HUBINGER BLOCK.

The above is an accurate representation of the new brick block with handsome stone front in process of erection by J. C. Hubinger at Third and Main streets. The building will have a 65 foot front and will adjoin in the rear to the building at present on the rear of the lots, making the total depth 140 feet. It will be three stories in height and on the corner will be surmounted by a low tower. The stone front is of massive design and when completed will present one of the handsomest business fronts in the state. The building will be equipped with all the modern conveniences, including water and steam. It will be lighted throughout by electricity and will be provided with passenger and freight elevators run by electricity. The interior fittings will be in keeping with the handsome exterior and everything about the building, even to the smallest detail, will be up-to-date and as fine as can be procured. Mr. Hubinger has received a number of advantageous offers from prospective renters. At present the Spiesberger millinery firm have an option on the building which will expire in a short time. The block will make a splendid ornament to the city and wonderfully improve the appearance of Main street. It is another witness to the splendid enterprise of Keokuk's public spirited citizen.

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J.C. Hubinger

Constitution-Democrat

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.
DEMOCRAT—Established 1883.
Consolidated March 26, 1888.

JANUARY 29, 1898

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A SYMPHONY OF NATURE AND ART

From Solid Stone and Sturdy Cypress and Oak Is Built the Home of a Prosperous Firm.

THE PRIDE OF KEOKUK AND THE FINEST IN THE WEST.

The Hubinger Building Is Filled By Spiesbergers With the Plumage of the Tropics and the Richest Stores of Nature in Flowers and Foliage Amid Fittings Magnificent and Costly.

The great Hubinger building is finished.

The M. Spiesberger & Son company are occupying it.

The pessimists who bossed the job and said it never would be finished are knocked out of the box. Long live the king!

When J. C. Hubinger said that he was going to build the finest business house in town, some people said that it would not be finished in time to be occupied for the mass meeting at the millenium, but it is done in about three months and is occupied by the heaviest firm of wholesale milliners in the west.

It was in September, only a few months ago, that Mr. Hubinger was at the union station on his way to Spirit Lake for an outing with the bass and scenery there and at the train met Mr. Spiesberger to whom he said in his quick, genial way:

"Hello; when do you want me to build that building for you?"

"At once," Mr. Spiesberger replied.

"Meet me at 9:30 Monday morning at my office," Mr. Hubinger replied.

And that was the start of the magnificent building which has been the cynosure of all eyes at Third and Main streets during the intervening time. That same evening by 5 o'clock the plans for the greatest building ever erected in Keokuk or Iowa were under way.

In the new building erected for the M. Spiesberger & Son company and which they now occupy on the corner of Third and Main streets, Keokuk, possesses the largest and most moderuly appointed wholesale millinery establishment west of New York city. This distinction is not only a credit to the establishment to which it applies but should be a matter of pride to Keokuk and Iowa, the more so that it found its birth in the city of Keokuk and has grown here from little beginnings to a vast enterprise.

As a result of what can be accomplished by integrity and perseverance, this firm is a splendid example. It is the enterprising spirit and progressiveness of such men as compose it that make Keokuk what it is. No wholesale millinery house is wider or more favorably known throughout the west and its progress since it started in business thirty years ago forms an interesting chapter in mercantile annals.

First In the West.

In 1864 M. Spiesberger, now deceased, started the first wholesale millinery establishment in the west; and it was his training and counsel that has educated the members of the firm and made the business what it is today—one of the foremost in the west; there were various changes in the firm but M. Spiesberger always remained at its head.

November 29, 1889, one of the most disastrous fires that ever occurred in Keokuk destroyed among other large business houses the entire establishment of Spiesberger Brothers. January 1, 1890, the firm of M. Spiesberger & Son organized for business in a small way and has kept pushing forward ever since rapidly and steadily.

In December, 1896, the firm was incorporated into a stock company, with N. A. Spiesberger as general manager, and under these auspicious conditions, the company occupy their new quarters. May success continue to crown their efforts.

The new structure in which they are now located is the largest and best equipped milinery house in this country. It is 55 feet wide and 140 feet deep, and consists of four stories and a basement. The interior of the building is artistically finished in hard pine and cypress. The much mooted question of light is amply provided for by innumerable windows. The skill of the architects, George W. Payne & Son of Carthage is apparent at every turn, and the many special and improved methods for conducting the business compel attention.

The exterior appearance is represented in the accompanying picture although this does not give the rich appearance due to the delicate tint of the stone front, nor adequately show the solidity which is the chief characteristic of the building—as it is of the firm which occupy it.

The Handsome Interior.

As one enters, on the ground floor and the left hand side are well appointed offices for the traveling salesmen and visiting customers where all can be made to feel at home.

In the rear of this floor are the general offices of the company and Manager N. A. Spiesberger's private office. The ground floor is devoted to ribbons, velvets, laces and yard goods. The means for displaying these are unique and the fixtures are simply magnificent in oxidized copper and nickel trimmings.

On the annex of the first floor are the receiving and packing rooms and the toilet rooms for gentlemen.

The second floor is devoted to flowers, feathers, millinery novelties and ornaments. This is the art room of the house. Imagine an unobsturcted room the full width and depth of the building, stocked with the closest imitations of nature's flowers and foliage, the rich plumage of tropical birds and the highest creations of millinery art, and you can gain some idea of the magnificent appearance of this department.

From Every Land.

The third floor is confined entirely to hats. Forty-five mammoth tables, running the entire width of the building, are loaded with all sorts of headgear, suitable for the smallest infant to the oldest dame. To one not knowing the demands for this article, it would seem that there were enough hats there to cover the heads of the entire western feminine population. There are sailor and tourist hats ready for the immediate use; children's headwear of lace and mull; leghorns from Italy; beautiful designs in ladies' hats made from braids of Switzerland, Japan and China.

The well lighted trimming rooms are located in an annex in connection with the second floor. In connection with the rooms on this floor is also a ladies' toilet room. As the business of the house is largely with ladies, this will be a great convenience. The pattern room—that converging point for the most beautiful in millinery—occupies a front space the entire width of the building. This affords wide latitude for decorative art, which it is needless to add will be taken advantage of in a superb manner. The elaborate rugs, pretty tapestries and handsome mirrors and wall cases combine to make a pleasant environment for the hundreds of trimmed models—both of imported and domestic design—soon to be displayed.

Fitted For Comfort.

The trimming room annex is for the use of the firm's many customers who desire to copy the models displayed in the pattern room. This room is fitted up with every convenience for their comfort and will easily accommodate a hundred and fifty peo-

ple. In connection with this is the firm's own workroom in which they produce daily new and exquisite creations of fashion.

Every part of the building is made easy of access by an electric elevator of modern construction and design. The different floors are connected by speaking tubes.

Aside from their force of milliners, this firm employs a large number of people in various capacities, including eight traveling men who are well known to the trade from the Mississippi to the Pacific coast. These gentlemen are now on the road with their spring samples, and the firm is daily receiving large orders from them.

The millinery firm consider themselves fortunate in being able to secure such a building so well adapted for their purposes. It is certainly a model of its kind, and such as no other city can boast of. It is a d tinct feature of the city and a cre to Keokuk, J. C. Hubinger and t M. Spiesberger & Son Company.

To Be Opened to View.

Mr. Spiesberger has received ma requests from citizens that the fir throw open the building for the i spection of Keokuk people who a admirers of high art in architectu and beauty in feminine decoration He will within a week announce a evening when the firm will be home to Keokuk people, and when will give them an opportunity of se ing the richness and beauty of t new home of the company which c only be appreciated after being see

The regular wholesale opening w be early in March and will bring he a large number of milliners. From private view of the building a stock the Constitution-Democr opines that there will be in Keok then a larger number of busine women than ever before, althou these openings have always added noticeable number of charming fac and chic toilets to the crowd seen on t streets. Certainly the firm is maki extraordinary efforts in that dire tion, and with their increased sto and elaborate display this season is not likely that the milliners w lose the opportunity given them he to a much greater extent than in a other western city.

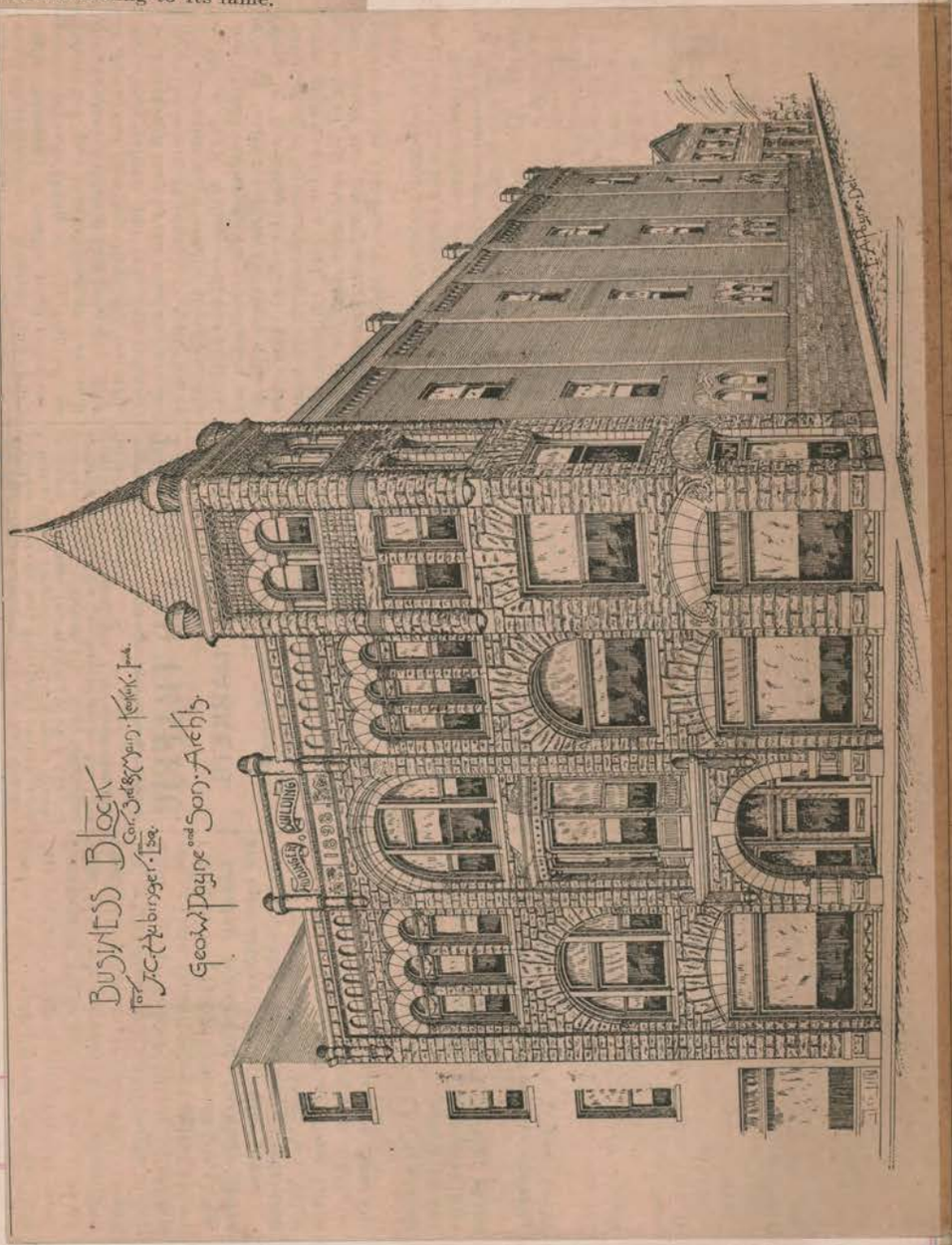
It Helps Keokuk.

A good deal of space has been giv to this Keokuk improvement, becau it is of advantage and assistance the whole city. It will bring to Ke kuk new faces each time that goo are to be bought, and other me chants will meet with the same cord ality as ever the people attracted he by the enterprise of the M. Spie berger & Son Company. A house li this spending such a large amou of money at home in fitting up t new store rooms, and adding to t radius from which Keokuk attrac trade is doing much more than he itself. Since Keokuk can say that has the largest and finest wholesa millinery house in the western cou try, it has one more thing to be pro of in the way of improvements.

Hubinger's Enterprise.

If it had not been for the ente prise of J. C. Hubinger and the sol business growth of the M. Spie berger & Son Company, the corn of Third and Main streets would st be in the condition it was last Jan ary. The men who have changed a eyesore into a palatial business hou deserve all the encouragement Ke kuk can give them. They deser success because their success mea the prosperity of the city.

This story began with the meetin of J. C. Hubinger and N. A. Spie berger at the depot. It ends wi their names enshrined in the hear of all who love the most beautif city on the Mississippi river and tho who are adding to its fame.



Constitution-Democrat.
, JULY 10, 1899

SPLENDID NEWS FOR KEOKUK

Hubinger Bros. Will Erect a New Starch Factory in This City.

Will Be a Duplicate of the Building in New Haven, Conn.—Jos. Hubinger in the City Seeking a Suitable Location for the Factory.

It is exceedingly gratifying for the Constitution-Democrat to be in a position to announce to the people of Keokuk that Hubinger Bros. of New Haven, Conn., have definitely decided to engage in the manufacture of starch in this city upon a large scale and that special facilities are to be prepared for that purpose, the intention being to adequately prepare for the immense and continuously growing western trade of this widely known firm. It is well known to the public at large that Hubinger Bros. are the largest and most successful manufacturers of starch in the country and that there is a greater quantity of their product consumed than of any other factory in operation. It is a staple with all jobbing houses, east and west, and its superior quality commends it to all consumers of that necessary household and laundry article.

Hubinger Bros. expect to erect at once in Keokuk a building especially adapted to their manufacturing wants and will be a duplicate of the building utilized at New Haven, Conn., which is a model of its character. It will be built of brick, will be three stories in height and 40 by 90 feet in dimensions. Mr. Joseph Hubinger of New Haven has been in the city for several days arranging preliminaries, arrangements for the construction of the new factory being the especial object and purpose of his visit at this time. The location of the building has not been decided upon. Mr. Hubinger is desirous of purchasing suitable lots favorably situated along some railway line on railway switch, and it is a site of this character that is very much desired by the firm. Several properties have been examined and a number have been looked over, and it is not believed that any great difficulty will be encountered in procuring land that is available for the purpose intended. It is understood that the work of construction will commence as soon as the site is purchased. Of Mr. Joseph Hubinger, of the firm of Hubinger Bros., Keokuk has seen and known but little because of his continuous residence in New Haven, but he is a modern, progressive business man of sound judgment and enterprise. Keokuk will certainly extend a cordial welcome to the starch manufacturers and will appreciate the new and additional investments that it is intended to make in this city. Construction of the proposed building insures the permanency of the operation of the starch industry in Keokuk, and in order to supply the entire western trade it must necessarily be conducted upon a very extensive scale. Doubtless an increased number of operatives will be employed to accommodate the growing western demand for Elastic starch. It brings another factory to Keokuk and that event is a subject for general congratulation at any and all times.

The Daily Constitution
AUGUST 31, 1887.

OUR NEW FACTORIES.

J. C. HUBINGER RENTS PROPERTY ON FOURTH AND EXCHANGE STS.

Temporarily, for the Purpose of Preparing His Elastic Starch—The Cooper Shop —Other Building Notes.

J. C. Hubinger, this afternoon, leased of Messrs. Asaph Buck and William Blom, the owners, the large two-story brick building, north corner Fourth and Exchange streets, which he will occupy for the preparation and boxing of the Elastic starch until a factory can be built. The firm name will be J. C. Hubinger and preparations for manufacturing will be commenced at once. This is the factory which is to be removed here from New Haven, Conn., and will be entirely separate from the large factory which he expects to build on the line of the Santa Fe next year, and in which he will prepare the material for the manufacture of starch by Hubinger Bros.

The work of excavating for Mr. Hubinger's new residence on the avenue was commenced to-day. Conrad Eimbeck will be in charge of the construction of the same. The carpenter work with not be done by contract labor.

The new cooper shops on the old Patterson pork house property are now completed, and Mr. Fox will begin the manufacture of barrels in a few days. The shops are 130x25 feet, and are alongside the railway track.

The carpenter work on the new three-story business blocks of the Irwin-Phillips Co. and A. L. Connable is nearly completed. These handsome buildings add greatly to the appearance of Lower Main street.

Mr. George D. Rand has had the old frame building occupied as a Chinese laundry, on Third street, near Johnson, torn down, in order to commence the erection of his large and handsome three-story brick building, mention of which was made in the CONSTITUTION several days ago. The building will be 40 feet front on Third street and 50 feet front on Johnson. The first floor will be occupied for business purposes; while the second and third floors will be flats, partitioned off into sleeping apartments, which will be rented to gentlemen desiring rooms. Excavations for the foundation will commence at once. The new hotel and this building of Mr. Rand's will greatly improve the appearance of this part of Johnson street.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.
Entered JUNE 24, 1887. ...atter

KEOKUK BOYS ABROAD.

The New Haven Starch Factory as Pictured by a Local Paper—Three Iowa Young Men Started it and Built it Up.

Several years ago the now well-known Hubinger brothers went east to try their fortunes in the manufacturing centers. They located in New Haven, Conn., and have built up a prosperous business manufacturing starch in the City of Elms. Since the tide has turned westward in the location of factories the Hubingers have given thought to the city of their boyhood and they will probably ere long make a proposition to our city to give them some aid in carrying out their plans. Copies of the New Haven Union received contain the following regarding their enterprise:

There has no business ever been started in this city in a small way that has grown to so great proportions in so comparatively few years as was that conducted by the Hubinger brothers, manufacturers of the Elastic Starch.

A brief account of the wonderful success that this firm has experienced cannot fail to be interesting, as such successes are indeed rare.

In 1880 the Hubingers, J. C., N. W. and J. E., commenced the manufacture of starch in a very modest way in a little store on Grand avenue. The brothers were practical men, did all their own work for a time. Nearly all the wholesale grocers in town laughed at the idea of these then enterprising young men setting up a starch manufactory, and with great assurance prophesied that the new concern would not last six months. The six months came and went and, behold, the little business had increased and the brothers were forced to employ help. The ones who had prophesied that the concern would go to the wall in six months now extended the time to nine or ten months but when this time elapsed and the concern's business was still increasing the prophets reluctantly crawled into their holes and pulled the holes in after them.

In 1882 the store on Grand avenue became too small to satisfy the growing demand for Elastic Starch and two buildings on State street were secured. Here the business continued to grow

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and increase. The Hubingers were obliged to add more help from time to time as the demand for their product increased. About two years ago the building on State street became too small for the business and the concern moved to 11 Custom House square, where the business is now conducted.

During the first year the brothers employed two hands, but now over forty are employed at the factory on Custom House Square and 29 Long Wharf.

Elastic Starch is now being manufactured at the enormous rate of 10 tons per day. In 1880 the starch was only sold locally, but now it is for sale in every town and village from Maine to California.

The wonderful success that this starch has attained is due to the peculiar properties it possesses. It is made entirely unlike any other starch and by its use the housewife can do up her household linen with all the polish and stiffness that is the result of the best laundry work. Some of the other peculiarities and advantages this starch possesses over other starches, lie in the fact that it requires no cooking and that it will keep the iron from sticking and the linen from blistering while ironing.

These advantages are readily appreciated by the housewife and after once trying the Elastic Starch she will henceforth use no other.

The fact that the wonderful merits of this starch are appreciated generally is shown by the number of imitators that have sprung up during the past two years. These people know the value of Elastic starch and seek to make a few dollars by palming off an inferior article as the Elastic. However the people know the difference and are not likely to be deceived.

An idea of the amount of business done by the Messrs. Hubinger can perhaps be obtained by the statement that they use more paper boxes than any other concern in the country, and their order calls for 50,000 boxes of a certain size and pattern every week.

The making of those boxes is the principal contract of one of the largest paper box making establishments in the country.

It is really gratifying to note the success which this concern has met with, and the indications that their prosperous business will prosper and continue to prosper.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

JUNE 26, 1887.

A STARCH FACTORY.

The Proposition Which Hubinger Bros. Will Make to the City.

Within a few weeks J. C. Hubinger, of J. C. Hubinger & Bros., of New Haven, Conn, will submit a proposition to the citizens of Keokuk and if accepted will at once establish a large starch factory in this city, which will consume from one to two thousand bushels of corn per day and give employment to one hundred men, boys and girls. This is an excellent opportunity to secure a large manufacturing establishment and one that will prove of much benefit to the city. A new era in manufacturing enterprises is dawning here and it is fitting that every possible encouragement be given for the location of new enterprises. Real estate for a number of years remained at a low value but during the past year it has steadily increased and is increasing until now it is regarded as a remunerative investment. Keokuk needs factories that will give employment to people and so favorable an opportunity as this to procure a new industry ought not to be neglected. Hubinger Bros. will doubtless receive what they may ask for.

KEOKUK DEMOCRAT.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1887.

HUBINGER MADE HAPPY.

The Council at a Special Meeting Accedes to His Wishes as to Grade and Taxes.

At a special meeting of the council held Monday afternoon with all the aldermen present and Mayor Irwin presiding, the matter of changing the grade on Grand Avenue as desired by J. C. Hubinger was brought up. That gentleman was given permission to address the council and stated fully his wants and what would be necessary to be done in order to allow him to carry on the improvements contemplated by him. He told the council that he was ready to go on with the work of building and that if they would make the change he would do more than he had originally agreed to. Alderman Evans then introduced the following resolution which was adopted by the unanimous vote of the council.

Resolved, That the city attorney is hereby directed to prepare an ordinance changing the grade of Grand Avenue from Eleventh to Fourteenth street, from the grade established in 1883 to the grade previously established in 1877, with additional raise of one (1) foot at Eleventh street, from 142.5 to 143.5, located by a vertical curve extending 150 feet each way from the point of intersection of grades at that point, and to establish the grade at Fifteenth street and Grand Avenue at an elevation of 168, and at Fourteenth street a cut of one (1) foot from present grade, 173 to 172, with a vertical curve extending 150 feet each way.

The question of exempting the business of J. C. Hubinger & Bro., from taxation for a period of ten years, was brought up by the introduction of the following resolution presented by Alderman Buck:

Resolved, That the capital stock used in the business of John C. Hubinger & Bro., in their business of manufacturing starch, in which business they shall employ about twenty-five to fifty employes, shall be and is hereby exempted from taxation for city purposes for ten years. If they shall not employ regularly twenty-five persons in any one year this exemption shall not apply.

Mr. Hubinger addressed the council in explanation of the plans of his firm. He said that it was their intention to remove their present business from New Haven to this city, and that it would be conducted independently of the starch factory which he proposed to establish here. Alderman Swartz was of the opinion that a term of five years would be long enough. Mayor Irwin advised broad and liberal treatment of parties seeking locations in our midst. The unanimous vote of the council was cast in favor of the resolution. Mr. Hubinger stated that they would begin work at once on their buildings, and hoped to have them finished the winter season. The city is to be congratulated upon securing these enterprises and the addition to our population of the active, energetic and thoroughly wide-awake members of this well-known firm.

GONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT.

Largest in the World.

One of the most interesting as well as valuable curiosities which ever was seen in this city is now in the possession of J. C. Hubinger. It is the largest elks head in the world, that of "Old Pete," an animal that worried the old hunters in Montana for so many years, before one of them managed to bore him in 1888. The head, with its immense antlers, was mounted in most lifelike style by Wm. F. Sheard, of Livingston, Montana. It arrived this afternoon and will be placed on exhibition for a short time in Wyman-Rand's large display window.

Mr. Sheard in a communication to the Sportsman's Journal regarding this head said:

"Although I have seen and handled a great many elk heads this is the finest specimen I know of to-day. I have not taken the dimensions of the horns, but have stood up alongside of the head and had a photograph taken which will give you some idea of the size. My height is five feet nine inches. There are eight points in each beam. One small point was broken when he fell, but I have repaired it so it cannot be noticed. The war points in front look short in the photograph, but they measure sixteen and a half inches in length. I have seen heads as wide as this one but not with such massive beams. In mounting this head I have tried to give the expression of defiance as in life; how well I have succeeded you can see. He is supposed to be standing on some point guying you off while you are wearily plodding along through the snow, half a mile back on his trail, and expecting to see him jump out of every brush."

AUG. 21. 1890

The Gate City.
JUNE 10, 1899.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

HUBINGER IS OUT.

Judge Bank Dismisses the Case Against Him.

GREGORY AND FISHER REMAIN

As the Only Defendants in the Big Damage Suit of George Renard, Fireman.

The suit for $5,000 damages of George Renard against J. C. Hubinger, the J. C. Hubinger company, A. E. Gregory and John Fisher for malicious prosecution, took all the time of the district court yesterday. Most of the time was occupied in hearing lawyers.

The very first thing, J. W. Delaplaine was put on the stand to tell how much J. C. Hubinger and the J. C. Hubinger company is financially worth. This most interesting question caused everybody in the court room to prick up his ears, and in an instant the lawyers were in a wrangle. The defense objected to the question as not having anything to do with the case, and the argument was over whether it did or not.

The batteries of law books were unlimbered and beggan throwing solid shot and shooting blank cartridges at the head of Judge Bank who stood up before the bombardment without dodging. At last an armistice was declared and Renard put on the stand for awhile, but soon after the battle of the books began again over the question asked Delaplaine. Finally the court interfered and ordered a cessation of hostilities along that line with an ultimatum. Judge Bank said the question about how much Hubinger is worth was not a proper one in the case being tried and must not be answered. The attorneys who offered the testimony say the decision was correct and everybody was satisfied.

That is, everybody connected with the lawsuit; everybody else in the court room was disappointed that Delaplaine's expert evidence on Hubinger's wealth was denied them.

THE LAW ON RICHES.

Judge Bank held with the defense, that ability of defendant to pay damages may be proven only in slander and breach of promise suits. The rule in slander cases has been of such long standing that courts are reluctant to abrogate it and has some reason from the fact that slanderous words spoken by a man of great wealth usually command more attention than those of the prominence of the former. In breach of promise cases the rule is equitable because the plaintiff loses a larger amount through the breach by a rich man than by a poor man. Judge Bank said he could not see that a man would suffer more anguish by imprisonment on complaint of a rich man than by a poor man.

Renard's testimony redirect and recross was that Hubinger had told him of his ownership of the electric light plant, and Renard's own knowledge that Gregory was manager for Hubinger. He denied saying in the presence of several people that Engineer Fisher might go to the warmest clime in eternity.

Attorney Hornish then read to the jury the record of the superior and justice courts on the criminal prosecution of Renard and got the dry details in queer legal phraseology out with surprising dramatic effect.

WHAT LAWYERS ARE WORTH.

Then came lawyers on the witness stand, examined by other lawyers, and testifying about lawyers' fees. Hazen I. Sawyer, ex-city attorney was placed on the stand and asked a long hypothetical question in regard to the work involved and the compensation that would be charged by an attorney to defend an action for malicious mischief. The defense objected to the question as not based on a state of facts shown to exist, but the court allowed the witness' answer of from $125 to $150 to go into the record. On cross-examination the defense attempted to show that the witness had not been compensated for his own work in city and other cases at the rate indicated in his answer.

Judge A. J. McCrary was called and the same question was asked him. He said as a rule attorneys do not receive what their services are worth. There can be no fixed rule, he said, in regard to charges. In preliminary matters before a justice he thought the general practice of the bar here would be to charge about $10 per diem in the preparation and trial of a case and about $10 each for a demurrer and a change of venue. On cross-examination he said the charges would generally be higher for proceedings in a court of record.

Wm. Timberman testified how much work he and Smith did in clearing Renard, covering nearly two weeks. Then the plaintiff rested, and everybody went to dinner.

IN THE SOLAR PLEXUS.

In the afternoon, the main assault was made, and the fighting was loud and earnest. It opened by a sortie by the defense against the works of the besiegers in a motion that the court take the case from the jury, as far as J. C. Hubinger and the J. C. Hubinger company is concerned and dismiss it as to the Hubinger interests, leaving Gregory and Engineer Fisher as the only defendants. The attorneys for Renard combatted this with all their might, seeming to prefer a judgment against the Hubinger interests if they should finally win out. One side argued that since Gregory and Fisher filed the information on which Renard was arrested, Hubinger had nothing to do with it so far as the evidence had disclosed; the other side said that it had been shown sufficiently that Gregory, Fisher, Hubinger and his corporation were amalgamated in the arrest of Renard. There were a lot of legal technicalities from both sides, and the clock went round again and again and the lawyers went on and on.

After hearing all the arguments the court granted the motion and dismissed the case as regards J. C. Hubinger and the J. C. Hubinger company, leaving Gregory and Fisher the only defendants. The attorneys for the plaintiffs called this a knock out and made no attempt to conceal their disappointment. Judge Bank granted the motion for the reasons that no connection between Hubinger and the starting of the criminal prosecution against Renard had been shown, and that Gregory and Fisher could not bind Hubinger, because such a thing was outside their agency unless they were specially instructed to file the information, which did not appear in the evidence.

FOR THE DEFENSE.

After the letting out of the Hubinger interests as defendants, the evidence presented in the beginning of the case of the defense was that George Tomlinson, John Johnson and Ed. Lumberg, who testified that it was the business of the fireman to watch the pumps, the big boiler was dry in the morning and leaked when it was tested, the pumps needed oil, Renard refused to take orders from the engineer Fisher, and Tomlinson swore that Renard said: "To hell with Fisher," the engineer. Today the evidence will tend to show the condition of the boilers when Renard left them and his duties at the plant, and then John E. Craig will take the stand.

After introducing some testimony the lawyers for the defense will file another motion that the court instruct the jury to bring in a verdict for Gregory and Fisher on the ground that they acted under the advice of the county attorney and consequently under the Iowa code and supreme court decisions damages can not lie against them. The other side will fight this, of course, and there will be another big argument. If Judge Bank holds that there is no case of damages, the trial will end today. If he refuses to interfere, it will eat up part of next week.

The Gate City.
JUNE 9, 1899.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

THE DAMAGE SUIT

90

Of Fireman Renard Against Hubinger and Others.

FOR MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

The Case is Well Under Way and Will Occupy the District Court for Days.

The sparks are flying over in the district court now, while the lawyers are wrangling in the damage suit of George Renard against the J. C. Hubinger company, J. C. Hubinger, John Fisher and A. E. Gregory. The case will last several days and keep things humming judging from its beginning.

The trouble began on the night of August 30, 1897, when the big boiler at the Hubinger electric plant burned out and came near blowing the whole thing up over the bluff. The Hubinger people's investigation caused them to believe that Renard, the fireman, had caused the damage and danger purposely and maliciously. Superintendent Gregory filed an information in the superior court against Renard and the latter was arrested and put in jail. This information was knocked out on demurrer and then Fisher, the engineer, filed a second one before Justice Van Fleet to whom a change of venue had been taken. Renard was discharged by the justice of the peace and brought this suit for $5,000 for malicious prosecution.

The defense will largely be that the defendants acted on the advice of an attorney, and that under the Iowa law this prevents any recovery for damages by removing the element of malice.

It was hard to get legally qualified jurymen and the regular list was exhausted and six men taken out of the audience before twelve men were found who were competent to sit in judgment on the case. The panel finally sworn in consists of O. E. King, Wm. Peterson, George R. Rooney, Frank Sheffer, W. B. Miles, G. G. Walker, Thos. S. Pagett, Peter Mullen, Gus. Wilson, Frank Harshman, Wm. Graham and Ernest Pflug.

THE TRIAL.

The attorneys for Renard are Hon. John P. Hornish, Wm. Timberman and J. Frank Smith; the Hubinger interests are represented by F. M. Ballinger and Theodore H. Craig. Hon. John E. Craig being one of the chief witnesses, and consequently unable to appear at the bar in the trial. A. C. West is stenographer. A. E. Gregory sits by the Hubinger attorneys, Fisher is in the background and Renard is close to his own lawyers. These with Judge Bank make up the compact picture of the trial.

The first witness was Sherman I. Rutledge, the clerk of the court, with the transcript from Justice Van Fleet of the criminal charge against Renard filed by Superintendent Gregory of the Hubinger plant. The first question started a little row among the lawyers which ended by Judge Bank telling one of them not to attempt to argue with the court. The first fight was on the introduction of the papers from Van Fleet and the superior court, Clerk Rutledge not being able to positively swear to the genuineness of the signatures of Justice Van Fleet and Judge Bell. Then Judge Bell was placed on the stand and definitely identified all the papers in the proceedings in his court. There was an objection by Ballinger to every question asked by Hornish, the court sustaining and overruling the objections with speed and decision. It was evident that the record was being shaped up with the supreme court in view, exceptions being thick as leaves on Price's creek. Wm. Timberman, attorney for Renard, when the fireman was on the defensive, took the witness chair and did his share of identifying the papers of the criminal trial in the other courts.

PICTURESQUE PEOPLE.

Ex-Officer John Hanson began the evidence of facts and told of arresting Renard on a warrant and of his confinement in the city jail. The cross-examination was short, consisting mostly of:

"'Bject as being——"

"Overruled; proceed."

Then came the famous Annie Weeden, who often takes a vacation in the calaboose and was there when Renard was arrested. She denied acquaintance with Renard, but admitted that she knows J. C. Hubinger. She was asked about a conversation between Mr. Hubinger and Renard at the jail corridor door, and according to her testimony Mr. Hubinger used a number of words that might be called profane and which Miss Weeden rolled off her tongue with a gusto and roundness that Mr. Hubinger hardly attained. The essence of the conversation was that Renard said he did not leave the boiers dry and Mr. Hubinger told him he was a liar and would be sent to the pen. The gentle Annie admitted on cross-examination that she had talked to lawyers Smith and Timberman, but did not know at the time that they were Renard's attorneys. She asked "Who is Mr. Hornish?" and said that Mr. Hubinger was nicely dressed. Mary Weeden was one of the party taking a rest in jail just then and told about the same story as her sister. Kate Hill, also a leader in police court circles, filled the witness chair by reason of being in jail just at at the right time. She repeated the Hubinger-Renard conversation, cuss words and all, and said Mr. Hubinger looked and acted like he was mad. She knows J. C. Hubinger when she sees him, but is not one of his acquaintances. She knows pretty accurately the distance between the bars at the calaboose, and showed the jury how far apart they are.

MARY AND HE ARE OUT.

The next witness called kept up the recollection of police annals, and was Charles Winder, a familiar name down the alley, who was one of the picnic party in the jail when the Hubinger-Renard talk happened and was in the same room as Renard. Mr. Hubinger charged Renard with threatening to get even with him and with trying to blow up his plant on purpose.

"Have you talked to Mary Weeden about this?" asked Ballinger.

"No, sah! No, sah! I hain't spoke to Annie Weeden since that time; she done got me into jail then," replied the witness with an emphasis that made even the court and jury laugh.

Then the plaintiff himself took the stand. Renard told the size of his family and of his employment as fireman at the electric plant and his arrest and imprisonment. Engineer Fisher told him to report at the office and he did so before going home the morning of the day on which he was arrested later, but Mr. Hubinger was not in. He was not put in a cell at police headquarters. Renard omitted the cuss words from Mr. Hubinger's conversation with him through the jail door until his lawyers made him put them in and said Hubinger acted mad and talked so fast that he himself could not get a word in.

THE PATHOS IN IT.

Renard was not allowed to tell of his wife's trouble on account of his arrest, but his lawyers countered the ruling of the court by "expecting to prove" and told it all to the stenographer so the jury heard it. Renard said he himself suffered great mental anguish from the time of his arrest until now and got his feelings before the jury in a dramatic and emphatic manner.

As to what happened at the plant, Renard said the pumps would not work and he reported the defect to the engineer, which was his whole duty in the matter, at 10 o'clock that night and three or four times afterward. The anguish of his wife and her delicate physical condition came up again in questions by his lawyers, and when the court sustained the objection of the defence, an argument on the law point occurred during which the jury got to hear from the attorneys the pathetic tale of Mrs. Renard fainting in the superior court and Renard being led away by an officer. The court held firmly that a man can not recover damages for suffering by his wife, but it is competent to show the effect of her suffering on his own mind as an element of damages.

RENARD CROSS-EXAMINED.

The cross-examination of Renard began after he had testified to time lost from work and actual damages, and was very thorough and punctuated with the objections which were so thick throughout the case. It first went over the ground of his employment by Mr. Hubinger for about two years as a fireman, and his use of the same pump the

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night of the trouble as during the whole time. He has been a fireman for fifteen years, his only employers being the gas company and the J. C. Hubinger company. He was made to give a census of who was in jail with him, but could not remember all of them; one name he recognized as that of a colored man who he thought was dark complexioned. He was taken again over the Hubinger-Renard conversation and gave an imitation of Mr. Hubinger's voice and manner of talking, but answered that he did not remember many of the details about which he was asked.

He said Engineer Fisher on the night of the trouble said the pumps would probably begin to work later and he would let them alone; Renard admitted that he himself kept on putting up the fire for an hour with no water in the guage and 140 pounds of pressure registered; he denied sleeping on a cellar door and that a man named Tomlinson waked him up; he interjected side remarks showing his intention to throw all the blame for the damage and danger on Engineer Fisher, but admitted that Fisher told him to shut down the boiler when he told the engineer there was no water in the guage.

SLEEP AND ANGUISH.

The question was ruled out as to whether Renard had repeatedly refused to obey orders from the engineer. He knew the woodwork on the boiler caught fire about 2 o'clock that night from a steam pipe, and in the argument over the next question Attorney Ballinger said his side expected to prove that Renard went to sleep on duty. Renard was asked whether he ever made threats against Hubinger, but the question was ruled out.

As to his mental anguish over going to jail, Renard admitted that he had been in jail before the time for which he sues, and got as red as a carnation when he was asked if he suffered the previous time as much as this time, and answered, No. He then explained that the reason was that on the previous occasion he was guilty.

Renard was on the stand about an hour and a half and when his examination was finished court quit for the day.

The Gate City.
JUNE 13, 1899.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

A CRUCIAL POINT.

The Big Damage Suit at a Focus of Law.

THE TEST IS TODAY IN COURT

If Gregory Acted Without Responsibility, Bank Takes the Case From the Jury.

The big damage suit of George Renard is at a crucial point, and this morning Judge Bank will decide whether he will put it out of court entirely on the ground that no action can lie under the circumstances.

Books from every law library in town; books in cases, books on tables, and books on chairs; books with red labels and green labels and black labels; books dark with age and bright with newness; law books bound in sheep, and books everywhere—this was the most noticeable thing in the district court yesterday.

The second big battle in the suit against the Hubinger people for malicious prosecution was on and both sides were intrenched behind long breastworks of decisions. The defense were repeating the same grand tactics by which they put Hubinger and the J. C. Hubinger company out of danger last week. They made a motion that the court take the case from the jury and instruct the twelve men to bring in a verdict for the remaining defendants, A. E. Gregory and John Fisher. The plaintiffs naturally fought this proposition to the very end.

The motion had seven numbered paragraphs and the court took a ten minutes recess after it was read from a typewritten copy. At 3:30 o'clock Attorney F. M. Ballinger began his argument in favor of his motion and he did not stop until the clock had its hands pointing to 5 o'clock.

THE THREE SIDES.

He read from the big batteries of law books with which the court room was filled, commenting on cases in point and emphasizing certain passages, and his thirteen inch gun was, that Gregory and Fisher had no responsibility for a criminal prosecution begun by the county attorney after an independent investigation, and he read the testimony of Hon. John E. Craig to prove that this was the situation here.

Attorney Smith read from the same law books, and others, to prove that the case ought to go to the jury. His argument turned on the point that the advice of a lawyer does not protect a prosecuting witness unless the latter acted in good faith and told the lawyer all the material facts, which the attorney claimed Gregory and Fisher did not do with County Attorney Craig.

Judge Bank asked Attorney Smith a number of questions, the tenor of which was to draw a distinction between consultations with private attorneys in some of the cases cited and consultations with a county attorney as in this case. Court adjourned at 5:30 o'clock with the matter undecided. Judge Bank will decide it this forenoon.

LAWYER ON THE CROSS.

The forenoon yesterday was consumed in the cross-evamination of County Attorney John E. Craig by J. Frank Smith. The county attorney was led over exactly what different people told him before the criminal information against Renard was filed. He said he did not know who filed the information, and neither Gregory nor other witness told him certain material facts. This was considered important by the plaintiffs, who brought it up later in the big law argument and claimed that under these circumstances the advice of the county attorney is not a protection to the men who charged Renard with the crime.

Just after dinner Renard took the stand again and in the midst of a storm of objections said that he did not know the boiler had been injured when he left the plant that morning and denied a lot of evidence the defense had put in.

He sprung a new sensation by getting in on cross-examination in a very skillful maneuver with the defendants' attorney, his assertion that Fisher started all the talk about getting even by saying to the witness, Renard: "If I was you, I'd get even with Hubinger."

HE GOT HIS FEES.

Sylvester Burns, an experienced fireman who worked at the electric plant at times and on the lines part of the time, and who was Renard's predecessor, stopped the trial when he was called by leaning back against a table and remarking:

"I've got to see some fees out of this first." He got the silver after awhile, but testified to but little over the objections of the lawyers. A few other witnesses were examined and the plaintiff rested its rebuttal. Then at 3 o'clock came the seven-headed motion to take the case from the jury, and Judge Bank said he would hear argument only on two propositions: The information being instituted by the county attorney on his own investigation: and Fisher having nothing to do with the original arrest.

The Gate City.
JUNE 14, 1899.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

RENARD LOSES HIS BIG SUIT

The Court Instructs the Jury to Bring in a Verdict for the Defendant.

The case of George Renard, fireman at the Hubinger electric light plant, who sued J. C. Hubinger, the J. C. Hubinger company, A. E. Gregory and John Fisher for heavy damages, be-

cause he was arrested for malicious mischief in letting the big boiler get dry, never really got to the jury.

Yesterday Judge Bank instructed the jury to bring in a verdict for the defendants Gregory and Fisher, the only ones left, Hubinger having been rescued on a previous motion to dismiss as to him and his company.

J. Frank Smith finished his long argument interrupted by adjournment the evening before, Hon. John P. Hornish made a short argument, and Theodore A. Craig spoke to the court, the latter representing the Hubinger side. There was some fire flying between Craig and Smith, but the youngest lawyer at the bar held his own in the retort courteous skirmish. Judge Bank in a few words decided that the whole responsibility was on the county attorney, Hon. John E. Craig, and that there could be no recovery from the others.

The attorneys will file an application for a new trial and it will contain allegations of new evidence just found which is material to the case.

The Gate City.
JUNE 17, 1899.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

STILL FIGHTING RENARD CASE

The Motion for a New Trial is Filed in Court and is a Breezy Document.

The motion for a new trial in the Renard-Hubinger $10,000 damage suit has been filed and has six paragraphs. The first claims that the court erred in not striking out the evidence of Hon. John E. Craig, it appearing that he had read over the testimony of all the other witnesses for the defendant's before he himself testified and after a rule on witnesses hed been granted. The second, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs give the usual legal reasons, and the sixth returns to the attack on County Attorney Craig.

It sets out that new evidence has just been discovered which is given in the affidavits attached of John Johnson, David Hendricks and Oscar Yager who were employed at the electric light plant the day the condition of the boilers was discovered.

Hendricks swears that he was at the plant all that day and that Mr. Craig did not talk to him that day about the boilers or on any other subject and he did not see Mr. Craig about the plant at all. Johnson's affidavit is similar, and Yager swears that he has no recollection of seeing or talking to Mr. Craig.

There is a dispute between the two sides as to the bearing that all this has on the motion for a new trial and the case itself. Renard's attorneys claim that it flatly contradicts the evidence of Mr. Craig; the attorneys for the Hubinger interests say Mr. Craig testified that in his examination of the facts as county attorney he talked to Hendricks, Johnson and Yager, but did not say the conversations were on the day after the night the boiler burnt out, and that the affidavits now filed do not contradict anybody.

The arguments on the motion for a new trial will not last long and the case seems billed through direct to the supreme court.

BIGGEST IN AMERICA.

Mr. Hubinger Owns the Largest Undivided Tract Possessed by One Person.

He Pays Half a Million for Seventy-eight Square Miles in Missouri—He Surprises the Natives—Mr. Law's Good Luck.

John C. Hubinger and G. M. Law have just returned from Crawford county, Mo., about 100 miles southwest of St. Louis. Their mission is thus told in a press dispatch from Steelville, the county seat:

"One of the largest real estate deals that was ever consummated in this section of Missouri was effected here Saturday. The property sold consists of 50,000 acres of Crawford county lands owned by the Midland Blast Furnace company of St. Louis, on which are located the company's blast furnace, the town of Midland and several good farms. John C. Hubinger, a wealthy capitalist of Keokuk, Ia., is the purchaser and is here in person, accompanied by G. M. Law, a real estate broker of Keokuk. The Midland Blast Furnace company was represented in the transaction by Thomas R. Gibson, cashier of the bank of Steelville, and J. T. Woodruff, president of the Woodruff Fruit and Orchard company. Mr. Hubinger buys the land for fruit and orchard purposes and will begin preparing the ground at once for a large planting in the spring. He was attracted here by the splendid reports of Missouri's advantages. The people here look upon the deal as one of great importance, as Mr. Hubinger is already making estimates for an apple orchard of 2,000 acres. The consideration paid for the property is $500,000. Mr. Hubinger proposes to bring fifty families from Iowa to the property within the next few months. The orchard industry in this county is assuming great proportions and the shipments this year aggregate more than 20,000 barrels of apples, besides a great quantity of the smaller fruits."

The fame of his big transaction had gone abroad and Sunday a Quincy Herald representative met Mr. Hubinger and Mr. Law on a K. line train returning from the scene of their big transaction. The Herald says: "Mr. Hubinger had a satchel full of specimens of iron and lead ore and red-cheeked apples, sound and handsome as a Keokuk belle. Both parties are more than enthusiastic over the project. The section is eighty miles southwest of St. Louis, and Mr. Hubinger says the climate and soil is simply superb. 'We rode for three days and then only got over about half of it. It's nearly forty miles around and contains about eighty square miles. There's quite a little village on the strip, too, with some forty or fifty houses, called Midland. They all went with the deal. The total investment costs me about $500,000. In the deal I turn over the Keokuk brick plant, which I value at some $150,000. The rest of it is entirely cash. It did not take me long to settle the business. After looking the ground over I came in to the bank Saturday and said "I'll take it," and drew them a check for $50,000 to clinch the bargain.'

"'Yes,' added Mr. Law, 'and you ought to have seen that cashier's eyes. I thought he was going to have a fit. I suppose that was the biggest check he had ever seen in all his banking business.'

"Mr. Hubinger proposes to establish a big settlement there right away and will probably give Adams county people a chance to better themselves if they should be so disposed. There is fine ore on the land and it is being mined and shipped to St. Louis all the time, but the fruit culture is what will be most largely undertaken. He will set out 178,000 apple trees to start with. It's about the biggest undertaking in which Mr. Hubinger has ever engaged but he knows what he is doing. It does look as if Keokuk's capitalist was after Vanderbilt."

This purchase makes Mr. Hubinger the owner of the largest undivided tract of land possessed by any one person in the United States. The deal was engineered by Mr. Law who is winning a reputation for large transactions. The Herald made this reference to him: "G. M. Law, the attorney who engineered the big deal, is a hustler. He is well known in Quincy by reason of some work done recently for some of our citizens. Just recently he closed up a land partnership matter for Captain Williard Blakeslee in Chicago and secured a settlement in an intricate mess which placed $20,000 to Mr. Blakeslee's credit in Bull's bank."

THE GATE CITY had a talk with Mr. Law about the matter yesterday. Mr. Law is a member of a national association of real estate brokers and in that way comes in contact with the large dealers. This big tract of land has been on the market some time, but the owners would not sell a part of it. They held it at $12 an acre for the whole lot. Mr. Law attempted to organize a syndicate to "swing" the deal and met with partial success. Then Mr. Hubinger placed the big $150,000 pressed brick plant in Mr. Law's hands and negotiations were opened between owners of the Missouri tract and Mr. Hubinger. Secret agents visited Keokuk inspected the brick plant and investigated matters generally. Their report was favorable and on invitatio

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Biggest in America 1872

of the St. Louis parties the Keokuk gentlemen went to Crawford county in company with the St. Louis gentlemen. W. H. Lee, president of the Midland Blast Furnace company, is also president of a national bank in St. Louis. They spent three days in driving over the tract which contains seventy-eight square miles and saw only a part of it. Then they began talking business and in a very few minutes the deal was closed much to the amazement of the St. Louis capitalists, who were not used to such quick work. They privately asked Mr. Law "is there were any more men like Hubinger up in Keokuk," and like the loyal citizen he is Mr. Law stretched a joint to assure his questioners that "the town is full of them." This is the largest deal ever engineered by an Iowa real estate man and Mr. Law is deserving congratulations on that point. He told THE GATE CITY some of the main points about this tract.

It contains 50,000 acres, unincumbered. A great deal of it is under cultivation and the land is very rich. There are some thirty or forty small improved farms on it worked by tenants. Those farms are Mr. Hubinger's.

There are about 3,000 acres in heavy timber. The trees are very big and are valuable. That forest belongs to Mr. Hubinger.

There is an iron mine, very rich in ore, and of such a magnitude that from six to twelve car loads of ore are daily shipped to St. Louis. That iron mine is Mr. Hubinger's.

The town of Midland stands on the land and the whole town belongs to Mr. Hubinger.

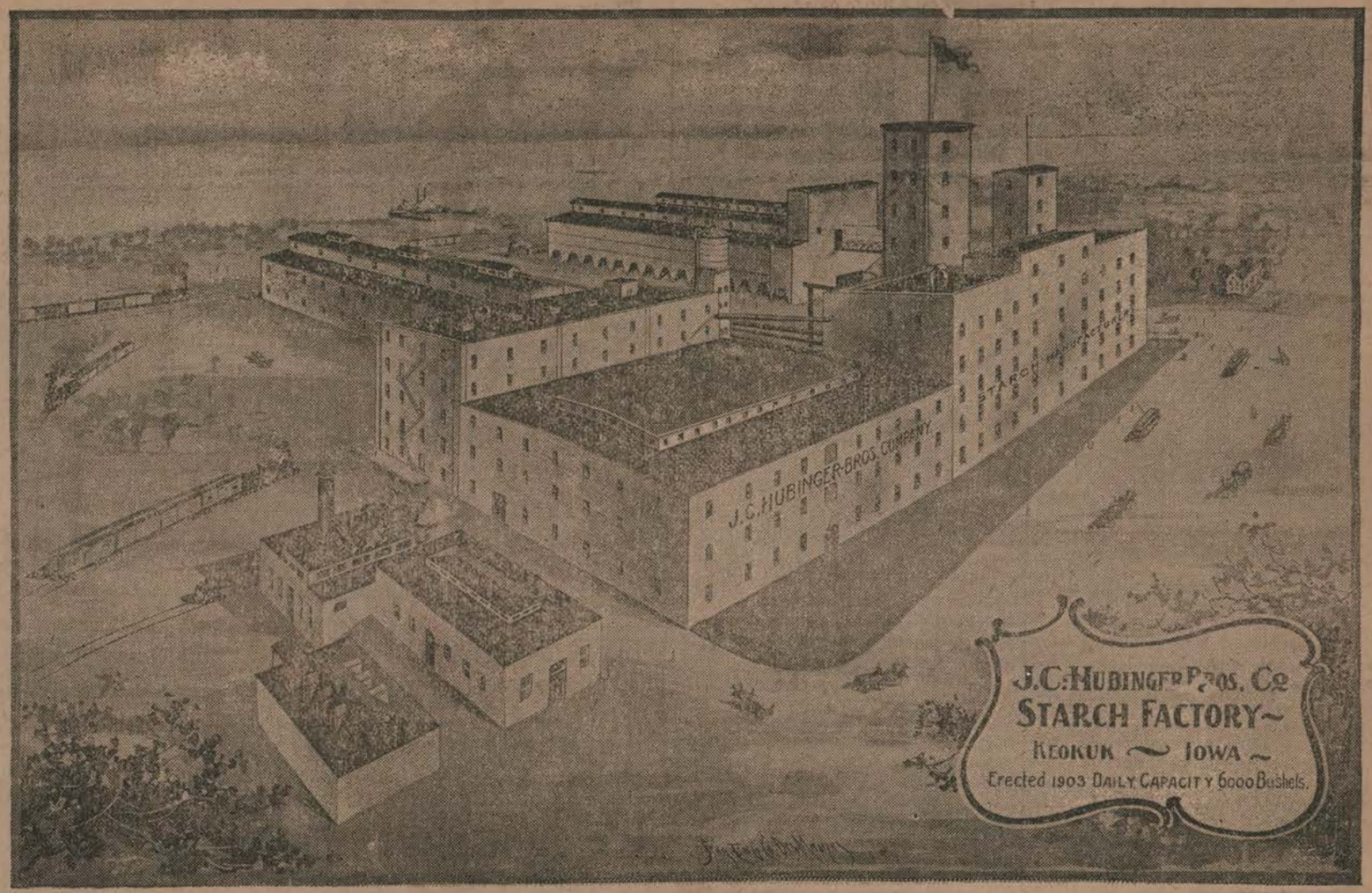
There is one of the largest springs in the world on the land. The water comes up in a flood and the spring is 100 feet or more across. One-fourth of the volume is sufficient to turn the wheels of a flour mill. That mill is Mr. Hubinger's.

There are very valuable stone quarries on the land. In one place the stone has been taken out from the side of the bluff, forming a very large deep, clean and dry cave. The temperature in this cave is almost down to the freezing point the year round. There are large orchards of the largest, soundest and most deliciously favored fruit. Mr. Hubinger intends planting 2,000 acres more in apples and will use that cave for cold storage purposes.

The Meramec river runs through the land. It is a stream about twice as wide as the Des Moines when the latter is full and the water is clear as crystal and alive with fish.

Mr. Law said it was very interesting to see the people of Steelville in their regard for Mr. Hubinger. They evidently considered him a marvelous man and when he left the town there were about 500 people at the station to bid him good bye.

It is understood that the brick plant will be operated by St. Louis parties and the entire product, perhaps, shipped to that place.



VIEW OF THE BIG PLANT BEFORE THE FIRE.

THE GREATEST FIRE IN KEOKUK'S HISTORY

Hubinger Brothers Mammoth Starch Factory Was Almost Entirely Ruined.

A SEETHING CAULDRON WHICH BURNED STEADILY FROM 11 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT UNTIL DAYLIGHT THE NEXT MORNING.

A Workman's Charred Body Supposed to Be Lying in the Ruins.

The City Never Had a Larger or Hotter Fire Than the One Which Has Wrecked Our Biggest Factory—The Plant Will Probably Be Rebuilt.

Constitution-Democrat.

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.
DEMOCRAT—Established 1883.
Consolidated March 26, 1888.

DECEMBER 21, 1903.

In Keokuk's greatest fire Sunday night and Monday morning, the J. C. Hubinger Brothers' starch factory, known as the Cereal Works, was damaged and wrecked, a quarter of a million dollars going up in smoke, and the factory, which was but recently started, put out of business.

The fire started a short time after 11 o'clock Sunday night and was caused by an explosion in the dryer room. The main buildings of the plant were entirely destroyed after the fire had burned for several hours.

John Puder, an employe of the factory, could not be found after the fire, and he was supposed to have met his death in the fiery cauldron.

The fire was the greatest one in the history of the city, the big plant at one time being a seething mass of flames which would represent a city block.

The blaze started in the dryer room of the main building, which is in about the center, ate its way north to the end of the plant, then crawled east to the next side wall, and then worked back to the place of beginning and on to the southern end of the plant, sweeping all before it, in a great conflagration which covered several acres and shot nearly a hundred feet into the air.

The insurance on the property will not cover the loss.

FROM AN EXPLOSION.

The fire started about 11:30 and was caused by the explosion of one of the dryers. Superintendent Eckland said this morning that the cause of the explosion is unknown no cause being assigned, for such a happening. Workmen who were employed in this part of the building are of the opinion that the blower in some way became stopped up by the ground corn which passes through the machine and that the pressure of steam became so great that the walls of the dryer were burst outward.

A GOOD START.

Almost immediately after the explosion several rooms were ablaze and the fire had an excellent start. The factory's own fire department got to work at once but was unable to check the fire.

The flames shot along the lower floor from the center of the main building to the north end and burned slowly for some time, but gained headway and ate its way up through the ceilings and extended into other parts of the building until it was a mass of flames. The fire increased in fury and more hose was sent for. Every available fire hydrant was put into service and the water ran through the gutters about the building in torrents.

The fire seemed to be carrying out a fiendish plan and its campaign was to completely destroy one building and then go on to the next one.

Fire doors, separating various departments, burned down like paper doors and iron pipes melted and fell. The wind was fairly brisk and blowing from the river. As soon as openings were made in the buildings, the wind fanned the flames to fury and the blaze roared and shot up sparks at a great rate.

It was fortunate that few blazing pieces of wood were carried through the air, or other places would have been ignited. There was a rumor that the Keokuk Barrel company's plant was on fire and that a farm house had caught from the flying embers.

THE WORST OF IT.

At 1 o'clock in the morning, after the fire had been burning for two hours, came the most fearful heat and blaze of the whole fire. It was when the main part of the dry starch buildings, five stories in height, was one mass of flames from bottom to roof. On the upper two floors. where the starch troughs, full of starch, and this burned like powder. A light blue flame shot through the upper windows on the east side of the building, and after the roof had burned the flames shot up into the air almost as high again as the building. Through the windows everywhere could be seen the blaze, and from the river side of the plant the full extent of the terrific fire could be seen.

At this time the fire was larger than any fire ever in Keokuk. That part of the building, as large as the Main street side of the Estes House, was all ablaze, roaring and crackling. The red flames, the white hot flames, and the dark smoke, together with the flying sparks and tongues of fire darting out of the windows and up into the sky, made a most dramatic scene. No one could stand within one hundred feet of this part of the blaze, even though the wind was howling in the opposite direction. The heat was so scorching that the grass blazed up and cinders caught fire on the ground for quite a distance from the building.

CRASHING WALLS.

Just at 1 o'clock the walls holding in this fiery furnace cracked and fell.

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Up on the corner of the building a crack appeared, which widened as the fury of the blaze increased. Then a section of the extreme top of the building toppled and fell with a crash, followed by a great section of the wall which faced the river. A section of the wall fifty feet wide and five full stories high, leaned out, bent, and then broke into fragments, alighting upon the railroad switch below with a thundering boom. With it came another great piece of the upper floors, and just following this the wall on the side toward the city toppled and fell with another great crash.

During the early part of the fire a part of the wall facing Fifth street fell out, but the two great walls at the other side of the building were the greatest spectacles of falling bricks.

EATING ITS WAY ALONG.

The fire was eating its way along towards the southern end of the plant, having completely destroyed everything in its path up to the north end of the building. The whole part of the main building was ablaze, but the fiercest part was up in the top corner of the north end. The fire blazed along the building towards the other end opposite the oil house.

Streams of water were playing upon the oil house, but the danger of falling walls forced the men to abandon that part of the work. The men had barely left the place when a great section of the five story wall toppled and fell with a crash, part of it striking the roof of the oil house and cutting it like a knife.

It was then possible to go back to work on the oil house, as the danger of falling walls was over, and two streams were taken upon the roof of this building and a steady stream poured upon it. The interior was ablaze, but the fire was quenched before it had a good start.

THE WATER TOWER.

The fire ate its way along until the main building had been completely wrecked. At the south end of this five story building, is a water tank, high in the air on a frame scaffold. The water in the tank had long since run out when the pipes had melted. The frame work of the scaffold burned to the joists and the heavy timbers burned along for an hour before the big tank fell. It was a few minutes before two when the big tank high up in the air was seen to quiver. Then one of the corner supports gave away and the whole tank twisted about a quarter turn and pitched off of its platform and into the fiery furnace inside of the crumbled walls of the building.

Just before it fell, the big iron pipes connecting two of the buildings, came down with a crash, alighting on a small brick shed below and tearing off its roof like a cyclone.

ALL BURNED UP.

The fall of the water tank, marked the end of the fire in the two buildings on the north end of the plant. The big three story building and the big five story one had been completely gutted and there was nothing in that direction left for the flames to devour.

The oil house had passed the crisis and the engine house and sedimentation house had been kept from blazing by a line of hose.

The course of the flames was then directed southward and in the five story building which stands on the corner. Here was where the fire had originally started and it was eating its way back to finish the work.

AFTER FOUR HOURS.

At 3 o'clock in the morning. the fire appeared to be at last under control, the entire main building being completely destroyed excepting the southwest corner and here water was poured in by several streams of hose. The big frame tower on the roof had crumbled up like so much paper and fallen into the building.

At that time, the grain house and cleaning tower were still standing and appeared to be safe. The ruins were still ablaze all over, but were being held inside of the wrecks of the walls and the fiercest of the fire was over.

SIZE OF THE PLANT.

There were seven main buildings in the big plant. There was the wet starch house, which handled the starch while it is in a moist state. This was a five story stone building about 60x 150 feet, and is that part of the plant on the corner of B and Bluff streets. Another part of the wet starch house was the brick building, an oblong shaped structure about 75x90 feet, and in two or three sections. (Total loss.)

Then there was the dry starch house, in which is handled the starch after it has become dry. This is a three story stone building about 100x 150 feet, containing the kilns. (Total loss.)

There is an oil house, a building 60x 140 feet, between the main building and the river. This building was one of the new ones erected, and was used for the extracting of oil from the grain. (Saved.)

There were two grain houses with a capacity of 140,000 bushels, and 50x125 feet in size. (Saved.)

There is a sedimentation tank building about 68x97 fet. This building is the slanting roofed low building which is the first one toward Main street. Next to it is the engine house and boiler room. (Saved.)

The corn cleaning house is the many stories building. There was a small oil storage house and some other smaller buildings about the plant.

The destroyed part of the plant, it will be seen, was the main building, while those buildings which were saved were detached from the rest of the plant and but departments of the big factory.

IS PUDER CREMATED?

There were about forty men working in the factory at the time of the explosion and they escaped almost miraculously. Several of them, however, were thrown some distance and cut and bruised somewhat, but none of their injuries were serious.

John Puder, an employe in the drying room is missing and it is feared that he is buried in the smoking, steaming pile of rubbish which is all that remains of the main building. Up to this time, no trace of him had been found and the members of his family are nearly distracted. There was a story current at the scene of the fire, that Pruder had been seen wandering hatless and coatless out toward the open country, driven insane by the terrible accident, but this story has not as yet been verified.

SOME BUILDINGS SAVED.

Owingk to the almost superhuman efforts of the firemen several of the buildings belonging to the plant were saved, although their fate seemed sealed, and it was not thought that anything could save them from total destruction. The elevator, which is conspicuous by its great height, stands within a very short distance of the main building and is built of wood. As soon as the department arrived and connected their hose to the water mains, streams of water were poured on the building, and by this means its destruction was averted, although several times it was smoking and the firemen thought that all their efforts had proved vain.

The oil house, which is situated immediately back of the main building, also escaped miraculously. In this is stored the oil extracted from the corn, and had the building caught fire nothing that one or twenty fire departments could have done would have been of any avail.

The immense bin situated on the river side of the main building, which is used as a storing place for the car loads of corn which are shipped in, was also saved by the good work of the firemen, who deluged the immense wooden structure with water, and at present, although it is badly scorched in places, it is unharmed.

The engine and boiler rooms were the other buildings which escaped the fury of the fire. The small wooden structure on which the great stack stands, was partially burned, but otherwise the heating and lighting plant was not injured, although many of the windows were cracked or broken on account of the intense heat.

HOUSES ON FIRE.

Several times during the fire two or three of the frame dwelling houses across Fifth street from the factory were on fire, flying sparks and embers alighting on the roofs. A line of hose quickly put out these small blazes.

ALL APPARATUS THERE.

When the alarm was firt turned in the West Keokuk, the chemical and the two uptown hose reels responded. Then the Young America reel came back for more hose. The hook and ladder truck and the West Keokuk fire engine were also brought to the scene, the engine being taken down to the

river bank and put into service.

Every available piece of hose belonging to the department was put into use and although many streams were turned into the fire, they were powerless to check the blaze after the fire had once got its start.

The ladders were used several times some effective work was done, but the intense heat and the crackling walls did not permit of much good being done.

MEN INJURED.

It is remarkable that there [illegible] so few accidents. Several men were cut from broken glass and falling timbers, but no one received any serious injuries.

At one time a whole floor fell while two firemen were standing just inside of a window plying a stream of water. The men climbed out of the window and were not injured.

WIRES WERE KILLED.

Superintendent Grenier and Roy Coleman, from the electric company, came down and saw that there was no danger from the many electric and telephone wires in the vicinity. Along Fifth street several wires fell down, some of them hanging across the trolley wire. The wiring in the plant was hanging and twisted all about the building, but the current was cut off, and there was no danger from this source.

THE FIRE TRAIN.

After it was seen that nothing could be done to stop the flames, an effort was made to save some of the machinery and other things. The elastic starch machines were taken out of the building by a score of volunteer workmen and left on the outside. They escaped having the heavy floors above fall upon them, but were badly damaged by falling bricks. Two barrels of gasoline were removed and rolled over the railroad tracks near the river, and some small stuff was carried out.

A switch engine and several cars were backed up to the oil house and several barrels of oil loaded on them and taken to a place of safety.

THE ALARM WHISTLE.

As soon as the explosion occurred, the alarm whistle of the factory was started. Many people all over the city heard this. It was a most plaintive wail of anguish and the whistle was kept going for some time.

There was no mistaking what it meant, it was so different from any whistle ever heard before and sounded like a cry for help. After it had tooted for several moments, the fire bells rang and the apparatus clattered to the scene of the fire. Then the whistle blew two long blasts.

A DENSE SMOKE.

During the early part of the fire, a dense smoke filled the whole city. At first, the smoke was wafted up Bloody Run and came into the city at the upper end. Then it spread over the west side and people going to the fire down Fifth street had great difficulty in breathing five blocks from the fire, the smoke was so thick. Many turned back on account of smarting eyes.

No blaze reflection could be seen until over a half hour after the fire started, but when at last the flames had broken through the windows and roof, the sky was lit up and the blaze could be seen for many miles.

Although the hour was late, there was quite a crowd of spectators at the fire, many of whom assisted in the work. People were coming and going all night long, the blaze lighting up that end of town all night long.

JUST AN IDEA.

An idea of the extent of the fire may be had by looking at the picture of the plant as it stood before the fire, printed in this issue.

The only buildings which were not totally wrecked are the three small ones in the lower left hand corner of the picture, being the sedementation tank building and the engine and boiler house and the two buildings at the back of the plant which are seen in the picture pointing toward the river, one being the oil house and the other being the grain bins.

The highest tower in the picture is the elevator which was saved. Everything else in the picture is today a mass of ruins.

WAS KEOKUK'S GREATEST FIRE.

In the history of Keokuk there has not been a greater fire than this one. The old elevator fire, the Irwin-Phillips Co.'s big fire, the lumber yard fires and others which were considered large ones, cannot compare with this one.

At 1 o'clock, when the flames were the fiercest, there have been few fires in this country in which there was as large and as hot a mass of flames.

The loss is a large one, exceeding any by fire heretofore in the city. For four hours steady the fire was burning fiercely, and the Cereal factory fire holds the record to date.

HISTORY OF BUILDING.

In 1867 George B. Smyth and the late A. B. Connable built in Keokuk a pork packing plant which with machinery cost $125,000. In 1881 the Coey people of Belfast, Ireland, bought the plant and operated it until October, 1898, when the firm failed in Ireland and the Keokuk plant was abandoned and offered for sale.

On October 11, 1899, A. E. Johnstone, as trustee, with a dozen other citizens, bought the plant for about $7,000 and an effort was made to get some packing house to take it.

Then in May of last year the city bought the property from the owners for $6,350 and gave it to the J. C. Hubinger Brothers. The city paid $21,350 to Wm. Logan as trustee, the contract being signed up by Mayor Theodore A. Craig on the afternoon of May 26, 1902. This money paid by the city to the trustee was to be divided, $15,000 to the Keokuk Cereal company and the balance as the purchase price of the building. As soon as the plant was firmly established Trustee Logan was to pay the $15,000 over to the Keokuk Cereal company.

On May 23, 1902, Architect Russell arrived and began work on remodeling and changing the wreck of the old pork house plant into the big buildings which were humming with machinery Saturday, and the factory began making starch.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

Although the factory was not ready to start in all of [illegible] departments, the most of the machinery was in when President Roosevelt visited Keokuk on April 29, 1903, and by a twist of his wrist the president of the United States started the machinery in the big plant.

An electric wire was stretched from the factory to Rand Park, and a box containing a handle was placed on the speaker's stand. After his address the president turned the crank and the current was sent from the park to the factory, where a lever dropped and the big wheels began to move.

BUT LITTLE SALVAGE.

There was practically nothing saved from the main building aside from a few boxes of starch which were carried out before the fire had gained any headway. This morning some of the machinery was hauled out by means of ropes and a winch and loaded onto wagons whence it was taken to a safe place This machinery, however, was badly damaged.

VIEWING THE RUINS.

This morning the people came down in great numbers on wheels, on horseback, in buggies, on foot, any way to get to the scene of the greatest conflagration that has occurred in Keokuk. The roof of the main building and the upper parts of the walls had fallen in, and the inside was one great mass of smoking, burning rubbish and twisted and broken machinery. Several streams of water were thrown on the burning interior during the entire day, but smoke and steam issued from the pile for hours, and despite the thousands of gallons of water thrown on it, the mass will probably continue to smolder for some days to come.

250 OUT OF WORK.

The wreck of the factory will throw about 220 people out of employment that number being at work last week. The number at work varies, there being sometimes more than 220 employed.

IT WILL BE REBUILT.

While over half of the factory was destroyed by the fire, the company still has the few buildings left standing, all of which are new. The engine house was damaged but little and the big engine is still in running shape.

The main buildings which were destroyed are the old Coey buildings and there will be rebuilt in all likelihood, although it is too soon to state any of the particulars. A conference of the officers of the company will be held soon.

SOME GOOD WORK.

The fight against the fire was engaged in by not only the fire department, but hundreds of others. Every man who had employment at the fac-

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(Hubinger Fire)

tory and who was on the scene took hold and worked, and hundreds of spectators aided in carrying hose and doing what little they could.

It was soon seen that nothing could be done to check the terrigle fire, but efforts were made to save other parts of the plant and to keep the blaze down as much as possible.

Against fearful odds the firemen worked hour after hour, but the fire grew instead of diminishing. Men risked their lives while at work about the fiery furnace and falling walls, and thousands of gallons of water were poured into the blaze.

N. W. Hubinger, Hugh W. Green and Superintendent Eckland were present helping and advising. They were satisfied with the work the fire fighters did and complimented the men who were fighting a losing battle.

The extent of the fire was so large, the heat so intense, and the danger so great, that little could be accomplished except to try and confine the blaze in the main building and keep it from leaping across to the other buildings.

It was one of the most exhausting battles ever engaged in by the local department and the men deserve great praise for their untiring work.

THE FLASH OF FIRE.

The explosion which caused the fire came without warning, and a flash of fire shot into the dryer room for several feet. It was plainly seen by the few people who happened to be on the corner near the building, and was like a bolt of lightning in its rapidity and brilliancy. The flash of fire ignited the starch, and the blaze commenced which only ended when stopped by the stone walls of the sides of the building.

The fire shot out of the windows for twenty-five feet and the explosion tore off a heavy door in the room. An employe named Hopkins was badly burned, he being on the other side of this door which was blown out. Puder was in the room where the explosion took place, and workmen were digging this afternoon expecting to find his charred remains in the ruins.

The fire department in the factory laid lines of hose at once, but could get no pressure, otherwise they might have saved the plant.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Messrs. Hubinger and Green were highly pleased with the work of the fire department during the blaze and also with the actions of the many volunteers who helped.

Wm. Woolley, James Leech, Jack Welch, Wm. Shea, James Griffen and others worked hard and faithfully all night long, and their work was noted and appreciated by the officers of the company, who spoke today of the good work of the many men who assisted the members of the fire department in the work.

LOSS AND INSURANCE.

While the total loss cannot be figured at present with any degree of accuracy, it will figure up around the quarter million dollar mark, on buildings, machinery, material, etc, which was destroyed.

The insurance, when figured up this morning, amounted to $44,000 on the property destroyed. Among the companies involved are the following:

Twenty-five hundred dollars in the Fireman's Fund.

Fifteen hundred dollars in Hamburg-Bremen.

Fifteen hundred dollars in British American.

Fifteen hundred dollars in Svea.

Twenty-five hundred dollars in Spring Garden.

Two thousand dollars in Iowa State.

Besides these policies, there are others on the property and building destroyed, but not near enough to cover the total loss.

A CONFERENCE TOMORROW.

N. W. Hubinger is in the city and his brother is on the way expecting to be here tomorrow when a conference will be held and plans for rebuilding the plant if thought advisable, will be mapped out.

Constitution-Democrat.
DECEMBER 23 1903

HUBINGER BROS.

ARRIVED IN KEOKUK AND VIEW THEIR RUINS.

NOT READY YET TO ANNOUNCE FUTURE PLANS.

Have Said Nothing Which Would Give Any Impression of Abandoning the Factory.

The Hubinger brothers, N. W. and J. E., arrived last evening from New Haven, Conn., coming to Keokuk on the K. line train which reached here at 8:22 o'clock. Keokuk people who came down on the same train found the two brothers playing a game of cards in the smoking car. "You don't seem to be crying," said a man who knew them. One of the brothers answered, "No, we never cry."

And they never do. When obstacles come before them, they are met with a spirit of courage and are soon defeated. The spirit of the Hubinger brothers is one which makes many people believe that they will at once start to rebuild their big factory which was destroyed by fire and continue the work.

They went from the depot to the home of their parents and this morning went down to view the ruins of the big factory. After spending all morning down there, they returned again in the afternoon and assisted in the work of searching for the remains of poor old John Puder, whose charred body is supposed to be lying in the ruins.

It is too early yet for the brothers to come to any decision as to whether they will rebuild or not, but the chances seem very favorable for the erection of new buildings. The brothers will not commit themselves yet, but have not even hinted that they would abandon the wrecked plant.

As this paper has stated, there is quite a start on the site at present for a factory and the expensive engine house with its machinery is in good shape.

The pluck, courage and spirit of the Hubinger Brothers has raised them out of other ruts and they are in no wise discouraged over their quarter of a million dollar loss from the fire. When they get into action, they do things and if they decide to rebuild the factory, work will go forward with a rush.

Keokuk stands ready to encourage them in every way and everyone hopes that they will soon announce that work will start on a new building to take place of the old one.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a notice from the company in which the firm thanks the many people who assisted during the fire. This notice is a personal vote of thanks to hundreds of men who were busy the night of the big fire. The newspaper men who watched and helped during the blaze, spoke at the time of never having seen so many people volunteer in the work at a fire. It showed the high appreciation which the people of Keokuk have for the Hubinger brothers and while most of the work of the volunteers failed to accomplish any good in the end, it was given in the proper spirit.

The employes of the plant all worked until they were exhausted and their actions showed their esteem for the propritors of the factory. Many of the volunteers worked all night at the fire.

The efforts of the fire department have been repeatedly complimented by all who witnessed the unequal fight during the biggest fire in Keokuk's history.

Constitution-Democrat.
DECEMBER 22, 1903.

PUDER'S BODY.

SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT HE WAS CREMATED.

BURNING RUINS ARE OUT AND SEARCH CONTINUES.

Every One is Hoping That the Cereal Factory Will Be Rebuilt and

100

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(In 6 years)

Size

Started in Operation.

It seems almost certain now that John Pader's charred body lies buried beneath the ruins of the Cereal plant, as nothing has been seen or heard from him since the fire. Today workmen were digging among the ruins in an attempt to find the body, the wreck having cooled off enough to permit a search to be started.

All night long and all day Monday water was being thrown on the smouldering ruins, and today the last spark had been put out.

Many people visited the ruins again today, but a close inspection is not permitted, as ropes have been stretched about the ruins on account of the danger from falling walls.

N. W. Hubinger and J. E. Hubinger were to arrive today from the east, and with H. W. Green come to a decision as to the future plans of the company. The factory on Bank street, which was to have been turned into a box factory, will be used for the present in taking care of as much of the business as possible, and every one in Keokuk hopes that the burned factory will be rebuilt at once.

The loss has not been figured out as yet to any degree of accuracy, but will not exceed the $250,000 mark as announced by this paper last evening. The entire plant was valued at less than a half million dollars, and the loss is not over a quarter million.

Insurance adjusters are already on the ground looking over the ruins and making arrangements to settle in full on their policies, several of them coming in today from Chicago.

The general question of the hour in Keokuk is, "Will the plant be rebuilt?" This cannot be answered for a few days, until the officers of the company have had time to recover from the shock of losing their factory, which had but just started.

The engine house is intact, and that valuable department of the plant would not have to be rebuilt. The walls of the burned buildings are worthless, and in order to rebuild it would be necessary to construct an entire new structure from the ground up. If this is done the new building would be fireproof, and being built expressly for the needs of the company, would be the most perfect starch factory in the world. The ruined buildings were all of the old packing house property, the only thing which the company had erected outside of the machinery being the partitions and the big water tank, besides the kilns, starch troughs and material. The big buildings which had been erected by the company were all spared.

Keokuk had just begun to realize and appreciate what a big thing for the city the Hubinger Brothers' factory was, and its suspension from business comes as a hard blow.

The owners of the factory were highly pleased with their plant and its first few weeks of existence, and will likely rebuild. It would take almost a year, however, before the big plant could be finished and in working operation, and until that time there are 250 people who must seek employment elsewhere.

Every one hopes that the factory will be rebuilt, larger than ever before.

THE CEREAL PLANT FIRE.

The destruction of the great cereal plant of the Hubinger starch company is indeed a serious calamity for Keokuk, the most serious in all probability that has ever befallen the community. While the blow is a heavy one there is no reason for discouragement. The plant was a valuable one and gave employment to a large number of people who are deprived of employment in midwinter at a time when they and their families most need it. But courage and determination are marked characteristics of Keokuk people. They will rise to the emergency in the genuine Keokuk fashion. There is deep sympathy for the Hubinger Brothers in their present reverse. But they too are courageous men, and fortunately have ample capital and will not in the least suffer in a financial way, for the amount lost while very large from the ordinary point of view is only a small portion of their wealth. The worst part of the calamity will be found in the inconvenience they will be put to in the manufacture of their processed products. This they will meet and overcome. The question which most concerns the community is whether the plant will be rebuilt. It is to be sincerely hoped that the Hubinger Brothers will see their way clear to rebuild on the present site. There is much of the valuable property that remains intact after the conflagration that could not be utilized in any other way. There can be no doubt but that the people of Keokuk will lend every assistance and encouragement towards rehabilitating the starch factory.

Constitution-Democrat.

DECEMBER 22, 1903.

IN SIX YEARS.

LIST OF THE LARGER FIRES IN THE CITY.

THREE LIVES LOST FROM FIRE IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

The City Has Been Rather Fortunate in the Past Few Years in the Way of Loss of Property and Life in Blazes.

Since 1898 Keokuk has had several rather large fires. In that year the Keokuk cooperage plant was destroyed and Carters mill and the Keokuk Poultry company, suffered a $10,000 loss each. The next year there were several bad fires near Keokuk but the city escaped with only a small loss. In 1900 one life was lost through fire and in the year following another life was lost. In 1902 there was another life lost in the Anderson Canning company fire.

West Keokuk has had several large fires in the past few years. The lumber yards down there have had big fires several times within the past twenty years and the burning of the Reid's addition school was a big one, but nothing in Keokuk has ever compared with the big fire of Monday morning when the Cereal Works was wrecked.

The principal events during the years from 1898 to 1902 in the fire record were as follows:

1898.

The first fire of 1898 of any size was that on the night of Jan. 22 when the store of A. Geiger and the Y. M. C. A. was ablaze and considerable damage was done. On Jan. 31 the plant of the Keokuk Cooperage company was destroyed. The year was a bad one for on Feb. 26 a $10,000 loss occurred at Carter's mill and on June 20 the Keokuk Poultry company suffered a loss of $10,000 in a blaze, both of these being at night.

1899.

On Jan. 27 of the year 1899 a disastrous fire wrecked the home of Mrs. A. W. Kilbourne. Other serious fires for this year were: March 1 steamer Van Meter burned at Quincy; July 9, store of C. C. Mullikin at Summitville destroyed; on July 20 there were several small fires in the city but none of any size; Sept. 16 Frank Smith's home nearly destroyed; Nov. 8 fire at Woodbury's gun store on Main street; Nov. 28 a bad fire at the county house. On Nov. 23 Montrose had a big fire which cleaned out a block of business houses.

1900.

In the year 1900 there were no fires of any great extent, the largest ones being on April 8 at Carrie Kretchmer's store and on July 5 at Van Camp's grocery. On Jan. 25 Mrs. Martha Vaughn was fatally burned during a small blaze at her home. The home of Adam Ballinger was completely destroyed on March 9 and there was quite a fire in the block at Fourth and Main streets on March 17.

1901.

In the year 1901 there were no very large fires. On Aug. 30 three frame dwellings at Seventeenth and Timea streets were damaged quite badly. On Oct. 2 two stables at Seventh and Morgan caused quite a blaze. On Oct. 14 the barn of James Meredith was destroyed and two ponies lost their lives inside. On Oct. 15 there was a $750 loss to the Keokuk Milling company. On Dec. 13 the dwelling at No. 129 South Second street was destroyed

and on Dec. 21 the residence No. 1027 Concert street was badly damaged by fire and water. On July 27 in a burning barn at Twelfth and Leighton streets, little Ernest Hersey, a four-year-old boy was burned to death.

1902.

The year 1902 was a sensational one in Keokuk and the fire record was rather fortunate. On Jan. 2 there was a fire at the Anderson Canning company in which Walter Seaman lost his life by suffocation; on March 10 the powder plant explosion occurred killing two men; several houses were struck by lightning in July and August but no great damage was done and the only large fire of the year was that on the second day. The fire bug was abroad in March and April setting fire to some small buildings every Saturday night, near the vicinity of Eighth and Main streets. On Feb. 19 the residence of John M. Huiskamp was wrecked by fire while on Feb. 24 the Schouten barn was gutted and two horses killed.

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Dumpler Fire?

Keokuk, Iowa, Dec 7 1896

Mr City of Keokuk

To J. C. Hubinger Co. Dr.

ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT.

		Power Light for Month Ending. Nov 30 1896	881 25
Nov	10	2 hrs extra 6 to 8	9 56
"	11	3½ " " 6³⁰ to 10⁰⁰	16 73
"	24	2⅚ " " 8¹⁰ " 12⁰⁰	13 53
			$921 07
		Less amt per City Inspectors report	48 33
		Received Payment.	872 74

☞RULES.—No person except the employes of this company shall be allowed to repair, handle or tamper with lamps, fixtures or wires, except as may be necessary in the ordinary and proper use of lamps. Lamps or fixtures broken by any person other than employes of this company shall be charged to and paid for by the consumer. Old lamps to be returned or renewals will not be furnished.

NEW CEREAL PLANT WILL SOON START

Buildings Are Almost Completed and Machinery is Being Installed in the Factory.

Description of the Various Buildings Which Together Will Form the Finest Starch Factory in the World—Work to Begin About September 1.

Constitution-Democrat.

JULY 26, 1904.

The work of rebuilding the starch plant has been going steadily and rapidly on ever since the apparently gigantic task was first undertaken some seven months ago.

Today to a casual observer the labor is nearly completed. This is in fact the case in regard to the mere erection of most of the buildings, the work on the majority of them having been completed. But the new starch making machinery, which is to be, of course, of the best, has not been installed as yet and many minor details will have to be attended to before the plant can begin operations. A force of about one hundred and fifty men are at work today, have been at work for months past and will continue to labor until the plant stands completed. According to the calculations of officers of the company the new plant will start on or near the first of September and will employ at least one hundred and fifty men.

The new cereal works is to be one of the finest of its kind in the world. Many additional buildings have been erected and the capacity of the plant doubled. It will be able to handle 6000 bushels of corn a day.

The immense engine, capable of generating 650 horsepower, which gave some trouble last year has been remodelled and a new foundation put in.

In the boiler room, an additional boiler has been installed, bringing the number up to five and insuring an abundance of steam both for operating the engine, steaming the grain and warming the buildings in the winer.

The water tower, situated within a few feet of Fifth street, has a capacity of 40,000 gallons and, being constructed of steel, is in no danger from fire. Water from it is piped all over the plant and a repetition of the disastrous fire last winter is almost an impossibility.

THE VARIOUS BUILDINGS.

When the new plant has been completed there will be the following buildings, some of which are those that escaped destruction from the fire, others built on the sites of those that burned, and still others entirely new and added to those of the former plant:

An engine room of stone 46x72 feet, containing the six hundred and fifty horsepower engine.

A boiler room of stone 64x71½ feet containing the five boilers.

A settling basin of stone 54x91.

An office, recently constructed, made of cement tile, two stories in height and 40x25.

A table and kiln house of brick, three stories in height, 110x150 feet in size.

A lump starch building of stone, three stories high and 56x150 feet.

A mill house, three stories in height and 145x60 feet in size.

A steep house, used in steeping the corn, three stories high and 30x40 feet in dimensions.

A sulphur tower in which sulphur is burned, 20x15, two stories high, surmounted by a 30x6 foot tank.

A corn tower, 20x30 feet and six stories high..

A corn storage house, used for housing all grain received, 117½x60 feet.

A stone oil house used for storing oil extracted from the corn, fifty feet nine inches by one hundred twenty-six feet and three inches, two stories high.

A dry feed house, 78x51½, two stories high, built of brick and used for storing the dry feed.

A machine shop, one story high made of corrugated iron, used as a supply building and place for making repairs to machinery, etc., 40x68.

A pulverizing house, 27x40, constructed of galvanized iron and three stories in height.

A packing house for the Elastic Starch company, which is to move its business from Johnson street down to the new plant as soon as it is completed, 40x40, made of brick and two stories high.

A warehouse used for the storing of Elastic starch, 105x40, one story high and made of corrugated iron.

A printing house, 60x30, one story in height, made of corrugated iron, and 60x30 feet in size.

All of the new buildings are completed or nearly so, and all have been constructed in a most substantial manner. The company has spared no expense to make this one of the finest starch plants in the entire country and Keokuk should feel justly proud of having such a huge industry within its borders.

The new plant will be as near fire proof as is possible for such an establishment. The various departments are all separate in detached and unexposed buildings and a fire in any one part when the new factory is running, could not eat its way over the entire plant as did the one last December. The new plant is a most convenient and sanitary one in every respect, will be heated by steam, lighted by electricity and in every way a model factory for the manufacture of starch and the other products of corn.

This new plant has been built especially for the purpose of the company. The first plant was remodeled from an old stone building which had been built for another purpose. By erecting all new buildings, a more convenient arrangement was arrived at and the new factory will be a model one.

As Keokuk's largest factory and also one of the largest in the west, the citizens are naturally very proud of this institution. When the mill begins to grind next fall, it will give employment to a large number of people and add a great deal to the commercial activity and prosperity of the city and the west end in particular. The products have an enormous sale all over the country and advertise this city extensively. Keokuk iis to be congratulated upon having this institution within its limits and everyone appreciates what it means for the town.

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NEW HUBINGER PLANT STARTS VERY SOON

May Begin Making Starch This Week if Two Motors Will Arrive.

Keokuk's Largest Manufactory Will be Running Within Two Weeks Time and Employ Many Hands—Trip Through the Plant Finds it Ready for Business.

Constitution-Democrat.

AUGUST 16, 1904.

The J. C. Hubinger Brothers company new starch factory will start grinding the last of this week or the first of next week, everything being in readiness excepting the arrival of two motors which are expected almost any day. When they arrive and they have already been shipped, they will be installed, the big belt will be put over the giant fly wheel in the engine house and the new plant will begin operations.

After investing $550,000 in Keokuk within two years, the J. C. Hubinger Brothers company have the finest independent starch factory in the United States and certainly the most modern one in the world.

The firm spent $200,000 on the new plant which arose Phoenix like from the ruins of the first plant which cost $350,000. Fifty-six thousand dollars was spent for labor alone in the rebuilding of the big plant which began seven months ago and the factory is now complete and ready to run when the two motors arrive.

The announcement that the factory will start within two weeks time will be joyful news to the people of this city, for 150 people will be given employment and the pay roll of $5000 a month will be a new one in Keokuk.

The company already has several thousand bushels of corn purchased and ready to start on its starch making journey as soon as the machinery starts and with a capacity of 6,000 bushels a day, and running day and night, there will be a hum of industry soon in that part of the city.

The big factory at present consists of seventeen buildings and twenty-seven departments, with one more building now being built. The office building is being constructed on the Fifth street side and the foundation is in. It will be a two-story structure built of artificial stone, with the office on the second floor level with the street and a labratory on the lower floor.

The grounds about the plant are yet to be graded off and made more presentable in appearance and a heavy wire fence is to be put up all around the plant. But these improvements are not necessary at present for the operation of the plant, but will come later.

Every building is lettered, a sign upon them indicating their title. These letters run from A to Q, A being the six-story corn tower, B the elevators, O, the engine house and so on, with a big letter R waiting to be hung up on the new office building.

Today the plant is complete and ready to run, with the exception of those two motors whose arrival means the beginning of business. Possibly this week and perhaps not until next week, the big whistle will announce that the factory is again running after a seven months rest.

The elastic starch factory on Bank street is now running with fifty hands crowded in the building, but this plant will be abandoned and likely sold when the new plant starts, for there is a special elastic starch department at the new plant, all ready to start.

A trip through the new plant just before it starts is an interesting one and the tourist through the many buildings is amazed at the extent of the factory.

One thing noticable is that the factory this year is much larger than before and yet there is more room inside to get around. All of the stairways in the main buildings have been built on the outside this time, thus saving a great deal of space and greatly avoiding the danger of fire, doing away with the many wooden steps inside and the flue formed by a stairway.

There is no danger from fire in the new factory. Besides this improvement in the stairways, there is a stand pipe in every room with a line of hose on a cart close by. Cement floors in most of the rooms and the detaching of the departments has reduced the possibilities of a fire loss to the minimum. Only one building is a dangerous one and that is the pulverizing department where an explosion is likely to occur the same as in a flour mill. But this building stands separate from all others. This is building M, a new three-story frame where the powdered starch is conveyed into bins and bolted like flour in a mill. On the lower floor is a sacker where the powdered starch is sacked.

This paper but a short time ago gave a complete description of the various buildings, with correct dimensions of them, the names of each and the fact that the plant was almost complete. It is now pleased to announce that the plant will be running within two weeks' time and possibly at the end of this week.

Few changes have been made in the wet starch department, although new shakers have been put in. On the fourth floor is the fuse mill with a capacity of crushing 6,000 bushels of corn per day. The third and second floors contains the shakers and the lower floor contains tanks.

The sulphur tower is built outside of the building this time. The water is impregnated with sulphur to take the jacket off the grain. As the process continues, this sulphur is washed out so that no trace of it can be found by chemical examination.

The starch making process starts in this fuse mill where the shelled corn is crushed and starts on a journey of four miles in water. There are four miles of pipes in the plant and this is about the distance the corn and water goes before it becomes pure starch.

Outside of the wet starch department and the engine house and settling basin, the balance of the plant is mostly new. In the engine room where 650 horsepower is produced, a new foundation was put in for the mammoth engine, 165 barrels of cement being used for a solid cement foundation eight feet deep.

Over in the drying departments the feed is pumping over wet from the

Aug 16, 1904 - page 1 (New Hubinger Plant)

Hubinger Plant 2

Aug 14, 1924 - 63 #2
(New Hubinger Plant)

mill room, the water pressed out and the matter goes down into driers, comes back up through the mills and is sent over into the feed department. This is a new brick building adjoining the oil department and contains five big driers which look like boilers, each being fitted with steam coils inside for drying the gluten feed.

Next to this is the oil building where oil cake and corn oil is made and stored.

There are three floors in the dry starch department. On the second and third floors are the tables, long troughs where the starch settles and is shoveled into other troughs and carried down stairs to the kilns on the lower floors, where it is put into trays which are stacked upon cars and shoved into the kilns. Here the heat is from 135 to 190 degrees.

Next to this building powdered starch is pressed into barrell-like cylinders under a pressure of 7,000 pounds, on the third floor. The second floor is the seasoning room where there are over 10,000 wooden boxes in which the starch is heated in winter, but seasons from the natural heat of summer. The lower floor is the shipping room and store room.

There is a machine shop, a printing house where the paper cartons are printed, scored and formed, numerous grain bins and other buildings, including the new elastic starch building of three stories.

The water tank stands 65 feet above the ground and about 30 feet over the highest other building. It has a capacity of 30,000 gallons, is built of steel and can furnish enough water to hold a big fire for an hour.

In every department there is a motor and the factory is complete in every way. All is in readiness and the plant will be running within two week's time.

The Hubinger Brothers have invested heavily in the new plant and now have a model institution. Their interest in Keokuk is appreciated by every citizen and the factory will be a great benefit to the city. Keokuk takes pride in the success of the men who were reared here and whose energy and ability have enabled them to maintain such a large establishment. H. W. Green, secretary of the company, is another hustling Keokuk man whose ability will have much to do with the future prosperity of the concern.

The Gate City.
APRIL 29, 1897.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

DECIDE FOR HUBINGER.

Retail Grocers Agree to Use His Telephone to the Exclusion of the Bell Company's.

A special meeting of the Retail Grocers' association was held Friday night, and the results were of much importance and interest. The subject considered was the telephone situation. The association numbers forty-two members, and the meeting was the most largely attended one yet held.

When Mr. Hubinger decided to put his telephone system in Keokuk, he did not take the precaution he did at Burlington and secure sufficient contracts from prospective users for a term of five years to warrant him in proceeding with the construction of the plant. He relied on the municipal patriotism of Keokuk people to make his venture a success, should he undertake to furnish them with telephone service at rates half what the Bell company had charged for years; and said it would continue to charge, until competition should force a reduction. It was further intimated, when the matter was first discussed by the Business Men's association some time prior to Mr. Hubinger's taking hold of the question, that the Bell company would restore the old rates, when competition should be removed. Believing that Keokuk people would appreciate his good work and enterprise, Mr. Hubinger did not ask any advance contracts.

The result, however, has been that the business houses have been required to have two telephones. Although the cost of the two is about equal to the cost of the one in former days, there is a measure of annoyance in having two telephones. The expense has not been materially reduced; and that was the primary object desired by the public.

The Retail Grocers' association came to the conclusion that the only way in which the public could have the advantage of a cheaper service with the old (if not increased) extent of the service, was to agree to the use of one telephone to the exclusion of the other. The meeting last night was to determine which system should have the patronage of the grocers. They were encouraged to take the initiative by men engaged in other lines of business and by many who have telephones in their residences. These others said that they would endorse and imitate whatever action the Retail Grocers' association might take.

The question was thoroughly discussed and it was the general opinion that, other things being equal, it was the duty of Keokuk people to patronize a Keokuk citizen in preference to a foreign corporation, when it was deemed necessary to make a choice between them. And it was further urged by many of the members present that the party-line plan of the Bell company was quite unsatisfactory and that in every way it was more desirable to patronize Mr. Hubinger. Accordingly, the association unanimously agreed to patronize him and to order the Bell telephones taken out of their several places of business at the end of the next quarter, which ends July 1. The grocers not only agreed to cease paying for the Bell telephone after that date, but to see that the instruments were taken out, no matter how low a rate the Bell company might make.

It is plain to see what will be the result of this course of action if it is rigidly and generally carried out. It will mean that Mr. Hubinger will have the field to the exclusion of the Bell company. The contracts which Mr. Hubinger is now asking his subscribers to sign provide for the present low rates for a term of five years. That means that the rates will never be raised. The public having once experienced the economy of low rates, would never submit to paying high rates; and Mr. Hubinger is not the sort of a man to break faith with the people and ask them to pay more than is just and equitable. It must be very gratifying to him to find that Keokuk people do appreciate his enterprise and public spirit and show it in this practical way.

The Gate City.
JULY 3, 1891.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTNING.

Description of One Place of Its Generation in Keokuk.

How J. C. Hubinger is Waging a Successful Contest with His Satanic Majesty—The Home of Volts, Amperes and Things Electrical.

Some people question the personality of his satanic majesty. J. C. Hubinger don't. Further Mr. Hubinger thinks he has been having a spirited contest with the king of evil ever since he began the construction of his electric lighting plant on the canal below his residence on Grand avenue. One thing is certain—if any human can successfully cope with the evil spirit that man is Mr. Hubinger. A succession of unfortunate occurrences have happened which would have long ago disheartened the average man; but with characteristic energy, Mr. Hubinger has met each reverse with renewed determination to overcome all obstacles.

Some months ago a large portion of the bluff wall which holds in place the enbankment between the bluff and the artesian lake, gave way.

J. G. Hubinger Co.

MANAGERS AND PROPRIETORS OF
THE KEOKUK ELECTRIC LIGHT, RAILWAY AND POWER SYSTEM.

SUCCESSORS TO
KEOKUK ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER CO.
KEOKUK ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO.

Keokuk, Iowa. Apr 27 1898

Sold to R. H. Bell

TERMS:

	6 mos interest on note for $150.00 to Apr 5-98		6	00
	Paid J. G. Hubinger Per D.R.G.			

This has been rebuilt and made stronger than ever. As an additional safeguard the wall has been anchored by means of massive iron rods to the beautiful little rock island in the middle of the upper artesian lake. All debris occasioned by the landslide and subsequent repairs has been cleaned away and the ground has been resodded and the appearance of the grounds at the residence materially beautified. On the terraced lawn are numerous flower beds bordered with tinted sea shells. The island is a monster bed of geraniums. Work is being carried on the last of the big artesian wells, which is now down over 1,250 feet and will be sank 700 feet deeper. It will be the largest in the world.

But down under the bluff is where the greatest amount of money has been spent. When Mr. Hubinger secured the contract for illuminating the city, he proceeded to the material enlargement of his plant, putting in steam power in addition to the artesian water power with which the former plant was operated. Accidents almost unnumbered have happened and obstacles almost insurmountable have been thrown in the way, entailing thousands of dollars of additional expense, but Mr. Hubinger is overcoming all difficulties and soon will have the best equipped electric lighting station in the west. The building is 50x82 feet in dimensions and is practically three stories high. On the ground floor is the generating room. Two Leffler water motors, 125 and 150 horse power, are used in driving the incandescent dynamos and the arc generators as well, when the engine is not in operation. In a few weeks, a 200 horse power motor will be put in. A 1,300 light Thompson-Houston dynamo and two Westinghouse dynamos of 1,000 and 1,500 lights capacity, supply the incandescent circuit. For each there is a small dynamo to excite the fields of the larger. The dynamos generate a current of fifty-three volts, although the lamps are fifty-two volts. In this department are numerous delicate instrument to indicate the strength of the current, whether there is a break anywhere, for regulating the current, etc. Here also are fourteen double switches and instruments for protection against lightning. Mr. Hubinger states that contrary to the general impression lightning has never effected the plant, but rain storms have by grounding wires.

For furnishing electricity for the five arc circuits, five new generators have been added. The dynamos are from the Fort Wayne Electric company and are the Woods' system, the very latest improved. They are the only self-acting machines and it is impossible to short circuit them. There are two sixty-light dynamos and one fifty-light and one forty-light dynamo for the public lighting circuits and a twenty-five-light machine for the commercial circuit. With the switch-board fifty or more combinations of these circuits can be made. Ten lightning arresters assures non-interference on the part of natural electricity. The currents are run one-half ampere stronger than the St. Louis currents.

A splendid 150 horse power Hamilton Corlis engine furnishes power in addition to the water power. An illustration of Mr. Hubinger's hard luck is the fact that Tuesday, in some unaccountable way the cylinder head of this engine was broken. But the damage will be repaired soon. Steam for the engine is provided by a 150 horse power boiler. With the condenser, which has been ordered, it is expected that the artesian water will be twice utilized and that the power will be increased from twenty to thirty per cent. On a five inch shaft, thirty-six feet long, are ten pulleys for communicating power to the dynamos. These are so arranged that either the engine or motors can be used and a change from one to the other can be made without interference with the light.

In case of fire the entire plant can be flooded in a minute with water from a two-inch pipe driven at seventy-five pounds pressure.

On the upper floor Mr. Hubinger will have his experimental department. When work on the plant is completed, which will be in a few days, it will be hard to find a better equipped one anywhere.

Strikers Claim 265 Out---

Company Shuts Down Local Plant

PICKETS LINE UP AT FENCE AROUND PLANT

Checks Were Distributed to Men at Sheriff's Office This Afternoon—Union and Plant Officials Give Statements.

The disagreement between union members and The Hubinger Company officials reached an impasse today with the picketers lined up along the high wire fence which surrounds the huge plant and the plant itself closed indefinitely by orders of the company.

Using force of numbers rather than any violence the strikers are preventing anyone save members of the office force and those whose presence is absolutely necessary to the safety of the buildings from entering the gates. Few workmen, however, have made any attempt to oppose the union order which called for a strike at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon when the company refused to accede to its demand for the reinstatement of seven discharged employes.

It was reported today that a few men were working inside. Whether or not they will be molested when they leave could not be ascertained.

Estimates 265 Are Out.

Glenn Clark, president of the local union and one of the seven whose discharge brought about the strike, said today that there are approximately 265 employes who have alligned themselves on the side of the strikers, and the large majority of these, he said, are either members of the union or have taken out application papers.

Fisher Announces Shut-Down.

R. S. Fisher, vice-president of the company, announced today that the plant would be shut down indefinitely but that the office force would continue to work, at least temporarily. This being pay day the checks have been made out as usual but the men will be paid at the sheriff's office in the court house at 3 p. m. instead of the plant, Fisher said.

The picketing has been conducted in a very orderly manner thus far and a large force of police as well as representatives from the sheriff's office are on duty at all times. Union officials say they will do their utmost to prevent any violence and intend to proceed with their strike in a peaceful fashion. The only object of the pickets is to keep non-union employes from returning to work and so far no difficulty has arisen in this respect.

Although no signs have been displayed as yet, several were in evidence in automobiles this afternoon, large red-lettered banners reading "The Hubinger Co. is unfair to organized labor." Whether or not they will be used is not known.

Track Trouble Settled.

Some little difficulty arose last night and this morning when railroad tracks leading into the plant were barricaded with ties and other obstructions. This was amicably settled this afternoon between union and railroad officials. The railroad men said that there were two loaded cars in the plant which had been receipted out and which they consequently had to account for. They merely asked that these cars be permitted to leave.

The union officials agreed and also pointed out that the railroad company could also spot cars of coal for the plant in accordance with insurance regulations since fires must be kept in the boilers to retain the insurance.

Largest Local Plant.

The strike affects between 325 and 330 employes of the company which is the largest in Keokuk. It is also one of the few which has been operating on a full-time basis throughout the years of depression. Unconfirmed reports from certain of the strikers have it that until recently this was the only corn products plant which was not unionized.

The trouble has been brewing for some time and several months ago a company union was formed in an effort to solve the problem. The difficulty came to a climax three weeks ago with the discharge of seven men, all union members. Those who were discharged were Ernest Rittman, Glenn Clark, Joe Ireland, Anthony Rader, Bob Wescott, Nels Ealey, and Arthur Deyo. Company officials said these men would not be taken back.

Take Officer's Club.

Although order and quiet has characterized the strike since its inception, some little unpleasantness did occur yesterday when a picketer twisted a club from the hand of a police officer.

He made no attempt to struggle but fell down and the club was seized and thrown over the hill. Chief of Police E. C. McPherson was present and informed the union officials that if they desired a continuance of police protection they had to remove that man from the picket lines and keep him in the background. Rumors were widely circulated last night than an officer was badly hurt in a fracas but this was denied by the chief who said the strikers were abiding by the law.

The union, said President Clark, will maintain the picket until its demands are met. These men, he said, will be taken care of by the union which has funds for that purpose.

Many Visit Scene.

The news of the strike at the big plant spread rapidly, not only in Keokuk but outside, bringing a big crowd to the points of vantage around the plant, where one might see all that transpired. South Fifth street was choked with automobiles late yesterday and all last evening.

This morning as one approached the plant from [illegible] low the Fifth street bridge, pickets were visible in groups. They were squatting on the curb, or moving about, vigilantly watching any who stopped. Baskets of food were being brought to the pickets.

Groups Are Stationed.

Groups seemed to be stationed at the entrance to the plant and also about the entrance to the office.

It was generally reported last night that the men on picket duty were armed with axe handles, but those this morning apparently had only small clubs with them, or none at all.

First Serious Trouble.

A check up on the crowd last night indicated that a number of people from out in the country immediately west of the city, from which some of the employes have come, were on hand and in addition there were hundreds of local people who drove down past the plant out of curiosity.

It is recalled that this is the first strike of any proportion that has occured here in years. Trouble which occurred a few years ago during the employment of men in connection with the construction of the new Seventh street bridge, was the most serious case of this kind here, it is recalled.

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY MONDAY, MAY 25, 1936

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Bomb Is Thrown at House of Hubinger Co. Foreman Sunday

BIG REWARD IS OFFERED BY COMPANY

Offer $500 for Information Leading to Arrest of Person Who Threw Bomb at the Residence of Ernest Rittman Sunday Morning.

Checking all possible angles, the police today interviewed and obtained statements from a number of Hubinger Co. employes, including officers of the local Corn Products Workers Union, but are still in the dark as to the identity of the person who threw a badly aimed bomb at the residence of Ernest F. Rittman, 612 South Sixth street, at 2:15 o'clock Sunday morning.

As their part in the concerted effort to clear up the mystery the Hubinger Co. officials are offering a reward of $500 for information which will lead to the apprehension of the bomber.

Poorly Aimed

The bomb, scattered remnants of which have been collected by the police, was poorly directed if the thrower actually intended to strike the house instead of frighten the occupant, a foreman at the Hubinger plant, and a former officer in the union. It struck and exploded in the yard near the front porch, tore out a small piece of cement, damaged the latticework beneath the porch, and broke a large front window in the house. The fact that it hit soft dirt which served to restrict its force, is believed to have prevented greater damage, and a possible loss of life, since Mr. and Mrs. Rittman and their child were asleep at the time.

Houses Shaken

The blast was of sufficient magnitude to crack windows in an adjoining house and aroused light sleepers in remote sections of the city. Rresidents in the immediate neighborhood say that the explosion was of tremendous proportions and several woke up screaming, as their houses quivered on their foundations.

Although officers are handicapped in their investigations by the fact that there were no apparent witnesses, they believe that a car which was seen in the vicinity of the Hubinger plant on Commercial Alley soon after the bombing may eventually solve their problem. Workmen say that it passed the plant several times.

Rittman is Puzzled

They furnished a license number to the police, but a checkup indicates that they must have been mistaken in one or more of the numbers on the plate, the officers say.

Rittman was interviewed at length by the police this afternoon but was unable to offer any explanation for the bomb throwing. He told a Gate City reporter that he had received no threats of any type and that he was completely at sea as to why his home should have been selected as the bomber's target.

Strike Recalled.

It is possible, investigators believe, that the action was an outgrowth of friction which has existed at the plant for some time and which flared up in a strike of Corn Products Union workers last summer. At that time Rittman was an active force in the union and was serving as vice-president.

His discharge along with Glenn Clark, union president, Joe Ireland, Anthony Rader, Bob Wescott, Nels Ealey and Arthur Devo, precipitated the strike which was called on June 25. After only a few days of peaceful picketing the company met union demands by rehiring the seven workmen and on its part the union agreed to refrain from all organizational activity during work hours and to avoid coercion of any employes.

Leaves Union.

Rittman has since dropped out of the union and joined the plant council, a company organization with which non-union employes are affiliated. He told police he had mailed his union card to headquarters some two months ago.

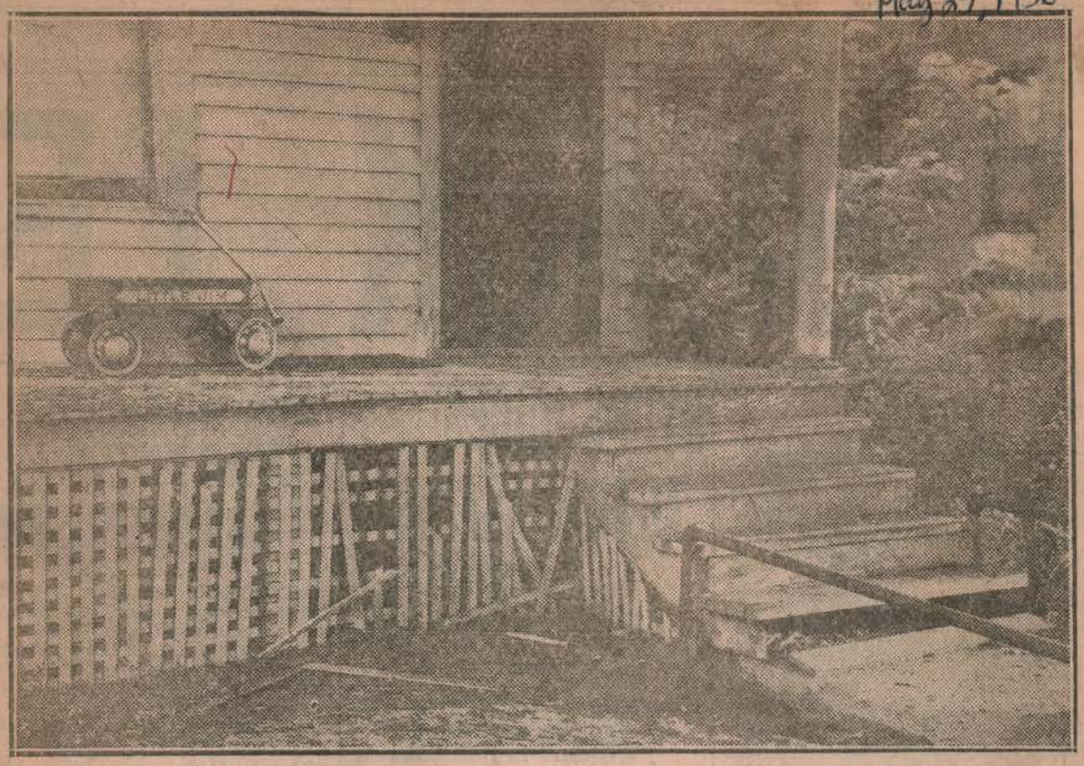
Last Wednesday, as a foreman, Rittman discharged a union man, James W. Vaughn for alleged inefficiency and was upheld after an investigation by the plant council. Vaughn had appealed to the council, Rittman told the police, and after a hearing Saturday morning was given a ten-day layoff and a change of jobs.

Whether or not this discharge is of any significance in the matter neither Rittman nor the authorities are able to determine as yet.

May 25 1936 (B-D) #1

Keokuk Home Bombed Early Sunday

Gate City
May 25, 1936



—Photo by Anschutz

The results of the bombing of the home of Ernest Rittman, 612 South Sixth street, foreman of the Hubinger Company, and a former officer in the Corn Products Workers' Union are shown in the picture above. Shattered glass from the big front window on the floor of the porch, the damaged lattice work under the porch and the hole in the ground immediately to the left of the lower step indicate what happened when the bomb exploded. The bombing is the first of the kind in this city and officers of the law are endeavoring to find the identity of the one who threw it. The officials of The Hubinger Company offer a reward of $500 for information which will lead to the apprehension of the bomber.

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(Bomb)

REWARD

$500.00 IN CASH

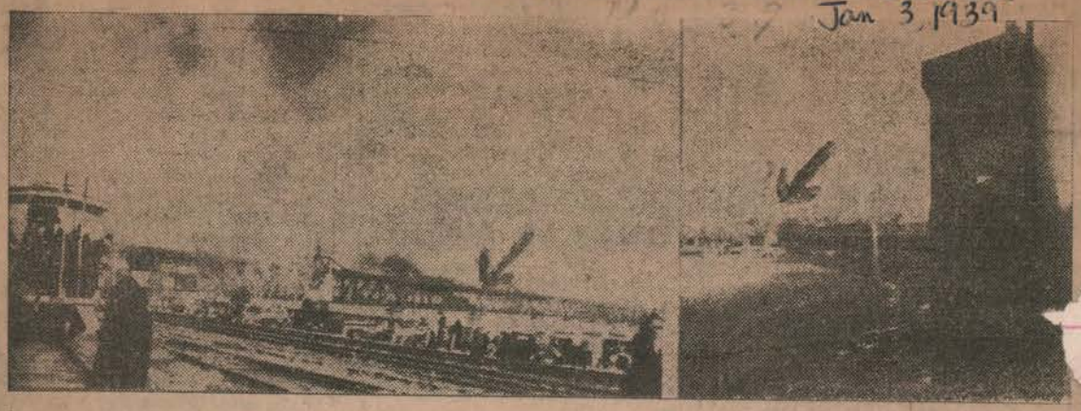
Will be given by The Hubinger Co. for information leading to the arrest and conviction and affirmation of sentence of the person or persons responsible for bombing the residence of Ernest Rittman at approximately 2:20 a. m., May 24rd.

Any information given will be held strictly confidential and its source will not be divulged to any one under any conditions.

THE HUBINGER CO.

ENTIRE NEW TRAIN HAULS KEOKUK PRODUCT.

Jan 3, 1939



—Gate City Staff Photos

Thirty new type tunnel cars, loaded with products of the Hubinger company, left Keokuk Saturday afternoon as a special freight train on the T. & P. W. railroad. A new streamlined locomotive and a new "bay window' caboose were features which the line furnished for the special train.

In the picture at left several T. P. & W. and Hubinger company executives are standing on the rear platform of the caboose as it leaves the Union depot while the locomotive (arrow) pulling the train is half way across the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge. On the right is a picture snapped from the rear platform of the caboose as the engine (arrow) entered the Hamilton yards.

LARGE CROWD SEES SPECIAL TRAIN HERE

Jan 3, 1939

HUBINGER CO. PRODUCTS ARE TAKEN EAST

Reminiscent of the days when people used to watch the trains come in, was the crowd which on Saturday afternoon lined the sidewalks around the Union depot tracks to watch the departure of the thirty-two car train of Hubinger company products consigned to nine eastern states.

Pulled by one of the biggest engines to be seen around here, one of the six new ones purchased by the T. P. & W. road last year, the big train rolled out of the yards and across the bridge, heading into the east, just a few hours before the birth of the new year.

The cars which comprised the train bore the Pennsylvania road legend and were all steel and called a tunnel type car, designed for high speed travel. The caboose, which belongs to the T. P. & W., was also of the latest design, with a bay window instead of the traditional cupola. The engine was number 83, and with its tender was 101 feet in length. Its four drivers on each side were sixty-nine inches in diameter, the height of a man five feet, nine inches tall. The locomotive was stoker fired, its whistle was a melodious bell-toned one, and the bell on the front clanged musically as the leviathan train began to move.

Stops for Pictures

The train waited first some distance below the crossing at Bank street, and moved up the first track so that it could be photographed. It came to rest at the Bank street crossing, for a final wait, and then began to roll slowly away from the station. With no apparent effort the monster engine pulled the long train of steel cars up the slight grade to the bridge, and thundered across the big span over the Father of Waters. When the nose of the engine had reached solid ground on the Illinois side, the caboose was just passing the draw house in the center of the swinging span of the bridge.

The T. P. & W. handled the big train to Effner, Ind., and turned the cars over there to another road. There were shipments of products of the local company for nine states—Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Massachusettes, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Officials of the Hubinger company were on hand as were railroad men connected with the T. P. & W. Local arrangements were in the hands of Arthur Gordon, local agent of the T. P. & W. The local company men rode to Elvaston on the train, returning by auto.

continued on 113

31 Car Train Load of Hubinger Products

NEWEST FREIGHT CARS WILL CARRY HUBINGER PRODUCTS

Pulled by one of the road's newest and largest engines, with its cars all steel and streamlined, The Hubinger Company's train of thirty cars will leave Keokuk tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock over the T. P. and W. for the eastern seaboard. Carrying the largest single shipment of manufactured goods in the history of the company in over a half century, the train will be the company's wallop of any recession in business, its officials declare.

The train will be handled by the T. P. and W. to Effner, Ind., when it will be taken over by an eastern road. Shipments will be made to points in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. The contents will be Elestic Starch, Golden Sweet Syrup, Tiger Corn and Gloss Starch, and O. K. bulk Syrup and Starch.

Officials of the company [illegible] that the shipment will be [illegible] largest single one that the co[illegible] has made, since it was org[illegible] in 1881.

All New Equipment.

Officials of the T. P. an[illegible] road, revealed that the co[illegible] using all modern equipme[illegible] special train.

The engine, one of th[illegible] ones purchased last year [illegible] P. and W. railroad, is [illegible] initial trip to Keokuk to [illegible] special train. A few of [illegible] of the semi-streamlined [illegible] gine are:

Length of locomotive [illegible] 101 feet, 4 inches.
Weight of drivers, 20[illegible]
Weight of engine, 36[illegible]
Cylinders, 23½x30 inc[illegible]
Diameter of drivers [illegible]
Boiler pressure, 250 [illegible]
Maximum tractive [illegible] lbs.

NEIGHBOR[illegible] NEW[illegible]

MONTROSE, [illegible] Kerr has retur[illegible] where she [illegible] patient at th[illegible] ....Max Fru[illegible] son and Wr[illegible] tended the [illegible] at Ames d[illegible] Mr. and [illegible] daughte[illegible] Kansa[illegible] their [illegible] and M[illegible] Montro[illegible] in Kah[illegible] Comsto[illegible] home [illegible] spend[illegible] Coms[illegible] Willi[illegible] said

LARGE CROWD SEES SPECIAL TRAIN HERE

HUBINGER CO. PRODUCTS ARE TAKEN EAST

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Pulled by one [illegible] engines to [illegible] one of [illegible]

A NEW YEAR'S TRAIN

There steamed out of Keokuk today a long train bearing products of the Hubinger Co. eastward. The train was not only remarkable in that it carried only the products of the great Keokuk industry, but also because this train was made up of new cars, hauled by the latest in Twentieth century locomotives on the T. P. & W. railroad.

The incident was all the more noteworthy, too, because the T. P. & W. railroad is a one-man railroad, which has prospered throughout all the depression and has always shown a profit even in the leanest years, thanks to Mr. Geo. P. McNear, Jr., and his associates.

This New Year's train, leaving in the old year and speeding on toward the New Year, is meaningful in that the T. P. & W. reveals it is prepared to take care of New Year business, that The Hubinger Co., is able to supply its wonderful products to all parts of the nation and world, and that the consumers have faith in Hubinger products and want them. An old year incident certainly forecasts some New Year prosperity!

AFFIDAVIT

County of Lee)
State of Iowa) (ss.

A. F. Gordon, Commercial Agent for the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad, Keokuk, Iowa, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he issued 31 (thirty-one) bills of lading covering 31 (thirty-one) carloads of Hubinger products from The Hubinger Co., Keokuk, Iowa, consigned to various destinations located in the East and on the Eastern Seaboard and the 31 (thirty-one) carloads were forwarded from Keokuk, Iowa, December 31st, 1938 in special train extra No. 85.

A. F. Gordon
Commercial Agent
Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad

ELLYN MORGAN
IOWA
NOTARIAL SEAL

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the County of Lee, State of Iowa, on the 4 day of January, 1939.

Ellyn Morgan
Notary Public, my commission expires July 4, 1939.

SHIPPED ON ONE DAY!

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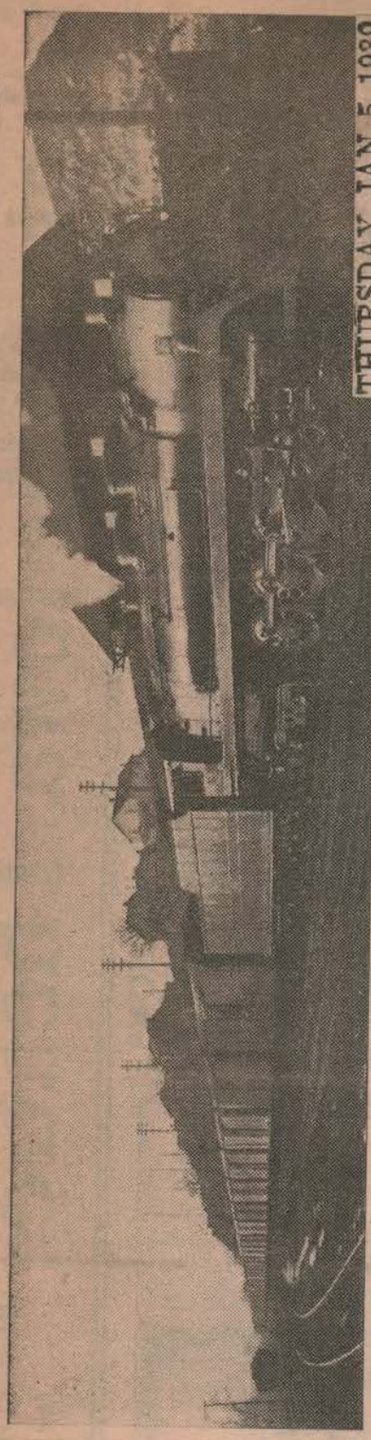
THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

HUGE T. P. & W. LOCOMOTIVE HAS GRATES MADE IN KEOKUK



THURSDAY, JAN. 5, 1939

The locomotive, shown in this picture made by John A. Coffey of Anschutz studios, which pulled the huge thirty-two car train bearing Hubinger company products to eastern states last Saturday, is equipped with grates made by the Hulson Grate Co., of Keokuk. The huge engine is one of six new ones recently constructed for the T. P. and W. railroad and was brought here specially to handle the long Hubinger train. The picture was made in the local freight yards.

DAILY GATE CITY
TUESDAY, JAN. 3, 1939

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Hubinger Co.

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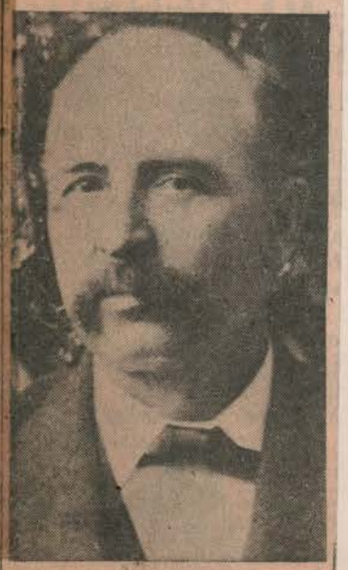
KEOKUK'S INDUSTRY OF MONTH — This aerial picture, taken about two years ago, shows the sprawling, busy plant of The Hubinger Company at the head of Commercial alley. Within these buildings and their later additions, including the former plant across the street of Hoerner Boxes, a work force of 582 was employed at the end of last year.

Company Founder



J. C. Hubinger

The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA 5
MONDAY, FEB.23, 1959

Company officers

R. S. Fisher
Board chairman

Roy L. Krueger
president

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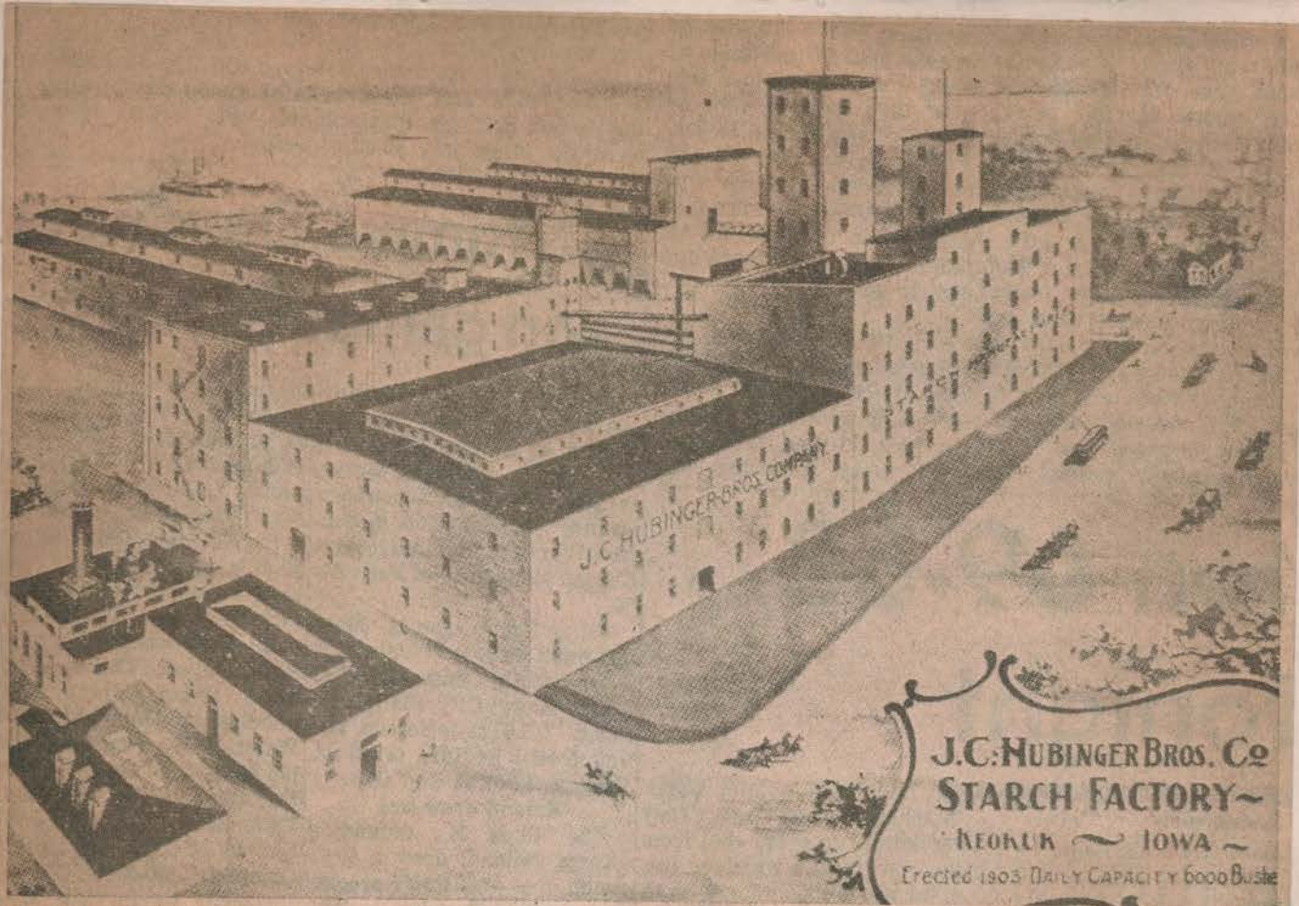


REBUILT AFTER FIRE—This is an artist's sketch of the J. C. Hubinger Brothers Company made in about 1905 after the owners had completely rebuilt the plant after a disastrous fire. The original plant occupied buildings and the cite of the old Coey Packing Co. It may be noted that the legend lists the capacity as 6,000 bushels. The daily grind now totals as much as 28,000 bushels.

MANY CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE—This picture, taken about 1932, shows The Hubinger Company plant with the towering smoke-stack at the far left which was removed a number of years ago. At that time the general offices of the company were located here but now are in the State Central bank building.

Feb 23, 1959 - page 2
(Hubinger's Industry of m

Feb 23, 1959 - page 3
(Hubinger's - Industry of month)

Its corn products travel 'round world

What is The Hubinger Company that the Chamber of Commerce is honoring as "Keokuk Industry of the Month"?

The massive pile of brick, stone, steel and glass at the head of Keokuk's busy Commercial Alley?

Modern offices equipped with the latest accounting and computing machines in the State Central Bank building?

A working force of 588 tri-state area residents as of the end of last year?

$3,800,000 payroll

A payroll amounting to $3,800,000 last year?

Top-flight executives such as Robert S. Fisher, chairman of the board; Roy L. Krueger, president; L. C. Watson, vice president, production; A. M. Robinson, vice president and general sales manager?

Those are some of the physical aspects of Keokuk's oldest industry but there is more to The Hubinger Company than that.

It is an integral part of that many-faceted thing called Keokuk, closely identified with its past, a potent factor in its present, and carries much of the hope of its future.

In many forms

Its products, going all over the world in such guises as cosmetics, textiles, and shipping containers as well as familiar forms of starches and sugars, carry with them something of Keokuk as well as of the Iowa corn from which they are processed.

Despite its tremendous investment in Keokuk at the present, The Hubinger Company, like all progressive industry, is looking to the future and President Roy Krueger reveals that it is projecting a $4,000,000 capital expansion program into the next five years.

Gluten department

During the recession which hit many manufacturing companies last year, The Hubinger Company completed a $400,000 expansion program by opening its new gluten meal department in the building across the street formerly occupied by the Iowa Fiber Box Company.

The Hubinger story is typically American and follows the Horatio Alger pattern of "rags to riches". A one-man operation at the start when the founder, J. C. Hubinger came upon a laundry starch mixture and started peddling it from door to door in the East, (even showing the housewife how to prepare it most effectively), the company has had its ups and downs but the last three decades have been ones of uninterrupted progress.

In the last 10 years alone the company's assets have increased 250 per cent from $3 million to $7½ million.

Sales $22 million

Similarly sales have increased from $12 million in 1948 to $22 million in 1958, with earnings up from $2,500 to $1,100,000 and capital expansion up from $112,000 to $916,000.

J. C. Hubinger, the founder of the firm, has become a Keokuk legend and one story has it that, as a broom peddler in New England, he swapped a dozen brooms for the original Elastic starch formula.

At any rate when he brought this formula to Keokuk in 1881, he bought the processed corn starch and mixed it in a building located on Bank between Fourth and Fifth, peddling his product by bicycle.

Needing more room he later moved his factory to 208 Main street and as his product became increasingly popular, the corn products industry began to fear his growth and applied the squeeze by cutting off his starch purchases. Undaunted he started to grind his own corn and moved his plant to its present site, formerly occupied by the old Coey pork packing company, an Irish firm.

Recover by-products

Interested only in starch at the outset, the company allowed the other parts of the corn to flow in the Mississippi where it fattened the carp. With the eventual recovery of by-products and the manufacture of syrup, the company progressed to such a point that it was able to survive a disastrous fire at the turn of the century and completely rebuild its plant.

A man of great imagination and vision, J. C. Hubinger did his best to transform Keokuk during this period, operating a telephone company and offering to build a new bridge over the Mississippi among other things. He did build one of the greatest amusement parks in the Middlewest which attracted visitors from as far away as St. Louis, as well as a magnificent home with lakes and grottoes on Grand Ave.

Madden takes over

With his death in 1908, the starch plant became the property of his widow and other heirs and entered upon a period of relatively little activity. In 1912 the wage scale was only 16 cents an hour for a 10 hour day. As a result of this stagnation the company was put up for sale and in 1925 John E. Madden took an option on it for himself and a Mr. Taylor. They wanted it for their sons, Joseph Madden and Harry J. Taylor.

Taylor came to Keokuk and looked things over but found little to interest himself here. He later became a nationally known writer and radio commentator.

At this point the elder Mr. Madden said that if Keokuk business men would assist, he would take over Taylor's interests and operate the plant. As a consequence his son Joseph became president.

During the prohibition era the company produced a special sugar which found a wide market. Most of the earnings were reinvested in the company and by that time the wage scale increased to 33 cents an hour.

Fisher and Brown

This happy period ended with Madden's suicide and another lull ensued until Robert S. Fisher, now chairman of the board, and Austin Brown took over the operation of the plant.

Corn sugar at this time was one of the principal products and it was soon realized that the future of the company rested in a diversification. By 1936 it had doubled its production of starch which lent itself to widely varied uses in the industrial field, especially in the manufacture of paper and glues.

Demand increased to the point that it was necessary to install new and more efficient driers in 1941-42. Back in 1925-26 the company was able to produce only one carload in twenty-four hours but with the new equipment this was increased to 12 carloads. When the company entered a new field of corn syrup solids, used chiefly in the ice cream industry, additional equipment was installed.

In textile field

Continuing to branch out, the company entered the textile and paper fields and now produces as many as 80 different types of starch, each for a specific purpose. It even produces a drum-dried starch which is used to seal off walls as oil well drillers bore into the ground.

In selling its products the company has 80 brokers in all major markets for its packaged goods which now, however, constitute less than five per cent of the total output. Five direct salesmen also supervise the package sales.

Largely bulk sale

Ninety-five per cent of the business is in bulk sales with corn syrup representing 55.53 per cent, starch 37.63 and crude sugar 2.48. The firm has 25 divisional and district salesmen in this department operating in Los Angeles, Chicago, Columbus, Ga., Philadelphia and Boston.

In addition the company has a corps of technical men who travel out of Keokuk to show customers how to use its product to their best advantage—thereby following the tradition of J. C. Hubinger when he first obtained the laundry starch formula.

Seventy per cent of the company's sales are to the food industries and this gives it a very favorable position when heavy industries fluctuate under the lead of steels and automobiles.

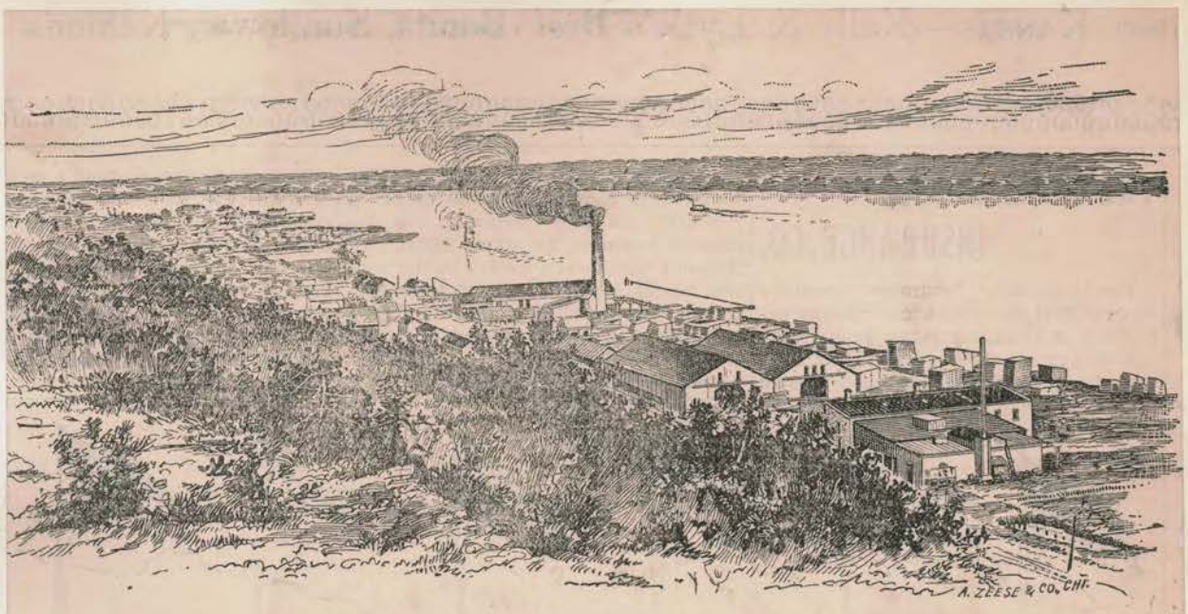
Locally owned

Although Hubingers' grind represents only six per cent of the corn processing industry in the nation, its sales are

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS—This is the second site of the J. C. Hubinger Starch company as it existed at 208 Main street in the late 1800's.

considerably higher than that. The relatively small size of the company compared to some of the giants, enables it to keep in closer touch with its customers through technical advisers and sales personnel.

Since 1946 when the Madden family wished to dispose of its interests, the company has been locally owned and controlled with many Keokuk residents as shareholders.



View in the Lumber District.

THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 20. 1882

THE LUMBER TRADE.

A Visit to the Extensive Yards and Buildings of the Carson & Rand Company,

By a Large Number of Citizens Interested in the Lumber Trade and in the Advancement of the Lumber Interests of Keokuk—A Mammoth Concern and what Has Been and Will Be Accomplished There—The Social Features of the Occasion.

The six months last past has been an era of greater importance to the lumber interests of Keokuk and the west than most thinking and practical men here or elsewhere are aware of. More improvement has been inaugurated in the lumber district in the southern part of the city and a larger number of new firms and interests organized and located there during that time than in any one year previous. It would be safe to say that this new growth will be the foundation of the building up of this important trade and industry to more than double its former proportions. But at this writing we wish to speak of only one of the new concerns and that one is the Carson & Rand Lumber Company, which was formally organized March 1st, 1882, with E. D. Rand, of Burlington, president, and Wm. Carson, of Eau Claire, Wis., vice president. A few months prior to the organization Geo. D. Rand, son of Mr. E. D. Rand, and the moving spirit of the company, came to Keokuk and chose it as the most advantageous point on the Mississippi river for the conducting of an immense lumber business. Perhaps no other factor entered into the calculation. There was no yard ready for him. No established firm offering to give up its business. No inducements of capital, land or special privileges asked or granted, but like the foresighted, keen, experienced and heavy capitalized business man that he is, he quietly laid his plans and with the sanction of the company went to work to make one of the largest, and most moderaly equipped yards on the river.

By invitation, yesterday forenoon, a party of gentlemen, consisting of Judge Edward Johnstone, D. G. Lowry, S. M. Clark, B. P. Taber, James Paul, Alex. Johnstone, A. Hosmer, S. Allen, T. F. Baldwin, S. C. Carter, Lewis Hosmer, J. H. and J. G. Anderson, Jesse B. Howell, Wm. Graham, Ed. F. Brownell, L. P. Dodge, of Chicago, H. H. Winslow, C. P. Comegys and H. H. Clark, inspected the yard and its improvements under the guidance of Messrs. George D. Rand and his brother, E. D. Rand, jr., who is the secretary of the company. The yard is located in the river bottom in the southern part of the city and extends for a quarter of a mile on either side of Commercial street, occupying the ground between this street and the railroad tracks and over these out into the river 500 or 600 feet beyond. This part of the yard is an immense wooden platform of four and one-half acres, on piling, with a capacity of eight to ten million feet of lumber. The deck of this platform is now say fifteen feet above the surface of the water. The high water mark of 1881 is within 18 inches of it and as that is the highest record it is safe to assume that it is high and dry for all time. But several feet of water above it would be no worse than if it was a ground yard. The current of the river here is such that sediment is constantly being deposited between the pilings and this with the washings from the cribs after they are drawn from the river will in a few years fill it up with solid earth. This washing of entire cribs of lumber on a platform is a novel and perfect plan and originated with Mr. Rand himself. Many practical and experiened lumber men and engineers pronounced against it but he placed his order for engine and hauling apparatus with McElroy & Armitage's foundry and for weeks it has been working and has proven a perfect success. The gentlemen yesterday saw several cribs, each containing ten or eleven thousand feet of lumber and weighing 60,000 pounds, hauled up the tracks onto the platform by an eight horse power engine, the work requiring but a few minutes time. There it is washed with water forced through a nozzle cleaner and more rapidly than by the old way in the water. A force of twelve men with this simple machinery can pull more lumber from the river onto wagons than can forty men by the ordinary methods. One string or about 160,000 feet per day can be taken from the river in this manner. As before stated, on the platform, which has a river frontage of over one thousand feet and siding to the railroad tracks of five hundred feet, can be piled about ten million feet and in the yards to the west of the tracks can be piled twelve million feet. The platform and yard are laid out with streets and alleys, affording the greatest convenience for the handling of lumber, both in receiving and shipping. In addition to the main and side tracks now through

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the yard the railroad company propose to lay two side tracks, giving room for thirty cars. A dry shed, for finished lumber, 70x130 feet, two stories high, is nearly completed and will hold a million feet. It is roofed and sided with corrugated iron. A planing mill, 60x90 feet, is partly erected and is provided with a forty horse power engine and several machines are now in operation. This mill will have a capacity of 100,000 feet per day, contains two surfacing machines, two flooring machines, one siding machine, gang setter machine, two moulding machines, one picket header, one automatic knife grinder—all of the latest improved kinds. The shaving and engine rooms are of brick and separated from each other and the mill by brick walls. The office, perhaps the finest on the river, consists of three rooms. A large one for general business contains a heavy safe, two roomy desks and other office furniture. Connecting with this is a private office, carpeted and upholstered. A third room contains toilet arrangements, closets, water cooler and other conveniences. These rooms are finished in ash, walnut and yellow pine. The building is surrounded by a veranda. A commodious and convenient stable for stabling 24 horses has been provided and nearly this number of large draught horses for single wagons are now worked in the yard. The stable is in charge of Emmett Watson.

There are now employed in the yard and mill and on the improvements 150 men. The regular force will be one hundred, exclusive of the mill hands.

This company manufactures and handles all its own lumber from the pineries to the cars and has headquarters at Eau Claire, Burlington and Keokuk. It expects soon to carry hard wood from the mills at Eau Galle, Wis., which will be transported here on rafts as top piling. The capacity of the yard here will be 160,000 feet per day and with a season of two hundred days 32,000,000 feet could be handled. This will be made the principal distributing point, and if railroad freight rates are not satisfactory barges will be especially constructed for carrying lumber which will be towed by boats to Missouri river points. It is expected that 20,000,000 feet will be piled this season, which, considering the vast labor and capital required in improvements, is a decidedly heavy business for one firm.

In the selection of assistants Mr. Rand has displayed the same wisdom that characterizes his other business acts. On the road is M. L. Boyles; in the office W. S. Jamieson. T. C. Harrison is shipping clerk and Walter Gray is foreman of the mill.

About the time the visitors of yesterday had made the tour of inspection and learned this much or more concerning this extensive enterprise and vast improvement to the lumber region of Keokuk they were invited by Mr. Rand, with a twinkle in his eyes, to return to the office, which invitation was responded to with alacrity and few were the laggards in that party. It was a tempting and inspiriting spread. A few happy and informal toasts were proposed and responded to and the guests were off to their respective business again bearing in their minds a high opinion of the Carson & Rand Company and great expectation of the future of the lumber mart of our city.

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 15. 1881

THE PICKLE WORKS.

A Walk Through one of Keokuk's Latest Enterprises.

The Pickle Companies have Occupied Their New Building and Commenced Processing.

The pickle works, one of Keokuk's latest acquisitions in the way of industrial enterprises are now in operation, the company having gotten down to actual work. The brick building built the present year by the company is located on the corner af First and Johnson streets, is 75x100 feet in dimensions and two stories high. The lower floor has a 10 feet and the upper floor a 14 feet ceiling. The pickle business will all be done on the first floor, and the upper floor will be used for packing and storing apples. The rooms are commodious and well ventilated—22 windows and several doors—being excellently adapted to the purpose for which they were constructed. Double doors lead from the alley on the Main street side, into the building. On the first floor we find 82 small and 10 large pickling tanks, with a capacity for 2,000 barrels of pickles. The company will put up all their goods in barrels this season, and will do no bottling at present.

On this floor we also find a large cider press, with a capacity of 75 barrels of juice per day. An engine and boiler room will be added to the first floor in the fall. There is a six-inch drain under the flooring, making a good underground drainage. The second floor is even more roomy than the first, and is at present virtually vacant. The office of the company is placed in the southeast corner of the upper floor, and is very cosy and neat. The entire building, inside and outside, has a substantial appearance and everything about the works is in the best possible shape. The cooperage, which will be quite an item, will be principally contracted at home—another evidence of the fact that enterprises of this character benefit the city indirectly as well as directly.

The company have 350 acres, principally cucumbers, contracted for, and 100 bushels to the acre, with anything like a good crop, is but a fair average. This fact shows that their business will be of no small character. They have been receiving cucumbers and some cauliflower for two weeks past, and have begun the work of processing, having at present about fifty barrels in pickle. They expect to dispose of the larger part of their goods at home, but will, of course, ship a considerable quantity to other markets.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, THURSDAY, MARCH 16. 1882

A LARGE COMPANY.

THE LARGEST LUMBER YARDS NORTH OF ST. LOUIS.

One Hundred Laborers at Work Preparing them for an Extensive Trade This Season.

A CONSTITUTION representative took a stroll down in the Keokuk lumber district this morning and found much activity displayed in the future yards of the Carson & Rand lumber company, there being about one hundred laborers employed in filling up the yards above high water mark

March 16, 1882 - Page 1 (Carson & Rand Lumber)

CARSON RAND - 1

March 16, 1892 - page 2 (Carson & Rand Lumber)

and making the ground solid with stone where the planing mill of this company is to be erected.

Extensive ways for the reception of lumber are being erected, in an entirely different plan from that of any other company on the river and will be a great saving of labor in the handling of lumber.

These ways are erected upon stoutly driven piling, the rafts are floated up to them, and the cribs drawn upon and along them by an endless chain, kept in motion by a steam engine, to a platform where the lumber is washed by means of steam hose, and assorted. This platform will have the capacity to hold about 70,000 feet of lumber, and the pulling apparatus when finished will be able to pull 250,000 feet of lumber per day, if used to its full capacity.

South of the ways are located the outside yards, containing about three and one-half acres piled above high water mark, about 3,000 oak piling being required in the extensive work now going on by the company. Above the ways a dyke is in course of construction for the purpose of protecting them from the strain of high water.

Across Railroad street there is another extensive yard capable of accommodating 12,000,000 feet of lumber.

When these yards are completed, the Carson & Rand lumber company at this point will be able to handle 150,000,000 feet of lumber. This they do not expect to accomplish the coming season, but will endeavor to increase their business from season to season until their trade reaches these enormous figures. With all the drawbacks to the trade, the lumber men of Keokuk doubled their trade last season over the former year, and, with the extraordinary facilities which will be given to the new company by reason of their extensive improvements, great things may be confidently expected of Keokuk's future trade in this line.

A neat office on railroad street is being erected for the use of the company, and below the office will be erected a large shed 50x100 feet in size, and two stories high, with a drive-way through the center, capable of holding 800,000 feet of dressed lumber.

Between Bluff and Commercial streets a substantial foundation is being erected upon which to build a model planing mill, which they expect to make the best and most complete establishment of the kind on the river, all the latest improvements in machinery having been ordered with which to equip it. Another feature of this great enterprise is that the pulling machinery and the engines for the planing mill are being manufactured by a home foundry, McElroy & Armitage.

The senior of the firm, Mr. Carson, is a thorough and old lumber man, having been in the business with the father of Mr. Rand, his present associate, thirty-seven years ago. The junior member is much younger, but has had large experience in the business. The business of the company here will be conducted by G. D. Rand of the firm and his brother, E. D. Rand, Jr.

The C. R. I. & P. railroad passing through the yards will change its tracks so as to give this lumber company switch room for thirty-five cars all the time. The last of this week the first raft of the season will be received by them, and their ways and other improvements for handling lumber extensively will be completed between the 1st and 10th of April.

When ready for work the capacity of the Carson & Rand company for handling lumber in Keokuk, will be greater than that of any other company north of St. Louis.

Constitution-Democrat.

JULY 29, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

How Chewing Gum Is Manufactured in This City.

Keokuk's Newest Industry, Conducted by the Decker Chemical Co.—Hardware Specialties Made by the Decker Manufacturing Co.

In this live western town of Keokuk, whose business men are characterized by their push and energy, there are always new industries being started and new enterprises begun. The last month or so has witnessed the inauguration of an entirely new branch of industrial manufacture in this city, one which bids fair to become one of the large and prosperous concerns of the city. This is the chewing gum and cachou factory owned and operated by the Decker Chemical company of this city.

Many people have asked what was contained in the long, low building that stretches out from Water street toward the river bank, just above the bridge. This is the factory and the seat of all the operations of this young industry, which is making such rapid strides toward success and prosperity. This industry is now one of the many important ones of "what Keokuk has." It is as yet in its infancy, it is true, having been operated but little more than a month, but already it is exhibiting signs of steady growth and is promising great things for the future.

It was in last February that A. C. Decker and his son D. L. Decker, began a series of very lengthy and costly experiments, with a view to entering into the manufacture of chewing gum. Much preliminary work of a most tedious nature, involving the expenditure of a great deal of money was necessary to perfect their processes. It was necessary to find out just the exact proportions of sweetening and flavoring to use in order that the gum might be pleasant to the taste, and it was also necessary to know how to obtain the proper consistency that the gum might have the proper tenacity and elasticity. All the points could not be determined without a great deal of experiment and it was not until the latter part of June that the processes were completely mastered and understood, so that the actual operation of a factory could begin.

D. L. Decker, the general manager of the factory, received the CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT representative most cordially, according him every courtesy, and very kindly showed him over the establishment and explained the processes by which this gum is manufactured.

The foundation of the article is the pure genuine gum tulu, which is imported direct from South America. This gum comes in lumps and has to go through several processes before it has the proper consistency and pleasant flavor.

The gum, as it is received in its raw state, is full of the chips and pieces of the bark of the native tree and these have to be all removed most carefully by hand. Every particle of the gum is thus thoroughly cleansed and purified so that not the least particle of any foreign substance enters into the finished product. This company prides itself upon the fact that their article is absolutely pure and free from grit or chips.

After this cleansing process is completed the gum is spread out on a board to dry out all the superfluous moisture. This drying process is followed by the cooking. This is very carefully done and while the gum is in a melted condition the flavors and the sweetening, which is made from the purest sugar, are introduced.

The gum with its other contents is then cooled and is put through other processes to give it proper plasticity. It is kneaded and worked up into loaves, and then put through a series of rollers which draw it out into long broad sheets, very flat and the thickness of an ordinary piece of gum.

These sheets are passed through another set of rollers upon which is a set of cutters. These cut the sheet up into the small pieces of the proper size and shape. Eighty pieces of gum, all ready for wrapping and packing, are cut out by one revolution of this cutter.

These pieces are then sorted out seperating the various flavors from one another. The gum is put up in six flavors, cachou, wintergreen, peppermint, cassia, clove and pepsin. The different flavors are placed together and each piece wrapped carefully by deft fingered young ladies who tie the bunches together and pack them into attractive cartons, ready for the market. The factory also manufactures a very dainty confection called the "X Ray" cachou. It is a small combination of spicy ingredients which "penetrate the breath," as one is advised by the label on the packages. These are made by a secret process in this same factory and are cut out with a process somewhat similar to that employed with the chewing gum. They are then put up into attractive little packages.

Thus early in the history of this Keokuk industry the company has a salesman on the road representing and introducing these articles to the market. The factory has more orders on hand now than it can conveniently fill. In a month or two, when the general fall trade begins to pick up, the factory will be represented by other men on the road.

This is but one of the many industries which have sprung up in this city, started by Keokuk capital and carried on by Keokuk pluck and energy. These

industries are the surest evidence of the steady growth of the city and as they grow and prosper, as most of them have done, so will this western town increase as well in influence and commercial importance.

Across the street from this novel and interesting establishment is another factory, old established but still right up to the front in the products which it places upon the market. This is the plant of the Decker Manufacturing company, of which A. C. Decker is the sole proprietor and manager, and here is manufactured a varied line of hardware specialties, including hog rings, hog ringers, curry-combs, and wire stretchers.

In an interview with the CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT reporter Mr. Decker stated that this factory actually manufactured sixty-five per cent of the hog rings of the world. This seems like a very enormous amount, but when one realizes that the west uses the greater amount of the hog rings manufactured it may readily be seen how this factory has an advantage of position. When one realizes also that during the busy season this factory runs four hog ring machines, each one of which turns out about 1,000 hog rings each day, some idea may be gained of the factory's enormous capacity. Three years ago Mr. Decker bought out the enormous hog ring business of H. W. Hill & Co., of Decatur, Ill, and he has since operated it entirely. This firm became very rich out of this business when the patent expired and the health of the head of the firm failed, forcing him to retire. In its present hands this hog ring business has increased to enormous proportions.

Another article of which this factory has an enormous output is the curry-comb. The reporter was shown one style of curry-comb which has been on the market for about four years, and during that time Mr. Decker said, upwards of three-quarters of a million of them had been sold.

The factory is still manufacturing this same style of comb as well as many others and the reporter was shown the processes through which these combs were put.

The teeth of the comb are all made of spring steel which comes in long strips. These are cut up to the right length and stamped into the proper shape and size by steel dies. The other parts are also cut out and bolted together by a complete system of intricate machinery, after which they are lacquered or Japanned and packed in cartons and boxes. These goods are shipped to all parts of the United States and find a very ready sale. The combs are made in many different styles but the very best workmanship is put into each one.

The power for the entire plant is furnished by an electric motor of seven and one-half horse power and Mr. Decker is very enthusiastic over his motor. For two years it has been running, he says, and has cost him absolutely nothing for repairs, while it has furnished him with its very best service all the time.

These two enterprises, the one an old standing institution, begun thirteen years ago, and the other an entirely new industry, are very ably managed, their interests being carefully watched, and together they are making great strides toward higher progress and prosperity. They are adding very materially to the city's growth and importance.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
JUNE 10, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

A Tour Through the Taber Lumber Company's Mill.

Keokuk's Great Lumber Interests—Her Important Position in This Trade—The Workers For This Firm.

The investigation of the important question of "What Keokuk Has" is proving to be even a more interesting subject than that of "What Keokuk Most Needs," which was so ably and exhaustively discussed but recently in the columns of the CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT by some of Keokuk's citizens, and it is quite likely that the industries and the resources of this western city may prove to be much greater and more numerous than her needs.

For many years there has existed in this city a vast institution which has been increasing the volume of its business each year, and silently growing until it is now one of the most important and valuable institutions of its kind in this part of the country and certainly controls a great amount of trade in many points, both south and west of Keokuk. This firm is the Taber Lumber company, and its interests are so vast that they mean a great deal to the business interests of this city.

Few people, perhaps, who have never given the matter serious attention, are able to appreciate what an important position this western city, situated as it is, at the foot of the Des Moines rapids, occupies in the lumber interests of the west and south. In point of fact, her superior position and her unequalled shipping facilities have made her an important point in this trade, and the success of this firm in this line only goes to show this statement to be a fact.

There was a time in the history of the lumber trade when St. Louis was the most important point along the river for the preparing of logs for shipment in the form of lumber, but that time in now past, and with the exception of the mills at Canton, Quincy and Hannibal, the great rafts are not taken any farther south than this city, and Keokuk is even a much more important lumber point than any of these places on account of her superior shipping and jobbing facilities.

All of the saw mills which formerly lined the river bank at St. Louis are now inactive, their owners finding it much more profitable to handle the lumber which has already been cut by the mills on the upper river. One uninformed would be surprised to see the great amount of lumber which the Taber Lumber company ship each year to this great city from the products of their mills.

While it is interesting to the business man, whose interests are concerned in any enterprise so great and which controls such a great amount of capital of the city, there is a great deal to interest the casual observer in the great plant of the company itself, and a saunter through its many departments proves a very interesting and instructive ramble indeed, for there is something to amuse and instruct on every hand. The institution itself is a vast one and it is interesting to watch the progress of a great giant of the forest, from the time it leaves the water until it comes out of the rear end of the planer, a smooth, clean yellow board, ready for the hand of the carpenter.

The great logs are felled in the northern pineries and are towed by means of teams, and but lately, by immense log trains, to the river, where they are formed into long rafts. The outside logs are all fastened together so as to hold all the others together, while ropes and stringers tie them more firmly, and prevent their floating away. These rafts are then taken in tow by the raft boats and brought down the river to the saw mill.

There they are strung out along the shore, and one by one the logs are cut loose from the raft and floated to the log-way. Here an endless chain, armed with hooks to hold the logs firmly, draws them up out of the water and slowly, the heavy monster, perhaps four feet thick, and wet and dripping, advances up the chute to meet his executioner. These logs are fed upon the chain by two men armed with pike poles, who who spear and haul them into place to be caught up by the hooks on the chain, then advances once more, and this process is continued until the log is all cut up.

The sawyer, who controls the movements of the carriage, occupies one of the most responsible positions in the whole mill as his judgment must be relied upon to determine into what kind of lumber a log can be cut to the best advantage. As soon as the log is in position upon the carrier, he signs to the rider in front, the thickness of the cut he desires, and with a lever, the setter, for so he is called, adjusts the log so that the slice will be cut one or two or three inches thick, as the case may be. This is also a responsible position upon the force, as is also that of the other rider, who hooks the log securely to the carriage, and throws the log back from the saw on the return trip by means of an offset. The sawyers at the Taber Lumber company's mill are E. W. Hill and V. H. Phillips, while the setters are A. S. Miller and M. Heavner. From the saws these slices are carried on the endless chains to the edger, a machine fitted with circular saws, which trims the edges of the rough wooden slices and converts them into boards. These boards are carried on to the sorting works where the sorter and his force of helpers separate the better qualities from the cheaper and send the different sizes and thicknesses to their various places in the yard, or to the planing mill of Garmo & Co., who do all the dressing and planing for this firm. The trimmings and edges are carried to another part of the mill and are cut up into laths, while the waste which is unfit for such use is thrown out and sold for kindling wood.

Some of the logs are cut up into blocks and these are sliced into flat shingles by a swift revolving circular saw, from which they are also carried by a feeder to the packing room and put up into bundles.

Even the saw-dust is not allowed to go to waste, but is carried down into the boiler room in great chutes and a self feeder forces it in a steady stream ing a capacity of 300 horse power. Its management is under the supervision of

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D. W. Bishop, a skilled engineer, in whose hands it is well intrusted.

The entire works are under the direct supervision of the foreman, F. H. Hayner, a man who has successfully mastered the perplexing intricacies of the lumber business, and all the work in the mill is done under his direct management, so that he is responsible for its excellence. Another responsible position, for which the right man is well chosen is that of chief filer, which is occupied by J. W. Tolley. If the saws do not receive proper attention in this way they zig-zag through the log like a serpent instead of cutting the board of even thickness.

The value of this firm as a money distributor cannot be over estimated and some idea of its far-reaching influence in this regard may be gained from the list of its employees, which is given below.

The following are employed in the mill:

F. H. Hayner, foreman, J. W. Tolley, E. Hugill, W. Pickens, D. W. Bishop, H. Alexander, J. W. Monday, J. McCaffrey, J. Hopkins, J. Merrick, H. Bartels, D. W. Hill, A. S. Miller, C. Malone, J. Simons, V. H. Phillips, M. Heevner, C. Fulton, P. McCandless, G. Fanning, G. Banks, C. Williams, W. Monday, L. F. Troutfeter, H. Young, W. O. Blenas, J. Gray, J. W. Voohries, C. Gridley, L. Alexander, G. Hinch, C. Dixon, H. Bradshear, J. Williams, J. Harris, W. DeWitt, T. Burgess, Jrd. Merrick, L. Patterson, J. Hix, L. Lambert, W. Burgess, E. Hopkins, C. McQuaid, J. Lawton, J. Dunn, M. Rogan, M. Anderson, L Daughters, M. Bash, C. Miller, R. Newman, M. Leach, A. Smith, Z. McKinney, S. Russell, W. Logue, M. Knight, M. Brazenham, G. Johns and E. Peabody.

Besides these, the following find employment in the yards of the company:

J. W. Smith, J. Tobin, E. Tobin, N. Anderson, Jr., P. Landman, J. Hardin, C. Anson, Joe Tobin, Jim Aiken, C. Spaan, H. Kriel, C. Johnson, E. Fleitcher, J. Nolan, W. McDowell, M. Parker, M. Scanlan, R. Morrissey, W. Burke, T. Kilker, R. Wells, T. Mitchell, J. Adams, A. Slyers, N. Slyers, C. Gallagher, C. Fanning, J. Rogan, W. Downey, G. Dobb, T. H. Curran, J. Chandler, Peter Smith, B. Smith, C. W. Louty, W. Palmer, J. Harrington, F. Sheehan, B. Conn, P. Yonker, A. Unsler, D. Moon, L. Larson, J. Woodsmail, T. Shaw, A. Dobb, J. Whitfield, J. Hull, Patrick Leach, O. Inden, R. Dillon, J. Flinn, W. Reid, J. Harman, J. Grover, N. Anderson, Sr., T. Garrity, J. McLaughlin, G. Pardekooper, E. Whalen, M. Leindecker, P. Schikan, A. Effner, F. Bain, A. Noorene, C. Brady, J. Ward, J. Quinn, W. Hull, J. McQuade, A. Larson, W. Gavin, W. Moore, C. Mulligan, J. Hicks, N. Boone, G. House, W. Morris, P. Tigue, W. Morris, Joe Smith, W. Fulton, W. Cowley, R. Bryant, J. Ashley, T. S. Mattox, J. R. Shafer, F. Wooster, C. Smith, W. Matheney, A. Matheney, H. Buel and H. Coleman.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
JULY 22, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

Another Important Industry of This City.

The Lumber Firm of S.C. & S. Carter Co. the Oldest In the City—Description of Their Business and Plant.

In nearly every city of any size there are certain industries and business interests which have been so closely identified with the city itself and whose interests are so allied to those of the city, that they have become a part of the municipality itself and have made their history a part of the city's.

Such an industry in Keokuk is the lumber business of S. C. & S. Carter Co., whose office and plant are on the corner of Fourth and Des Moines streets. Solid and strong, this company represents a very vast industry in Keokuk and the history of its growth and development is closely identified with that of the city. It has grown up with Keokuk and experienced her many vicissitudes, passing through the war with her. Today the business stands stronger and sturdier than ever before and will undoubtedly continue so for many years to come.

It was in 1854 that Messrs. S. C. & S Carter came to this western town, then small but growing rapidly. They had been formerly established in an eastern city and under the same firm name, so that the company was well established even before it came to this city so long ago. The first establishment of the company was on the corner of Seventh and Johnson streets. From this stand they moved to their present quarters twenty-eight years ago and they have continued in business there ever since, until they have grown to be what they are today.

For the past fifteen years this company has taken pride in their boast that they are the oldest firm in Keokuk that has been continuously engaged in business without any change.

The business of this firm is that of retailing lumber, but many of their sales amount to wholesale bills and they also send out into the surrounding country a great number of complete house sales. Nearly all of their lumber is shipped out of this city to many points in all directions and this means a great deal of labor employed in handling these orders.

The laboring force of the company in both the lumber yards and in the mill operated by them averages about forty men. During the busy season, more workers are added to do the necessary amount of extra work, while in the duller months of the year the force is diminished accordingly.

This company has adopted a very admirable policy in the employment of its labor. When their men become familiar with the work, and skillful in the tasks assigned them, they do not like to discharge them, except under extreme circumstances, and for this reason, many of the workers in the mill and in the yards are old employes, who have grown up with the mill and are closely identified with it by bonds, not only of dependence, but of association and affiliation.

One of these industrious, hard working men is B. Townsend, who has been in the employ of S. C. & S. Carter for forty-two years continuously, except three years that he spent in the service of his country during the war of the rebellion. Louis Washington is an old colored man who has served the company as a mill hand for over thirty years past. Henry Tebeau has been employed for over twenty-five years and Cale P. Seymour, except for three years spent in the employ of a firm in St. Louis, Mo., has been with this company for fully thirty years. The foreman of the lumber yard, Charles McDowell, who knows every board and stick about the place, has had twelve years in which to learn them. Several have served this company faithfully for different periods of time and many others are quite likely to remain in their employ as long as they shall live.

A visit to the mills and a saunter through the yards of S. C. & S. Carter Co. is fraught with much interest and instruction. From the office of the company, one crosses a bridge into the mill and is at once ushered into a very busy spot, which teems with life and energy and industry. In this institution all kinds of woodword used in every part of the building is turned out ready for use. Here are sashes and doors and blinds besides the thousand and one minor essentials which go to make up the wood-work of a business house or dwelling and the processes through which the rough lumber is put in converting it into these are very fascinating.

All of the power for this mill is furnished by a steam engine and a great boiler. These are both situated in the basement, and this place is a net work of pulleys and wheels and swift running belts, busily conveying the power from the engine to the machines above. The fuel which is fed upon the hot fire beneath the boiler is the shavings which come down from the machines above. A series of fans and chutes carries off all the shavings and chips from the planers and saws down a larger chute and a fan spreads them, in a continuous stream upon the fire, making the flow of fresh fuel very steady. This item of itself is a great saving in coal and is a practical illustration of the economical arrangement of the entire plant.

Above, upon the upper stories, are the various wood working machines. The noisy planer into which the rough boards are fed, smooths them down and dresses their sides. Then there are also band saws, and jig saws and circular saws for all kinds of work, from the coarsest to the very finest.

One important feature of this, as of every mill, is the drying room, in which boards and lumber are placed and every iota of moisture removed by a steam heater. The air in this room is very warm and very dry, so that the warping moisture is soon drawn out and the wood left dry and straight.

One part of the plant is devoted solely to the manufacture of wooden boxes, a very important industry in this city. A great many kinds are manufactured and a set of machinery is kept in operation continuously, planing and cutting and sawing the lumber for this part of the work.

Another important part of the plant is the room where are all the saws are filed and prepared for the work and the strain which is put upon them. These operations are performed by machinery which acts automatically, filing each tooth of the saw with mechanical accuracy and precision so that it may cut straight and true, without deviation.

There is a blind wiring machine in this mill which was improved by a Keokuk boy, the late Walter Gray, a former employe of this establishment. The improvement is such a success that the machine, as he conceived it, is now in use in nearly every similar mill in the country. The old method of driving the little staples into the slats of the blind was by means of two separate machines but with this ingenious contrivance, the two machines are combined into one and the work is greatly facilitated. The

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mill turns out sashes, blinds, mouldings, stair work, brackets, interior finishing, doors and boxes by its various processes and appliances.

This is not all of the enterprise, however, and the visit is not complete without a saunter through the lumber yards. Here the stock of the firm is kept in great piles, constructed with accuracy and precision so as to stand firmly. Broad avenues between allow the teams to move freely in and out among the piles and draw from or renew the stock as is required. These yards cover about thirty-five lots of the city and every space is utilized to the best of advantage.

The lumber from the north, chiefly white pine, comes down the river from Minnesota and Wisconsin in rafts which are drawn up along side of the shore near the K Line shops and hauled to the yards in wagons. Besides this lumber there are many other kinds from different parts of the country. There is yellow pine from Arkansas and Texas, cyprus from Louisiana, poplar and red cedar from Tennessee, Oak from Arkansas, red cedar shingles from Washington, and many other varieties from other states. All of these have to be shipped here in cars.

The dressed lumber, the shingles, lath and the choicer woods for interior work and other fine purposes are stored in long sheds for protection from the rain and the warping sun. The others are piled in the yards.

The firm has the best of access to the railroads, so that their shipping facilities are unexcelled. At the back of the mill, the uptown switch passes through their yards and their lumber is loaded directly on the cars upon the track, to be shipped to many parts of this and other states.

Last February, the company was incorporated under the laws of Iowa. S. C. Carter the senior member of the firm, is the president of the company and S. Carter is its vice-president. Wm. H. Carter the secretary and treasurer of the company, has been with the firm since his early youth, and has become a most efficient member. A great deal of the success of the company is due to his tireless efforts. Will S. Carter and Harvey Beach are the industrious office assistants and salesmen, who render valuable service in the routine of the business. O. J. Swasey as bookkeeper has the charge of the company's accounts and books.

As the business of S C. & S. Carter Co., has grown and prospered in the past and contributed so much to the city's welfare, so it will continue to do in the future. Their quiet unobtrusive conservatism has made them a very substantial institution, contributing largely to the solid aggregate financial strength of Keokuk.

The Gate City.
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CARBIDE SCHEME.

Matters Are Said to be Progressing Well.

GIRTON AND HUBINGER MEET

They Reach a Working Memorandum for a Future Combination.

E. E. Girton, secretary of the carbide manufacturing company which wants to come here to establish its big plant, left for Des Moines yesterday morning after a long conference with J. C. Hubinger which he considered very satisfactory.

He says his company is not in a big rush, and the magnitude of the interests preclude doing much in a day, so that the matter will move somewhat slowly, although much speed is given it by the rapid methods of Mr. Hubinger.

"How did you get along?" was asked Mr. Girton.

"Things are progressing very favorably," he replied. "Mr. Hubinger and I came to a preliminary agreement which was put in the shape of a memorandum that I take back to the board of directors of our company, and which it is hoped will grow into a complete contract."

The details of this memorandum are considered the private business of the company and J. C. Hubinger and are not given out. There was an intimation that it is elastic enough to allow Mr. Hubinger to go into the deal as extensively as he chooses, or on comparatively a small scale if he so desires, the company and its backers taking what he does not want himself.

"The important thing now," said Secretary Girton, "is to find out how much power can be sold to other parties here engaged in manufacturing and using power for various purposes. Any local capital that wants to come into the plan, will be accepted after Mr. Hubinger and ourselves have invested what we want, but we have not gotten that far along yet."

OTHERS WANT IT.

It developed that Quincy and Hannibal parties have been corresponding with the carbide company, but they lack the essential element of cheap power. Water power is $17 a horse power cheaper than steam, the company figures, and that means much. It takes five thousand horse power to run the works that the carbide company contemplate when they get established permanently, and that means $85,000 per year saved by using water power. If the river here is to be dammed, the profits on that investment must pay interest on the capital required to put in the water power, and this means that the power not used by the carbide company must be sold to the economical limit of the power obtained from the river. Here is where comes in the sale of power to outside parties in Keokuk and vicinity. This is the explanation given by Secretary Girton.

HUBINGER'S VIEWS.

Mr. Hubinger when asked what was the result of the conference by a Gate City representative, said he did not take hold of it, and went on:

"I am tired of investing my money in Keokuk, the way the council treats me. I've spent lots of money here, you understand, and have done all I can for the laboring man, but the council has been against me. Last year I wanted to spend a lot of money for labor and work here in Keokuk, but the council fought me all the time, and I'm tired of it.

"When I go to other cities, the council treats me much better than it does right here at home, and I've been compelled to go to other cities lately to invest my money. It's the fault of the council here, you understand, and in other places they're glad to have me spend my money with them. There are better places than Keokuk for me to make investments, and the way the council treats me forces me to go there."

It will be remembered that Mr. Hubinger has pretty large power plants in Quincy, and it is suggested that since his street railway plans there are tied up in the federal court, it may strike him as a good thing to use the power for the carbide works there which he intended to use for running street cars. Just what he might do to offset the greater cheapness of water power is past finding out.

WHAT IT IS.

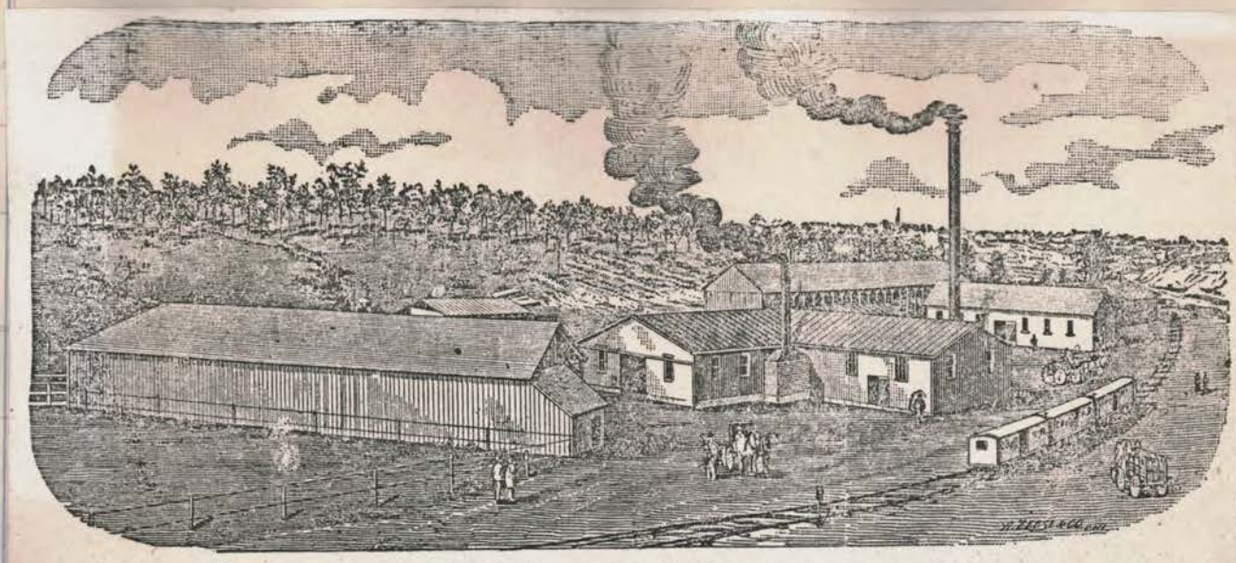
Carbide of calcium is made by subjecting powdered limestone and powdered coke to a temperature of about 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit, and this heat can be obtained only in an electric arc, such as is in the street lights. The old method is to mix the powders, sixty per cent of limmestone and forty per cent of coke, into bricks with a paste and put the bricks into an oven in carriages which are in the middle of the electric arc.

The method of the new company is to have a hole through the top carbon of the arc, which is a block of carbon instead of a pencil as in the street lights, and run the powder down through this by gravity. There is another plan they have of keeping a big pencil of lime and coke standing in the hole. As fast as this pencil is fused into carbide of calcium, the latter melts and runs out ready for shipment. The apparent advantage of their method is that all the mass is converted while the center of a brick is sometimes not burnt through. The element of least cost also comes in here.

ONLY A FEW.

At the present time the only carbide works in the world may be listed in a small space. They are: At Meran, Bosnia and Lend-Gastien, in Austria; London, in England; La Bathie, Bellegarde, Saint-Beron, Briancon, Epierre, Froges and Sechillienne, in France; Langenthal, Rheinefelden, Lauffen, Lechbruck and Neheim, in Germany; Sarborg, in Sweden; Berne, Neuhausen, Rheinefelden, Loetschner and Vernier, in Switzerland; Niagara Falls and Salt Ste. Marie, in the United States; the smaller number, comparatively, in England and the United States is due to the monopoly which has existed up to the present time.

The furnace used is very simple, mechanically, and can be made and set up in a short time. The chief thing in the process is the heavy electric current required to run the immense arc, a low voltage and 1,500 amperes in the circuit being required.



KEOKUK BARREL & HOOP CO.

Constitution-Democrat

OCTOBER 17, 1896

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

The Keokuk Barrel And Hoop Company's Plants.

Barrels Manufactured Both by Hand and by Machinery—A Busy Place Where Many Men Are Employed.

The barrel, old as it is, has ever been a favorite package, both for purposes of shipping and packing. Its cylindrical shape, making it easy and convenient to handle in shipping and of enormous capacity and compactness, have been points in its favor with which no other form of packing has been able to compete. Its popularity has grown in public favor rather than diminished so that at the present time, much of the commerce of the world is handled in this peculiar form of packing.

Keokuk has a large share in supplying the markets of America with barrels. This city seems to be peculiarly well adapted for the furthering of this industry. A large part of the trade is supplied with barrels made here by Keokuk workman.

One of Keokuk's large barrel manufactories is situated near the city limits on the North road. This is a busy place at all times. The plant consists of a group of extensive buildings and sheds, which are situated on either side of the railroad track. It is the property of the Keokuk Barrel and Hoop company. This factory runs all the year around and is constantly turning out packages to be shipped all over the United States. Nearly all of the men employed, of which there are a great number, are residents of Keokuk and spend their money with Keokuk merchants. The industry is thus an important one to the city in its distributing of capital among the purchasing element.

The plant consists primarily, of a barrel factory, where the packages are made by machine processes, and two large cooper shops where nothing but hand work is done. Some barrel buyers demand the latter while some prefer the former and for this reason both processes must be used.

In a visit to the machine shop, one is ushered into a long low-roofed building full of noise and steam. It is a place of activity, however, and everyone is very busy. Here the roughly sawn staves are received in car load lots. They are all made of tough white oak, all the barrels of this company being made of that durable material. The staves are piled in a steam dry kiln first, where all the moisture is carefully removed by steam heat and a dry air process. From this place they are taken to a joiner, inside the machine factory. Each stave is put into a joiner, a great machine with swiftly revolving cutters. These shave off the edges of the staves so that when they are joined together the edges will form a compact and airtight joint. The staves are then set up around a block, so as to form a cylinder. This is held together with a heavy iron ring, which binds the staves together.

The unfinished barrel is then removed to the steam box. Here a blast of steam is forced through it and the wood, under the influence of the heat and the moisture, becomes soft and pliable. As soon as this is accomplished it is placed in a loop of wire rope. This draws up the staves with their edges close and tight. An iron hoop is put on each end to secure them. From the windlass the barrel is placed over a heater. This removes the moisture imparted to the wood by the steam, making it once more stiff and unyielding.

From this heater the barrel is taken to the tresser. This machine consists of six iron arms which rise out of the floor. They are hooked on the iron hoop about the top of the barrel, and pull it down tighter around it. More hoops are put on above the first one and the operation is repeated, until the staves are drawn and compressed together very closely and every joint is made absolutely tight.

This wooden cylinder, with the iron hoops still binding it together, is put into a crozing and champering machine. This revolves it horizontally, and two swift cutting knives, at either end, trim off the top ends of the staves and bevel them. At the same time it cuts the groove in the top of the barrel into which the head is fitted when the package is completed.

This is the next process. The barrel is seized by an operator as it rolls out of the crozer and is stood on end. The two top hoops are knocked off and the head is pounded in with a hammer. These heads are made in another part of the factory. The barrel is then put into a planer. This also revolves the barrel and different grades of planes are applied to it, completely smoothing it off. The hooping process is the next operation. This is all done by hand at present, although they have a complete set of machinery to do the hooping with in case of a rush. Some of these hoops are made of hickory, others of oak and some of the barrels are hooped with bands of steel. Twenty men are kept busy doing this work alone.

The process of making the heads is in itself interesting. The rough pieces of heading are received at the factory. These are put into a jointer and the edges smoothed by the same process as the staves. Two holes are also bored into the edges and the two pieces are united with wooden pins. This jointed head is put through a planer and smoothed off. Then it is put into a machine, which cuts the head into a circular shape, with the edges beveled, to fit into the groove in the end of the barrel The head is then ready to be put into the barrel.

Besides this machine factory the company operates two large hand cooperage shops, where the hand made barrels are turned out. One of these shops employs eighteen hand coopers and the other

twenty. These men can turn out on an average eight completed barrels a day each, some of the more skillful having a record of twelve a day. These shops receive the staves and heads ,already cut and jointed, from the machine factory, so that their material is all prepared for immediate use. The staves are set up around a circular block and bound together with a wooden hoop. This barrel is then removed to a furnace, where it is heated or fired, instead of being put through the steaming process. From this furnace they are taken hot to the benches, where the hand workmen complete it. The champer, a sharp heavy tool, makes the bevel at the ends of the barrel, which is then leveled off. The grooves for the heads are then put in by hand. The heads are driven in and the hoops are put around the barrel, all by hand work.

The hoops themselves are given especial attention to fit them for use. As they are needed they are placed into steam or soak vats, to make them soft and pliable. There are six of these vats. The hickory hoops are left there forty-eight hours and those of oak are left there twenty-four hours.

The completed packages are turned over to the barrel receiver who examines each one carefully. They are then stored in two great brick warehouses. One of these is 60 by 90 feet, and the other 100 by 100 feet. Besides these buildings the plant has four large storage sheds for the housing of raw material.

The shipping facilities of this plant are unsurpassed. The North road runs directly through the plant. Two switches connect with the two warehouses, so that the company can load their product directly into the cars. They also control a line of their own cars.

The engines and boiler which supply the power to this plant are of sixty horse power. The fuel used is the shavings and slabs from the machines, which would otherwise be wasted, but is thus utilized to good advantage. They also have their own electric light plant.

This is the opening of the busy season for the factory. The company reports business much better than it has been, and brighter prospects for the future. More workmen are being added to their force and the product is being rapidly turned out for fall business. They have a trade extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, as they have been called on to fill orders in both Boston and San Francisco. Their trade is principally confined to packing house trade, their largest markets being Chicago and Missouri river points.

The Keokuk Barrel and Hoop company is composed of J. D. Hollingshead and John Wacker of this city. The factory is under the immediate supervision of James Carr. Henry Wiesemann fills the responsible position of barrel receiver and inspector. Miss Clara L. Pitkin is the bookkeeper and stenographer. She is an expert and is in every way capable. The engineer and fireman is Thos. Alexander.

The Gate City.
APRIL 9, 1899.
THE GATE CITY COMPANY,
KEOKUK, IOWA.

IMPORTANT PLAN.

Big Carbide of Calcium Works May Come Here.

A LARGE CAPITAL IS BEHIND IT

It Seems to be Up to Hubinger, and Probably It Will Work.

The largest project yet broached here is being worked out with fair prospects of success. It involves one of the largest combinations of capital in the United States, and they are in earnest.

They are asking now only a contract with J. C. Hubinger by which they can get some electric power on favorable terms, and say that the rest of it they can take care of themselves.

They are represented on the ground by E. E. Girton, who is at The Keokuk and is the secretary of the Iowa Electric Carbide company which owns the patents in America and all foreign countries for a new process of manufacturing carbide of calcium which the Armour Institute of Technology found to be only forty-one per cent as costly as the older method. The company has sold the state of Ohio to Toledo parties, but still owns the rest of the country, and it is looking for a place to build a factory. All the carbide interests are combined into what they object to calling a trust, it is well known, and back of the man here now is the immense interests which have a monopoly of the manufacture of all the carbide in the world.

E. E. Girton, the man here now, has been for some years agent for the Iowa State Insurance company at Carroll, Iowa, and only lately dropped that business to enter upon this other. S. E. Carey says that he has been, until he began to pay more attention to the carbide company, the leading man among their agents, and for three years in succession took the prize the company gave to its agents for the best work. He talks frankly, and conceals nothing from the newspaper interviewer.

A CHEAPER METHOD.

"In what does your process differ from the other one?" a representative of The Gate City asked him.

"It costs us $16 a ton to make the carbide, and the report of the Armour Institute is conclusive that it is much cheaper than by the Wilson process."

It costs $31 per ton to make carbide at Spray, N. C., but Mr. Girton says the cost at Niagara is only $28 per ton. The selling price is from five cents a pound in small lots to $40 per ton in the largest quantities. The demand is increasing rapidly and there is no doubt that it will be continuous. Carbide of calcium is used to make acetylene gas in generators and the new illuminant is being introduced rapidly in all towns which can not afford gas plants and also into farm houses and country places.

It was first made at Spray, N. C., then in Wisconsin, later in Nova Scotia, and the largest works are near the great Niagara water power.

The idea of the company now here is to utilize the Des Moines rapids water power to make the carbide, as soon as they are sure that their theories about the desirability of Keokuk for a location are correct. They want five thousand electric horse power for their big works.

OUR ADVANTAGES.

They have looked into the analysis of the limestone in this part of the country, and at Quincy find limestone which is 98 per cent pure carbonate of calcium, and nearly free from magnesium. The purest limestone in the world is at Hannibal, where it is 98.80 per cent carbonate, and the limestone used at the Niagara plant is only about 88 per cent pure. Quincy limestone is thus far superior to that anywhere else in America except Hannibal, and the river transportation is cheap. The works can not be located at Quincy, which would be ideal, because there is no cheap power there. The competition is with Niagara, and water power must be used.

Mr. Girton says that all his company desires now is to buy six hundred horse power at a reasonable rate for a starter. With that they will put in a comparatively small plant making a few tons of carbide a day, and prove that the limestone and shipping facilities are what they expect. Then with their balance sheet in hand, they know where they can get all the money they want to develop the water power and construct their big manufactory.

UP TO HUBINGER.

The real object of his visit is to confer with J. C. Hubinger and ascertain if the latter will make the additions to his plant here which will enable him to sell the carbide company the six hundred horse power they want at first. It involves putting in a new and big transformer, costing several thousand dollars, and perhaps enlarging the present plant, and nothing definite has been decided yet.

"The only thing I want is to contract with Mr. Hubinger," said Secretary Girton, "and for him to let us have the electric power we need, which is six hundred horse power. After that the thing will work itself out, and we know where all the money required is—in fact we have it ourselves."

And so it seems to be up to Mr. Hubinger. He will decide in a day or two, and in the meantime Keokuk will hold its breath, but most people have abiding faith that he will do the right thing by the city and its citizens. END

The Gate City.
APRIL 11, 1899.
PUBLISHED BY
E GATE CITY COMPANY,
KEOKUK, IOWA.

CARBIDE SCHEME.

Matters Are Said to be Progressing Well.

GIRTON AND HUBINGER MEET

They Reach a Working Memorandum for a Future Combination.

E. E. Girton, secretary of the carbide manufacturing company which wants to come here to establish its big plant, left for Des Moines yesterday morning after a long conference with J. C. Hubinger which he considered very satisfactory.

He says his company is not in a big rush, and the magnitude of the interests preclude doing much in a day, so that the matter will move somewhat slowly, although much speed is given it by the rapid methods of Mr. Hubinger.

"How did you get along?" was asked Mr. Girton.

"Things are progressing very favorably," he replied. "Mr. Hubinger and I came to a preliminary agreement which was put in the shape of a memorandum that I take back to the board of directors of our company, and which it is hoped will grow into a complete contract."

The details of this memorandum are considered the private business of the company and J. C. Hubinger and are not given out. There was an intimation that it is elastic enough to allow Mr. Hubinger to go into the deal as extensively as he chooses, or on comparatively a small scale if he so desires, the company and its backers taking what he does not want himself.

"The important thing now," said Secretary Girton, "is to find out how much power can be sold to other parties here engaged in manufacturing and using power for various purposes. Any local capital that wants to come into the plan, will be accepted after Mr. Hubinger and ourselves have invested what we want, but we have not gotten that far along yet."

OTHERS WANT IT.

It developed that Quincy and Hannibal parties have been corresponding with the carbide company, but they lack the essential element of cheap power. Water power is $17 a horse power cheaper than steam, the company figures, and that means much. It takes five thousand horse power to run the works that the carbide company contemplate when they get established permanently, and that means $85,000 per year saved by using water power. If the river here is to be dammed, the profits on that investment must pay interest on the capital required to put in the water power, and this means that the power not used by the carbide company must be sold to the economical limit of the power obtained from the river. Here is where comes in the sale of power to outside parties in Keokuk and vicinity. This is the explanation given by Secretary Girton.

HUBINGER'S VIEWS.

Mr. Hubinger when asked what was the result of the conference by a Gate City representative, said he did not take hold of it, and went on:

"I am tired of investing my money in Keokuk, the way the council treats me. I've spent lots of money here, you understand, and have done all I can for the laboring man, but the council has been against me. Last year I wanted to spend a lot of money for labor and work here in Keokuk, but the council fought me all the time, and I'm tired of it.

"When I go to other cities, the council treats me much better than it does right here at home, and I've been compelled to go to other cities lately to invest my money. It's the fault of the council here, you understand, and in other places they're glad to have me spend my money with them. There are better places than Keokuk for me to make investments, and the way the council treats me forces me to go there."

It will be remembered that Mr. Hubinger has pretty large power plants in Quincy, and it is suggested that since his street railway plans there are tied up in the federal court, it may strike him as a good thing to use the power for the carbide works there which he intended to use for running street cars. Just what he might do to offset the greater cheapness of water power is past finding out.

WHAT IT IS.

Carbide of calcium is made by subjecting powdered limestone and powdered coke to a temperature of about 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit, and this heat can be obtained only in an electric arc, such as is in the street lights. The old method is to mix the powders, sixty per cent of limmestone and forty per cent of coke, into bricks with a paste and put the bricks into an oven in carriages which are in the middle of the electric arc.

The method of the new company is to have a hole through the top carbon of the arc, which is a block of carbon instead of a pencil as in the street lights, and run the powder down through this by gravity. There is another plan they have of keeping a big pencil of lime and coke standing in the hole. As fast as this pencil is fused into carbide of calcium, the latter melts and runs out ready for shipment. The apparent advantage of their method is that all the mass is converted while the center of a brick is sometimes not burnt through. The element of least cost also comes in here.

ONLY A FEW.

At the present time the only carbide works in the world may be listed in a small space. They are: At Meran, Bosnia and Lend-Gastien, in Austria; London, in England; La Bathie, Bellegarde, Saint-Beron, Briancon, Epierre, Froges and Sechillienne, in France; Langenthal, Rheinefelden, Lauffen, Lechbruck and Neheim, in Germany; Sarborg, in Sweden; Berne, Neuhausen, Rheinefelden, Loetschner and Vernier, in Switzerland; Niagara Falls and Salt Ste. Marie, in the United States; the smaller number, comparatively, in England and the United States is due to the monopoly which has existed up to the present time.

The furnace used is very simple mechanically, and can be made and set up in a short time. The chief thing in the process is the heavy electric current required to run the immense arc, a low voltage and 1,500 amperes in the circuit being required.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.
Entered at Keokuk postoffice as second class matter
MAY 2. 1888

SOLVED AT LAST.

A Powder Factory to Be Established on the Large Tract of Land Purchased Near Keokuk.

There is hardly any doubt but that the land near Keokuk recently purchased by E. C. Rice and T. V. Paxson, of Chicago, is to be used for the erection of a gun-powder factory. Mr. Rice is the general western agent of the Oriental Powder Works, which has Chicago and St. Louis for distributing points. Details of the scheme are wanting and the extent of the improvements that are to be made upon the land purchased is not known. It is possible that buildings are to be erected for storage purposes alone and then again it may be the intention to manufacture explosives, which would require the employment of a large number of men. The statements printed above were obtained from a reliable source and they are believed to be correct in every particular. Probably in a short time the gentlemen interested will make public their plans. If Keokuk becomes a distributing point for gun-powder and dynamite it can not only provide a "boom" for itself but one for every town in the country.

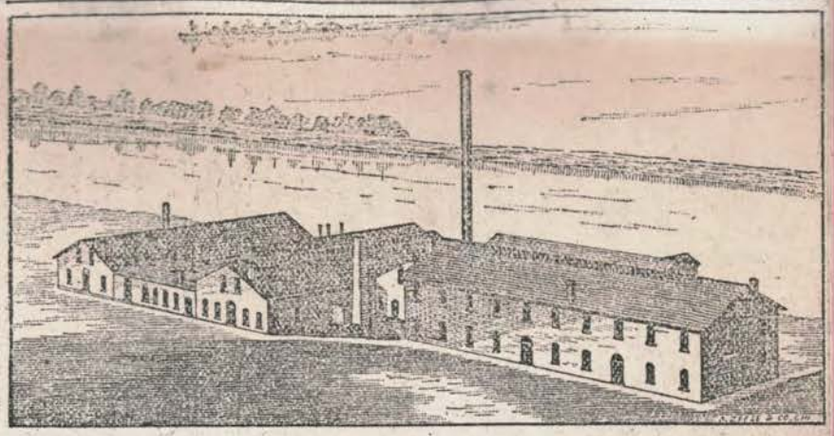
Constitution-Democrat.

FEBRUARY 10. 1871

THE STAR OF EMPIRE

Westward Takes Its Way and Locates In Keokuk.

A Young Farm Implement Factory Which Has Already Acquired a Very Proud Record--The Empire Manufacturing Company.



Returning to the subject of Keokuk's manfacturing interests, the mind naturally reverts to the Empire Manufacturing company's works, situated on the line of the C, B. & Q. railroad near the middle locks of the government canal, just above the Keokuk Can factory fully described in these columns Thursday afternoon. The Empire company occupies what was formerly known as the Keokuk Plow works plant, a large brick structure as well suited to the demands of the work for which it is now used as if specially erected for the purpose.

This company is a consolidation of the Keokuk Agricultural works of this city and the plant of the Empire Manufacturing company, of Rock Falls, Ill., which organization was completed in June of last year when active work commenced here. The material and machinery of the Rock Falls company were brought here and mingled with that of the Keokuk company, the two combined forming a manufacturing establishment large in proportions, complete in its machinery and other appliances, and insuring from the very beginning a fair trade from the two organizations, each of which was enjoying a liberal patronage.

The present efficient officers of this prosperous company are given below:

Col. H. B. Blood, president.

R. K. Swift, vice president.

J. J. A. Zeller, secretary and treasurer.

The capital stock of the company is fully up to the requirements to do a very large business and is owned by the stockholders of the former Keokuk company and Messrs. Swift and Zeller, of the Rock Falls company.

In this very extensive Keokuk industrial institution only about nine months old, there are several departments. There is the machinery department, the foundry, the wood work department, the barbed wire department and the paint department and some of these are still further divided into sub-departments. Over all Mr. C. M. Chaplin presides skillfully and courteously as the general superintendent of the works. There are now being manufactured in large quantities at these works, the Empire Disc harrows, Empire seeders, Empire cultivators, wind mills and barbed wire, besides an immense amount of job work which is being constantly turned out, as a complete foundry and machine shop is included under the broad roof of this growing Keokuk factory.

In June last this company commenced work with a force of about twenty men. To-day about sixty are employed and the number is increasing constantly from week to week. Most of their operatives, too, are skilled workmen which cause the monthly pay roll to amount up to a considerable sum. As an evidence of the work done here and the importance of the Empire works it may be stated that they are shipping about three car loads of harrows a week and about two car loads of barbed wire, to say nothing of the large shipments constantly being made of the other products and the job work done for a large territory. Iowa is at present the best patron but the machinery and barbed wire manufactured by this young and prosperous company are sold also in Missouri, Illinois, Nebraska and Kansas. Mr. Swift, the vice president, and a number of other men are constantly on the road and their success has been of the most gratifying character.

This company has every convenience for receiving and distributing their wares to and from distant points, having side tracks from the C., B. & Q. railroad, from which they may load and unload without the extra cost of carriage, a great saving in the course of a year, and the source of much saving of time.

Here, as at the can factory, they are asking for an extension of side walks by the city. This company has erected substantial steps up the bluff which towers between the plant and the city. These steps take the workmen dry shod to the top of the bluff but up there and for some distance, especially in bad weather, the route over which they must pass to reach their homes is almost impassable for footmen. This they think might be avoided by the city council extending the sidewalks in that direction, considering that more than 200 operatives are employed at the Empire and Tri-State Can factories, who would be benefited by the proposed sidewalk extension. Then another thing they are agitating down there. It is the repair by macadam of the Third street road, which is said to be impassable in bad or muddy weather. That is the natural teaming route for both the factories. If they do not come that way they must come the Anschutz road, in excellent condition, but they must go at least a half mile directly away from the city in order to strike that road which makes it a mile out of the way. Besides that road brings them to a part of the town away from the freight houses which throws them still further out of the way. The Third street road is a direct route and their natural outlet.

It is a pleasure to go through the Empire works, gratifying that Keokuk has a young establishment growing so rapidly in public favor, and interesting to note what a great power machinery in the hands of skilled workman has become. Everything needed is manufactured under their roof. The raw material of iron and wood are taken there and in a short time a car load of handsome disc harrows, cultivators, seeders, wind mills and coils of barbed wire come out ready for the hands of the merchant to be sold to the honest toilers of our western soil. If a man wants to be astonished at the great increase in manufacturing in Keokuk he has only to acquire some knowledge of what it was a few years ago, and then start out on a trip over the city visiting the numerous industrial establishments as they now exist. He will find a surprise he had not thought possible.

1871

Closing next Friday

Huiskamp Brothers honors employes at Country club

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 1965 —3

By Joe Malkin

An era in Keokuk history will come to a close next Friday when the last pair of shoes will come off the assembly line at Huiskamp Bros. Shoe Co., after 111 years of shoemaking.

Last night, the company held a dinner at the Keokuk Country Club to honor its employes, some of whom have been with the firm for over 50 years.

52 year veteran

Probably the oldest person present was diminutive, but effervescent, 83 year old Bill Ball, with 52 years of service with Huiskamp Bros. "Billy," as he is called affectionately by everyone in the plant, had worked for four generations of Huiskamps.

He started with the firm when he was 17 years old. Billy said, "In those days we set edges by hand, and it wasn't until about 15 or 20 years later that we got machines. The white collar workers in those days were getting about $18 a week, and the workers at the shoe factory, who worked on piece work, made about the same.

"We had about 20 traveling men who would take samples out on the road. Some would take all left shoes, and the others would take all right shoes."

Billy recalled that once about 45 years ago, the company wanted to see how much of its payroll was spent in Keokuk, and so paid all its employes one week in silver dollars. He said a survey showed that just about half of the money was spent within that week in Keokuk.

Other old timers

The person with the longest tenure of service is James P. Burns, with 57 years in the shoemaking industry.

Claude N. "Red" Nixon, who was with the firm for 47 years, started in 1918, when he was 14 years old at a salary of 10c an hour for a 60 hour week. Nixon said, "We used to come back from lunch ten minutes early each day so that we could get off at five o'clock Saturday without losing any pay."

While Billy Ball was the only employe to work for four generations of Huiskamps, Mrs. Clatie J. Boeding was the second generation of her family to work for the shoe manufacturing firm. Mrs. Boeding worked for Huiskamp's Shoe Co. for 23 years, and her mother, Bessie Heule, started with the firm 55 years ago, but Mrs. Boeding couldn't remember how long she worked for the shoe firm.

Talk of old days

Before, during and after last night's dinner, the employes spent much of the time reminiscing about the "old days" and seemed to enjoy reliving some of the things that were out of the ordinary pattern of a day's activities.

The master of ceremonies at last night's affair was the youngest member of the Huiskamp family to take an active part in the business, Henry Huiskamp the Third, secretary of the firm, headed by his father Gerard. He said the firm was ceasing its operation after 111 years because of changes in marketing conditions. The last pair of shoes will be made next Friday, and subsequently, some time in mid-January, an auction will be held to sell the equipment.

Golf shoes

The loss of the Huiskamp Bros. Shoe Co. to the city of Keokuk was brought home in a remark made last night by the golf pro at the Country club, who happened to stop at the club office for a few minutes. Dan Braun said that he has been purchasing Pro-Shu ladies golf shoes, considered among the top three shoes in the business, for several years, and remembered the little note attached to the first bill he received from the company, whose ladies golf shoes were made for them by Huiskamp Bros.

Braun said, "The first invoice I ever got from them (Pro-Shu) said thanks for the order, and reminded me that I was in turn helping the city of Keokuk, because many of their styles were made in Keokuk."

40 years and over

James P. Burns 57, Minnie S. Davis 46, Grace Egley 42, George H. A. Koch 44, Sidney E. Lane 46, Susie E. Matthes 44, Claude N. Nixon 47, Clifford M. Rittenhouse 47, Oscar Ruble 45, Thelma V. Wilson 42, Wililam Ball 52.

20-29 years

Clatie I. Boeding 23, Emma N. Carter 24, Estill A. Foster 27, William E. Hanson 20, Edith E. Jones 22, Arthur L. Kampe 26, Frieda M. Kimbrough 21, Bernice B. McKay 27, George E. McKay 26, Georgia F. Nixon 23, Violet I. Otto 24, Susie H. Pfaffe 21, Leona M. Seidler 21, Joseph

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SHOWN HERE ARE SOME of the employes of Huiskamp Bros. Shoe Co. who attended a dinner honoring the employes last night at the Keokuk Country club. Those in top picture, each having over 40 years of service, are, from left to right, Thelma Wilson, Sidney Lane, Minnie Davis, Claude (Red) Nixon and Oscar Ruble. In the bottom photo are Jim Burns (left) with 57 years in the shoe business, and Bill Ball, employed by Huiskamps for 52 years. —Gate City

Teague 6, Georgia M. Thomas 12, Maryann L. Washburn 10, Florence Megchelsen 10. END

J. Kozak 20, Rosemary C. Wadden 20.

15-19 years

Margaret E. Amon 19, Edith E. Bell 16, Doris E. Johnson 15, Roberta I. Mott 16, Ruth A. Smith 16, Jean H. Spriggs 18, Irenea E. D. Stapher 16, Anna B. Stark 15, Bertha L. Wallace 19, George C. Montague 16.

Up to 14 years

Hilda L. Baird 11, Edward J. Brownlee 5, Esther C. Clark 6, Willis H. Devericks 4, James T. Dickens 1, Mervil T. Eder 7, Mildred L. Evans 3, John G. Hines 6, Betty G. Hastings 10, Dewey E. Huston 2, Alberta M. Jester 13, Rita L. Jingst 4, Arthur M. Leffler 4, Goldie M. Leffler 4, Orene M. Lindenmeyer 1, Louise A. Lindner 3.

Elmer E. Mahoney 2, Vivian M. Mahoney 1, Stanley K. McComb 1, Edith L. Nash 1, Cirginia E. Nelson 5, Zelma E. Newland 4, Alfred O. Objartel 1, Lelah B. Parish 9, Marie O. Rife 1, Beulah M. Roth 4, Dorothy E. Sawyer 14, Thelma J. Schmitt 12, Mary E. Scott 4, Hazel M. Spriggs 14, Carolyn M. Stanley 5, Lucile L.

SITTING AT THE HEAD TABLE at last night's Recognition Dinner for Huiskamp Bros. employes at the Keokuk Country club are, from left to right, Jim Burns; Florence Megchelsen, (not visible); Gerard L. Huiskamp, pres.; Mrs. Gerard L. Huiskamp; Henry C. Huiskamp II, vice-pres.; Helen Burns; Bill Ball; Minnie Davis; and Estill Foster. Bottom photo shows the centerpiece for the head table (recognize them?) which was removed momentarily in order to take the top photo.
—Gate City

Huiskamp Brothers Co. will discontinue plant

Huiskamp Brothers Company announced today that operation of the shoe factory at 102 Main street will be discontinued in mid-December.

G. L. Huiskamp, president of the company, stated that changes in market and other factors have for the past few years indicated a merger or sale of the company, but that up to this time negotiations with a number of corporations have developed nothing favorable.

Advertised for sale

He said that the shoe factory's facilities are now being advertised for sale in the shoe industry as a fully equipped factory and if no opportunities appear, a general sale of machinery and equipment will be made about January 15th, 1966.

The company has issued invitations to a dinner at the Keokuk Country club on December 9, at 6:00 p.m. to acknowledge its appreciation of its loyal employes, many of whom have records of long service.

Dates to 1854

In comment Mr. Huiskamp said, "Huiskamp Brothers Company traces its origin back to 1854, four generations ago. The company was established in Keokuk although its first factory was located in Rochester, New York, soon moving to Keokuk headquarters at Second and Johnson streets. There were successive factories in Ft. Madison, and Warsaw. We make this announcement with much regret and only wish that our economic contribution in payroll and business to this fine community of ours might continue for another 100 years."

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 1965 — 9

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
MARCH 13, 1889

HOW SHOES ARE MADE

The Huiskamp Factory Now in Active Operation.

Already Turning Out Four Hundred Pairs of Shoes Daily—Ingenious, Intricate and Interesting Machinery Utilized—Behind With Orders—A Statement.

Just think of it! The work has hardly been fairly started and yet G. L. Huiskamp informed a CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT representative yesterday that nearly 2,000 pairs of shoes were made at the Huiskamp factory last week; that there are fully 10,000 pairs in the factory now in process of manufacture; that they are now averaging about 400 pairs daily, and that it is expected this number will be increased to 600 pairs daily before many weeks shall have passed. And what is more the gentleman told the newspaper man that not only was there a demand for all the work they were turning out but that they are far behind with their orders. This is the present condition of affairs at a factory that has probably been more talked about than any industry ever established in Keokuk. A walk through the extensive establishment under the guidance of Mr. Girard L. Huiskamp, who is in charge of the factory, presented to the scribe a busy scene of industry that he did not expect. It was thought that operations would be somewhat slow at first, but the energetic gentlemen who compose the Huiskamp Bros. Co. have evidently decided to push things as rapidly as possible and the work has progressed even more rapidly than they at first anticipated that it would be possible to have it do. When is taken into consideration the fact that a large majority of the 140 people at present employed had never seen the inside of a shoe factory until placed at work in this one, a slight idea of the results already achieved can be formed. That such an amount of work is already being done under the direction of the skilled employes brought here by the Huiskamps is due, in a large measure, to the introduction of the many ingenious and intricate mechanical contrivances now employed in the manufacture of shoes. There are machines for doing every part of the work except the lasting. Few people, when purchasing footwear, give a thought to the great number of employes through whose hands a pair of shoes passes or the processes to which they are subjected before they are ready to be placed upon the merchant's shelves. A visit to the Huiskamp factory is full of interest. It is a sight worth seeing to watch the operations of machines that do the work of dozens of people, and do it so swiftly and satisfactorily that one marvels at the wonderful genius of the man or men who conceived them. In no other branch of invention save that applied to agricultural implements has the genius of the American inventor been applied with such wonderful effect as it has in the perfecting of machinery to be used in the manufacture of shoes. Watching the work in this factory one would imagine that perfection had been attained, but Mr. Huiskamp informed a reporter that new inventions and improvements in the machines now in use are being made continually. It is thought that the factory will be giving steady employment to 300 men, women, boys and girls before the end of the present year.

Members of the city council, democrats and republicans, smarting under the censure applied them at the recent citizens' meetings, and claiming that misrepresentations have been made concerning the contract under which the Huiskamp factory was secured to this city, have requested that THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT, in fairness to them, state, at least, the details of the contract affecting the ownership of the ground and building. The city, they claim, agreed to put $40,000 into the same, any amount in excess of that sum to be furnished by the Huiskamps. Ownership in the ground and building to the extent of $40,000 is vested in the city of Keokuk. The contract further provides that the Huiskamps can at any time inside of twenty years buy the property at a valuation to be fixed by commissioners, the city of Keokuk to select one and the Huiskamps one. In case of failure of these two to agree upon a price they are to select a third gentleman, and the price agreed upon by them to be the amount that shall be paid to the city by the Huiskamps.

Constitution-Democrat.
AUGUST 8, 1889.

WELL WORTH A VISIT.

The Immense Factory of the Huiskamp Bros. Company.

A Reporter Describes the Many Processes Through Which the Leather Passes Before it Comes Out as a Finished Shoe.

"As common as an old shoe" is an expression often heard; yet how few individuals ever pause to consider how many persons have been employed in the manufacture of this common and necessary article of wearing apparel, or what intricate machines have been utilized, or the multifarious operations that have been performed to transmute that same old shoe from the coat with which nature has clothed the animal to the covering for the human foot? Yet the process is a most interesting one, particularly that portion which deals with the raw material after it has been cured, or changed into leather; and a visit to the mammoth shoe factory of the Huiskamp Bros. company, located on the corner of Second and Johnson streets, affords one no little pleasure and is productive of profit. The material reaches the factory in the form of leather, the tanning process having been performed elsewhere.

There are two general classes, and various grades of each class, of leather employed in the manufacture of shoes—the heavier variety for soles and the finer for the uppers. In the Huiskamp Bros.' factory, the ground floor is utilized as the sole leather department and for the storage of stock and the manufactured article. The sole leather is received at the north door, and after being assorted first passes to a machine known as the racer, which cuts it into strips of widths to suit the various sizes of shoes. From this machine it passes to the roller, which answers the purpose of the old lap-stone formerly used, and still in use by the village shoemaker. It is next passed through the skiver, which evens the strips and removes the flesh. The strips are next cut into soles by means of steel dies, operated by a machine. One person with this machine is capable of cutting 600 pairs of soles per day. There is also an intricate machine which cuts any desired shape of sole by the use of a steel pattern, and does away with the expensive dies. Next, the soles pass through three ingeniously contrived machines, which successively round the insole, cut a channel for the thread used in sewing (removing a thin "string" of leather), and open this channel for the operation of the needle. They are then sent to a machine which presses the sole into the proper form. The article proceeds from one machine to another in a southerly direction, and after being given the proper form is carried to the second floor by means of an elevator in the ex-

August 8, 1889 - page #1
(Huiskamp Bros.)

WELL WORTH - 1

treme southern end of the room. On the first floor the counters and heels are also made. The former are run through a skiver and the portion shaved off is used as the first part of the heel. Boys perform the work of cutting out and building up the heels, and prepare them for the soles.

The third floor is devoted to the manufacture of the uppers, and the material is worked in a similar direction as is that in the sole leather department, and when the uppers are completed, they are sent down to the second floor by means of the elevator in the rear of the room. This floor is divided into two rooms, one where the uppers are cut by men using a keen knife and an iron pattern, and the inside trimmings and linings by boys; and the other where a hundred girls operating as many machines, sew the parts of the upper together, work the button-holes and fasten on the buttons. In the former room there is also a machine for smoothing the edges and rendering them more pliable for sewing, and a machine for scalloping the edges of leather used in the uppers of button shoes. In the sewing room the uppers are received on a large table and the linings are fitted. They then, in turn, pass through the hands of the many operatives in this department, each performing some part in the process of completion by the aid of one of the many wonderful machines over which she presides. It would be impossible, within the scope of this article, to give a detailed account of the work done in this room, as each step in the long process is worthy of extended mention. Here the admirer of the products of inventive genius may find numerous contrivances upon which to bestow his eager attention.

Among the machines that particularly attract the observer's attention, are the button hole machine which, with remarkable rapidity cuts the button holes and works them automatically: the machine for sewing on the buttons, which does its work very rapidly and registers the number of buttons used; a machine for gathering up the ends of thread from button holes, weaving them into a chain and sewing it fast to the inside lining without the needle penetrating the leather, thus effectually preventing the threads raveling; the staying machine, which fastens the stay to the rear of the upper, sewing two stitches at once, and a number of other contrivances which would require columns in order to convey an intelligent idea of their construction and uses.

Being finished, the uppers are sent down onto the second floor where they meet the soles and heels, and the process of making shoes is completed. After being lasted, (shaped) the out sole is tacked on by means of machinery and the shoe is passed to a machine which tacks down the heel seat. The sole is securely sewed on by means of a McKay machine,—the most perfect of the kind made—or nailed on by the Standard Screw machine. This is a wonderful mechanical contrivance, and does its work automatically. A large spool of brass screw wire is suspended over the shoe, whirling around at the rate of 2,200 revolutions per minute. The motion imparted bores the wire down into the sole, and a couple of small knives cut off the screw just at the proper place, and it is securely riveted. The advantage of the screw over iron or wood pegs need not be enlarged upon. After passing through the leveling or beating out machine, the shoe passes to the edge trimmer, when any desired shaped edge is imparted to the sole by means of circular cutters. Next the heal is nailed on. This operation is performed by a machine, which in one motion punctures the heel and in another drives the nails. Two hands operate this machines and are capable of nailing on 800 pairs of heels per day. Any desired shape is given to the heel by the trimmer, to which the shoe is next passed. The soles and heels are then scoured, smoothed and prepared for the ink, after which a portion of the inside of the heel is cut out by means of the breasting machine. Having been given an application of ink, the heel is burnished by means of an ingenious contrivance in which heat is obtained from a rapidly oscillating gas jet. The sole is then sand papered in order to take off the grain, after which it is stained and brushed. The remainder of the work is done by hand, skilled workmen putting on the necessary finishing touches—and the shoe is complete. It is then packed, together with its mate into pasteboard boxes and these in turn are packed in wooden cases ready for shipment.

On the second floor the shoe progresses in a direction opposite to what the soles and uppers do, and the article is finished near the large elevator, which carries the cases of goods to the lower floor, delivering them at the door from whence they are sent out to the commercial world.

A magnificent new Corliss 50-horse power engine furnishes the power with which the hundreds of machines, which turn out a thousand pairs of shoes a day, are operated.

In this connection it may be stated that the Huiskamp Bros.' Co. factory gives employment to over two hundred operatives, and this number is being constantly added to. The pay roll is the largest of any manufacturing concern in the city, and Keokuk is especially exultant in the possession of such an extensive establishment.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1888.

WE WILL GET THERE.

Pluck, Patience and Perseverance Bound to Win in the Long Run.

Another Gigantic Manufacturing Enterprise Secured—The Huiskamp Bros.' Co., to Concentrate Their Business Here—Extent of the Enterprise.

During the past few weeks it has been generally known that the Huiskamp Bros.' Company, whose extensive establishments are at present located in this city and at Rochester, N. Y., and Fort Madison, were contemplating a move that would ultimately result in the consolidation of their vast business and manufacturing interests at one central point. Flattering inducements, it is known, were held out to the company by various cities to secure the mammoth enterprise, but Keokuk alert, watchful and earnest looking after her own interests and making known her unquestioned advantages for manufacturing enterprises and the homes that cluster around great factories stepped in and wrested the prize from the fierce and powerful competitors that were in the field. This is a matter of congratulation as the competing communities were holding out inducements that required an heroic effort to ignore, and promises to which shrewd and careful business men were bound to listen. But Keokuk with the natural advantages that were so plainly visible to the projectors of the great powder mill enterprise, the location of which here is of recent date, and by a spasm of heroic effort brought to bear the longest pole, and as a result, knocked a persimmon of healthy dimensions and great value. The enterprise which the Huiskamp Bros. Co. proposes to locate in this city is no new and untried experiment, but a business long and firmly established, and which ranks among the foremost of the manufacturing industries of this country. It is proposed to carry on in this city the manufacturing of boots and shoes which has heretofore been conducted by them at Rochester and Fort Madison. In order to do this, they will erect a five-story building, 120 by 140 feet, upon

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GEN. WORTH - 2

ground already purchased, and which includes all that fronting on Johnson street, adjoining the building at present occupied by them, and extending to Second street. Plans for the great factory are now being prepared and it is promised that it will be one of the most substantial and extensive of its kind in the United States. It is the intention of the company to equip the building with the finest machinery and all the most recent and improved inventions for the successful operation of the work which it is proposed to carry on. The work of excavating will be commenced as soon as the buildings now occupying this ground can be torn down or removed. H. C. Huiskamp, who represents the company here, states that it is the intention to have the factory in operation by January 1st, 1889, or before that time if it is possible to do so. The work of manufacturing will be commenced with 100 operatives, but those familiar with the business of the Huiskamp Bros. Co. and the reputation of the goods made and sold by them, feel confident that in less than three years this number will be increased to between 400 and 500 people. As remarked above this enterprise is not an experiment by any means. The Huiskamp Bros. Co. is a corporation that has the highest standing in commercial and financial circles, and is composed of men who have by a long, honorable and highly successful career, demonstrated their eminent fitness for the business in which they are engaged. It would be a difficult matter to correctly estimate the advantages of the addition of such an industry to any city. It will certainly have a tendency to enhance the value of all real estate, as with the additions to our population that will necessarily be made, there will be an increased demand for homes, and it will also create a market for labor that will prove beneficial to the entire city.

With the addition of the enterprises already secured by Keokuk during the present year, there ought to be newness of life put into all business generally. The building of the Huiskamp factory and of the extensive powder mills, work on both of which is to be commenced without delay, means the expenditure of large sums of money, nearly all of which will be paid to the laborers, artisans and dealers of Keokuk. A very respectable start has been made for the young season, and it shows that the good seed sowed by the Business Men's Association must bear fruit in time, even though the harvest be delayed. The work done last year did not seem to amount to a great deal at that time, but without it we would still be in the same old rut and not a foot further forward than we were at the start. But things were put in motion then and in spite of the obstacles that invariably crop up to retard progress and discourage enterprise, the first fruits are now beginning to appear. This is encouraging and ought to spur every citizen on to renewed efforts. What Keokuk needs now above and beyond all other things is that branch of the Atchison road. With it in operation there are other manufacturing enterprises that can easily be secured.

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THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered, JULY 11. 1888 matter.

THE HUISKAMP FACTORY.

Action of the Citizens Yesterday

A hastily summoned but very large representative and earnest meeting of business men gathered yesterday afternoon at the rooms of the Iowa State Insurance company, to confer as to the Huiskamp boot and shoe factory enterprise. All were a unit in the earnest desire to secure for our city in its present promising prosperity, the establishment of a manufactory of so great promise and good service to Keokuk and the Mississippi valley. Judge Edward Johnston was made chairman and Charles A. Warwick secretary. After remarks by Mayor Irwin, Judge Ballinger, S. M. Clark, Judge Johnston, Samuel Klein, Asaph Buck and others, a committee consisting of S. M. Clark, A. J. McCrary, Samuel Klein, Hugh Robertson and S. P. Pond was appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting and the citizens. The committee reported the following:

WHEREAS, Certain business men and the mayor and city council of Keokuk, unsolicited by the Messrs. Huiskamp, made a proposition to them with a view to meeting part of the expenses of the removal of their boot and shoe factory from Rochester, New York, and its establishment in Keokuk, which proposition passed the council and was approved by the Messrs. Huiskamp and our whole people were rejoicing in the prospective speedy establishment of said factory here; and,

WHEREAS, Said factory would have been a great, permanent and incalculable benefit to Keokuk; and,

WHEREAS, Thereby the Messrs. Huiskamp would have done a noble service of benefit to the city whereof they have been so long honored and influential citizens;

And whereas, The Messrs. Huiskamp have given notice to the mayor and city council that they will not go on with said work because of their thought that what the city proposed voluntaaily to then to do is opposed by some of the citizens, therefore,

Resolved, That we the business men of Keokuk here assembled for ourselves and for all the people of the city approve of the action of the city council and we entreat the Messrs. Huiskamp to go forward with their enterprise which will so greatly enrich Keokuk and the failure to establish which now would be a calamity to the city which everyone must deplore.

S. M. Clark,	H. Robertson,
Samuel Klein,	Edward Johnstone,
S. P. Rand,	Kellogg, Birge & Co
Smith Hamill,	W. S. Ivins,
Stafford & Rix,	Wilkinson & Co.,
J. O. Voorhies,	S. E. Cary & Co.,
Geo. F. Jenkins,	Frankel, Frank&Co
A. Weber & Co,	M. Stern,
Frank LeBron,	Harrison Tucker,
M. Younker,	L. A. Hamill,
Hutchinson&Abell	Wm. Ballinger,
Speisberger Bros.,	Asaph Buck,
KeokukCanningCo	Ben. B. Jewell,
Buck, Reiner Co.,	C. H. Leas,
S. Pollack & Co.,	S. C. Carter,
Hambleton Milling Co.,	Evans & Sheppard,
	S. Carter,
W. H. Nichols,	A. J. Hardin,
Ben P. Taber,	Joseph G. Anderson
Keokuk Agricultural Works,	Carter & Moody,
	D. B. Hamill,
J. M. Bisbee,	Irwin, Phillips Co,
S. Hamill & Co.,	Samuel Klein,
W. M. Irwin,	C. A. Warwick,
R. L. Ruddick,	Brownell Bros,
David W. Swartz,	Jas. N. Jones,
Hugh Robertson,	John Kerr,
S. P. Pond,	R. Kelly,
J. F. Smith,	Howard Tucker
Geo. D. Rand,	H. O. Whitney.
A. J. McCrary,	

These resolutions were unanimously adopted amid applause. The committee was instructed to immediately submit these resolutions with the signatures of the citizens to Messrs. Huiskamp Brothers. Last evening the committee had a pleasant and characteristic interview with Mr. Henry C. Huiskamp at his residence on the Avenue. He expressed his love for and interest in Keokuk and its people, his home for so many years. After hearing the case as submitted for the citizens and a full talk as to the whole case he said he would say this: That he would talk the matter over with his brothers and he would say to the committee and the citizens for himself that he was willing to go on with the enterprise.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered MAY 22. 1888 in matter

A MAMMOTH CONCERN.

Huiskamp Bros. Definitely Decide to Erect a Large Boot and Shoe Manufactory in Keokuk—The Factory to be Located at Second and Johnson Streets—Many Operatives to be Employed—An Important Industrial Acquisition.

The GATE CITY is gratified to announce this morning to the citizens of Keokuk that the city will soon obtain a mammoth industrial acquisition that will promote the prosperity of the people and greatly enhance the importance of Keokuk as a manufacturing and distributing point. The stable and prosperous firm of the Huiskamp Bros. Company, the widely known and successful manufacturers of boots and shoes, have definitely decided to erect a large factory here, the plans and specifications for which are now being prepared by architects. It will be located on the southwest corner of Second and Johnson streets, adjoining the firm's present wholesale house. It will occupy 120 feet on Johnson street and 140 feet on Second street. Excavation will commence as soon as the old buildings which now occupy the site selected can be removed, and the company expects to have the factory completed and in operation on or before January 1, 1889. When completed the building will be equipped with the finest and most modern machinery in the country and the factory will start with not less than one hundred operatives, which number will be increased as the requirements of the company may demand. The structure will be of brick and large and imposing in appearance. Operation of the boot and shoe factory will require the importation of skilled labor, besides providing employment for a large number of our own citizens. For several weeks it has been rumored that Huiskamp Bros. contemplated the erection of a large factory but nothing definite was known until yesterday, when the firm voluntarily furnished the information to the press, at once settling all doubt as to the certainty of the enterprise being established. Huiskamp Bros. rank as one of the leading manufacturers of boots and shoes in the United States and through both the east and west their products, which are noted for their excellence and cheapness, have an extensive sale that is constantly growing larger and extending. The gentlemen composing the firm are so well known in Keokuk and vicinity that reference to their business integrity, their financial ability and standing as citizens would be superfluous. Keokuk has reason for congratulating itself upon securing so extensive a manufacturing plant and one that promises to develop into such great magnitude. While the firm is conservative in giving an estimate of the number of men that will be employed it is believed that at least three hundred operatives will be at work within two or three years. This means a large addition to the population and the annual distribution of a large amount of money in wages. Further, it will have a tendency to induce other manufacturing concerns to locate here. The community will be glad that Huiskamp Bros. have decided to engage in manufacturing in Keokuk, where they have lived so long and where they began business careers that have been crowned with a large share of success.

Within a decade Keokuk's future has not been so bright as it is at the present time. Her advancement, progress and prosperity seems assured and to the industrial and commercial supremacy she has already attained will be added still greater achievements in the not far distant future. Negotiations are in progress with several manufacturing concerns that may locate here. Their coming would mean a growth and development that the most enthusiastic citizen does not expect. One that is a certainty is the boot and shoe factory and another is the large powder mill plant, to which frequent reference has previously been made. These and other improvements in progress and contemplated will make the year 1888 a memorable one, for it will mark a new era in the development of the city. By united action of all citizens and hearty and

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KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY
MONDAY, MAY 8, 1950

It Happened . . .
10, 25 and 50
. . . Years Ago

Files of The Gate City Reveal Old Days in Keokuk.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

May 8, 1900—Huiskamp Brothers Co. offers to advance $8,000 toward building a fourth story on its factory if the city will return the money when the original contract expires in 1908. . . . ~~Keokuk baseball club~~

Feb 27, 1891 - page 1 (Huiskamp Shoe Co)

generous support of those who are unselfishly striving to promote and advance the material interests of the people and the city, results will be obtained that now may not seem credible.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
FEBRUARY 27.1891

A MAMMOTH FACTORY

Where a Large Number of Boots and Shoes Are Made.

One of the Most Extensive Establishments in the Land Doing a Large and Growing Business in Keokuk.

Located at the corner of Second and Johnson streets is one of the most extensive boot and shoe factories in the country. At almost every point in this broad land where boots and shoes are bought, sold and worn this mammoth establishment is known and its excellent work sought after and commended. Not much longer than two years ago the large factory of Huiskamp Bros. was removed here from Rochester, N. Y., and business was established under the corporate name of the Huiskamp Bros. Co. The factory building is large and new, 160 by 140 feet in dimensions and three stories high, handsomely and substantially constructed of brick. The machinery is of the costliest and most approved character, much of which has been recently placed in position and forming one of the largest and most complete establishments of the kind in the United States. This extensive plant gives already employment to over 250 operatives, an increase of about fifty above the number employed the first year of its removal to Keokuk, and the demand for more help continues to grow as the business spreads and enlarges.

It would no doubt be pleasant and instructive to take the reader in detail through the various departments, describing the wonderful machinery and appliances used in this great establishment and telling of the routine work of manufacturing foot wear according to the very latest and most approved methods of modern fastness, but such a description would require far more space than is alloted to this brief sketch.

The present officers of the Huiskamp Bros. Co., are given as follows:

H. C. Huiskamp, president.

H. J. Huiskamp, vice president.

A. E. Matless, secretary.

Probably for a quarter of a century the names of the Huiskamp brothers have been closely connected with the manufacture of boots and shoes in this country and as business men of the greatest enterprise and the strictest integrity. With them in the office is Mr. A. E. Matless, secretary, one of the most genial, competent and efficient young business men in the west. He also has been brought up to the business and knows every detail of the trade.

This enterprise was established in Keokuk like most other factories are located in the west as an uncertain venture with no surety for its success. Money and brains and pluck and plush were behind it, however, and what was at first an experiment has grown into a substantial institution, already become in so short a time a solid, paying factory enlarging its trade with every month. Its immense trade goes to Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas and Nebraska and even far beyond the confines of the territory named. A large corps of competent traveling men are on the road doing business and constantly securing new trade and enlarging the field for the Huiskamp Bros. Co. A portion of the force will start out to the most distant territory about the 15th of March or 1st of April in the interest of the fall and winter trade of 1891, while a number are still out in the neighboring territory still working the spring and summer trade. In a mammoth business like this it requires the most thoughtful system and that every man engaged should be on the alert doing the right thing at the right time. This seems to be the method employed by Huiskamp Bros., hence the success of their efforts in building up a trade in Keokuk which has astonished the most sanguine. Already this factory, with such an immense capacity, has orders in over sixty days ahead and they are still coming in, an evidence of what strict business rules, push and energy may accomplish. It may be truthfully stated that of all the large boot and shoe factories in this country none stand higher or have a more solid business foundation than that of the Huiskamp Bros. company located right here in our own beautiful city of Keokuk. It is an establishment to be pointed to with the most exalted local pride. It is of immense value to our city, furnishing employment to a large

feb 27, 1911 - page 2 (Huiskamp Shoe Co)

number of our people, bringing tens of thousands of dollars here each year, and sending Keokuk to the front rank as a manufacturing centre.

The name of Keokuk has already become prominent abroad for its large manufacturing establishments, the outgrowth of the determined and united efforts of her untiring citizens and no enterprise ever located here has had greater success and grown into a brighter fame than that of the great boot and shoe factory of the Huiskamp Brothers company. The people are proud of its rapid growth and its unparalleled success in a very broad field. It is an incentive for the establishment of other grand enterprises of a like character in our midst. Factories do pay here, large or small. There need be no limit to a plant placed in the hands of careful and experienced and energetic men understanding the peculiar line of that particular factory. The Huiskamp Bros. possessed the necessary elements required for their particular line, and to-day they are proud that they cast their lot and fortune in the mammoth factory in Keokuk.

Constitution-Democrat.

Con, MAY 10, 1893.

A GREAT INDUSTRY.

The Huiskamp Brothers' Company Shoe Factory.

What a Reporter Learned on a Trip Through Their Immense Plant—An Establishment of Which Keokuk May Well Be Proud.

While the Huiskamp Bros. company's immense shoe factory in this city is generally known as a great industry and one which does much good for the city, but few persons, unless they have made a trip of inspection through the plant, have any idea of the vast amount of work done there nor the amount of money paid out for help and material. Through the courtesy of Mr. John G. Erhart, the general superintendent of the factory, a CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT reporter was shown through the plant Tuesday afternoon, and witnessed the entire process of the manufacture of a pair of shoes from the time they were cut out of the side of leather until they were packed away in wooden cases ready for shipment.

The factory proper has a frontage of 120 feet on Johnson street and 140 feet on Second street, while there is still another frontage of 120 feet on the alley in the rear. Altogether this gives a floor space of 67,200 square feet given over to the work of manufacture and the storage of raw material, and every foot of this space is utilized. The ground floor is used for the storage of raw materials, or the stock room, and for the soleing department or the making of soles and heels. The third floor is given over to the cutting out, making and finishing of uppers. When the soles are completed on the first floor and the uppers are finished on the top floor, both are sent to the second story, where the work of joining them is done and the shoes finished for the market.

Starting on the ground floor one first goes through the stock room, where are piled in immense quantities sides of leather for both soles and uppers, threads, silks, linings, nails and every thing used in the manufacture of shoes, for shoes alone are made here, all boots sold by the company being made at the Fort Madison factory. Between $80,000 and $90,000 is always invested in materials, over $15,000 worth of sole leather alone being constantly on hand. From the stock room one passes into the soleing department, where the soles and heels are made, they being cut by machinery with dies and forms from the leather, which has been raced into strips for the purpose. These forms and dies cover every style of shoe manufactured by the company, including men's, youth's and boy's, women's, misses' and children's sizes—of both the coarser and finer grades.

On the third floor are large, bright and cheerful rooms where the uppers are made ready for the soles. The first of these rooms is the pattern room. Here is the pattern maker, who under the direction of the superintendent, designs the patterns for the different styles of shoes to be turned out. He makes these patterns and the other operatives in the room are engaged in cutting from them the leather, linings and different pieces that enter into the makeup of the uppers. Here also is stored the finer leather for these uppers, such as imported patent leather, fine kid, kangaroo, cordovan russet leather, etc. Leaving the cutting room one enters the fitting room, which Mr. Erhart calls his bee hive, and a bee hive of industry it is sure enough. From 100 to 125 young ladies are constantly employed here, each one working at a machine, and the buzz and hum of all these machines going at one time forcibly reminds one of a huge bee-hive in honey-making time. Here is where the different parts of the uppers and linings are joined together and prepared for the soles. Both the linings and uppers first go to the closer, who sews the pieces together, the seams in the uppers afterwards being stayed by a machine used for that purpose. Then both go to the second closer who sews the outsides and linings together, then to the beader who turns the shoes, and then to the stitcher who sews the edges. From here all uppers for button shoes go to the button hole machine which cuts and sews the button holes in a jiffy, and lace shoes to the eyelet machine which punches the holes and inserts the eyelets just as quick. The button shoes are then taken to the button sewing machine, which sews on the buttons as fast as the young lady operative can feed it. It is a fact but little know that the buttons are sewed on, the button holes cut and stitched, or the eyelets made, before the upper of a shoe is joined to the sole. The last person to handle the material on this floor is the vamper, who with her machine sews the vamp and the upper quarter together. There are several of these machines and some of them put as many as three rows of stitches across the instep of a shoe at once. Then the upper descends to the second floor, where it meets the sole which has come up from the first floor, and proceeds on its way to a complete shoe.

The first department on the second floor is called the bottoming department and here it is that machines are located, so intricate in their construction and so efficient in their work that they seem to be almost human. The first of these are two lasting machines of the latest improved pattern. The insole is put on a last and the upper lightly fastened on the top of the last. The two are then put into the machine, and a large tooth or jaw pulls the upper tightly and smoothly over the last and fastens it to the insole. These machines have a capacity of from 350 to 400 pairs of shoes per day and when operated by four men can do as much work as twice that number of men without them. In addition 400 pairs of shoes per day are lasted by hand. The shoe then passes through hands which fix the steel shanks in place and even up the insoles. Those to be finished by the Goodyear process go to the Goodyear inseamer, another intricate machine, which sews the upper to the insole firmly and permanently.

There are three different methods of fostening the bottom or main sole to the shoe. The first of these is the Goodyear process done by a machine, powerful and complex, with a capacity of 300 pairs per day, which sews the sole on with a smooth close stitch and is used in the best work. It sews the bottom sole to the insole with a lock-stitch, both being on the outside of the shoe. The McKay sewer, of which machines there are two each, with a capacity of 600 pairs of shoes per day, sews the two soles together, the stitch being on the outside of the shoes. The third process of fastening soles is by the Standard screw machine, which as fast as it can be fed, makes screws from a brass wire and drives them home in the sole. This machine is only used in coarser work, and has a daily capacity of 300 pairs of shoes. The edges of the soles of sewed shoes having been

Constitution-Democrat

JUNE 25, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

Another of Her Big Manufacturing Institutions.

The Huiskamp Brothers Company's Great Shoe Factory And What Is Seen On a Visit There—How Shoes Are Made.

In and out of the great doors of a very large building on the corner of Second and Johnson streets, there pours a stream of industrious workers every day, who make this place a veritable hive of labor and activity. This is the establishment, one of the largest of "What Keokuk Has" that employs the greatest number of workers and probably distributes among the working people of this city the greatest amount of money each week of any institution in the city. This great factory is the place where the Huiskamp Bros.' company manufacture their famous lines of all kinds of shoes, and a visit to this great establishment will open the eyes of one who is unfamiliar with modern methods of manufacturing these articles, so necessary to the comfort of mankind.

The factory itself has a frontage on Johnson street of 120 feet and a depth of 140 feet, extending back to the alley, on Second street. The three stories of this building are each this same size, 120 by 140 feet, giving the factory a floor space of 50,400 square feet. Every inch of this is utilized to the utmost extent. Besides this factory the same company also controls a large jobbing house adjoining in which the product of the factory is handled and distributed to the trade.

Within this establishment, there are employed about 300 persons. One third of them are men who support families on the salaries they receive at this establishment, and the rest young men and women. Some idea of the immense financial importance to this city of this establishment may be gained from the fact that these employes are the sharers in a wage bill which amounts to from $2,500 to $3,000 every week, about $140,000 per year. Fully nintey per cent of this has been conclusively shown to have been spent with the merchants of this city and they reap the benefit of this factory directly, by supplying the wants of those who work there.

This factory was organized under its present system about eight years ago and the place has been upon the upward march ever since. The heads of the departments are for the most part eastern men, who are highly skilled in the various branches of the work over which they have charge. The factory has a capacity of turning out about 1,350 pairs of shoes each day and will soon be in a

turned up for sewing, cement is applied and they are put through the channel layer where the soles are "laid" and then through the Giant leveler, at the rate of 1,000 pairs per day, where a pressure of one ton is applied to make the sole smooth and level. The Acme leveler is another machine of this kind which does fine work. Then there is a machine for nailing spring heels on shoes to be finished that way. The next process is the trimming of the edges of the sole, which keeps three Bussell machines, each with a capacity of 400 pairs per day, quite busy.

Next comes the fastening on of the heel, one of the most interesting stages in the process of manufacture. The machine which does this work is called the National heeler and has a daily capacity of 1,200 pairs of shoes. The entire heel is put on with with three licks. The shoe is inserted, sole uppermost, in the machine, with the pieces composing the heel in the proper place. The first lick punches the holes for the iron pegs which hold the pieces together. Between the first and second licks a die with holes in which the pegs are inserted is shoved into place and the descending hammer drives them in, leaving each one projecting a little. The third lick puts the bottom piece on, the force of the blow inbedding the heads of the pegs into the leather. This machine is operated by an expert, who works by the piece. He employs two boys to assist and still makes big wages. The bottom piece on the heel is made more secure by the Wire Grip fastening machine, which drives nails cut from brass wire around the edge of the heel. The rough edged heel is then trimmed off by the Smith heel trimmer, of which there are two, and the bottoms and front of the heels scoured on machines made for the purpose. The Blow buffing machine sand papers the bottoms of the sole and heel while the two Naunkeag cuffers do the same work for the sides. A coat of white bleach is applied to the front part of the soles, and the heels and edges of the soles are coated with an ink made for the purpose. The shoes are then ready for the burnishing machines, the last process in the course of manufacture. The edges are set and burnished by two twin edge setters, with four operatives and then the shoes go to the heel burnisher, which polishes the heel.

From there the shoe goes to the packing room on the same floor, where the bottoms are stamped, the sizes marked, laces inserted when necessary, each pair enclosed in a paste board box, that marked, and finally packed in wooden cases. From here they are sent down a chute to a covered platform, to be hauled away for shipment or be taken into the immense warerooms of the company, which are located in the two large buildings adjoining the factory. Altogether these ware rooms have seven floors and they are piled full of goods awaiting the orders sent in by the thirteen traveling salesmen the company has on the road.

The power for this immense plant is situated in a large brick engine house built in the court yard. Here is a fine Corliss engine of seventy-five horse power which moves so silently one can scarcely believe it is distributing power enough to drive the numerous machines throughout the big factory. Steam is made in a set of Babcock & Wilson boilers of the latest pattern, so constructed as to give the greatest amount of heating surface with the least possible amount of fuel. Arrangements are being made to put in a new automatic engine, to be made by Kollmeyer & Talbott, of this city. This engine will have seventy-five horse power and will drive a dynamo which will furnish electricity for 435 lights. This private lighting system will be put in throughout the entire plant and a greater part of the buildings has already been wired for the purpose.

In recapitulating after a trip through this immense factory, the following facts are brought out, which will give an idea of the benefit such a concern is to the city:

From 275 to 300 operatives are constantly employed.

The weekly pay roll amounts to about $2,000, or over $100,000 per year.

Eighty per cent of the money spent by the company is circulated among the merchants of Keokuk.

The amount expended in machinery for the manufacture of shoes, outside the power plant, is $37,000.

The daily capacity is 1,200 pairs of shoes and 40,000 pairs are constantly in process of manufacture.

The furnishing of pasteboard boxes and wooden cases for the manufactured goods, which is done by Keokuk concerns, is an industry in itself.

The removal of the factory from Rochester, N. Y., brought many operatives and their families, who now have homes in this city, and many young men and women who lived here have been taught a trade that will always insure them a living.

The quality of goods turned out will compare favorably with the output of any factory in the country.

The output of the factory, stamped with the name of the company and the city in which the shoes are made, is distributed in every state in the union, a continual and effective advertisement for Keokuk.

Truly it is a great industry.

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position to manufacture 1,500 a day. These include shoes of every description, from the finest ladies' turned shoe in fancy colored Russia calf to the heaviest men's railroad shoe. All of these goods are made in the very latest styles in men's, youth's, boy's, ladies', misses' and children's. The factory is keeping fully abreast of the times and every new pattern of merit that is introduced into the market is made by this factory as well as every new last, from the very extreme razor toe, to the broadest French toe, used in the fashioning of their styles.

In making a tour of this wonderful establishment, on a sight-seeing trip, the visitor is first shown into the sole leather department on the ground floor. Here the great bundles of leather and other raw materials are received into the factory and stored until they are required in the other parts of the factory for use in making the shoes. This raw material is bought by the company in carload lots, so great is the quantity used in the establishment. The factory has now on hand fully $115,000 worth of this raw material both in stock and in process of being made up into the finished product, and from this some idea of the immense amount of material used may be gained.

Into another room on the ground floor the raw material for the soles of the shoes is taken and stamped out in the proper shapes for the different styles. The other leathers are taken up into the other floors to be made up into the uppers. In this sole department, there are great machines which work under heavy pressure, and these, with a quick stroke, operated by skillful hands, cut out with dies the different shaped soles. In this particular part of the shoe there are alone about forty different styles of soles. In this department there are about twenty machines. The dies however, only block out the soles square and after being sorted, they are made soft and pliable with water and are carried to a machine that rounds them out in the shape desired, according to the pattern. Both the outer and the inner soles are cut out and also the heels. There is also a machine in this department for corrugating the inner sole in order to make it soft and pliable. Here is also the machine for cutting and turning over a sort of lip all around the inner edge of the sole into which the seam is sewed afterward when the sole is fastened to the uppers.

The sole is also shaped under very heavy pressure and levelled and pressed to make it the proper shape to fit the foot of the wearer. The welts for the finer grades of men's shoes are here prepared, also, and are cut out and shaped by these processes. After passing through these processes the soles and heels and welts are taken up stairs to meet the uppers which are prepared on the third floor and are sewed on the soles in the bottoming department.

Up in the third story the uppers are prepared for the sole in the cutting and fitting departments, perhaps the most interesting of all the parts of this establishment. Here the finer stock is given out in regular apportionments, first to the cutter, who performs all his work by hand. This cutting is very delicate work and the men who perform it must understand it most thoroughly. Each cutter is given a certain amount of stock out of which to cut a dozen pairs of shoes or give an account for it, and he must be a very good judge of the stock in order to place the right qualities of leather into the right part of the shoe. Some leather that would do very well in the upper or quarter would be wholly unfit for the vamp and this the cutter must determine, since no two hides are exactly alike. The cutter takes the hide and upon it he lays his patterns, of which there is an endless variety, numbering over a thousand different styles. These are constantly varying and changing with the different styles and lasts. These patterns are specially designed some of them in the factory itself, by the company's designers and some of the designs are imported. From these patterns the cutter skillfully shapes the uppers, while in another part of the room the linings of the shoe are cut and shaped.

From the cutting room these parts are taken to the fitting department, the most interesting of all. At the long tables sit about 150 girls in front of an endless wilderness of machines and they busily sew all day, skillfully putting together the various parts of the uppers. Some are sewing in the linings, others are preparing the outside of the shoe and sewing up the different seams which fasten together the different parts. Others sew the quarters to the vamp. Each girl has her own particular part of the work to perform and each sews just the seam which is allotted her. A very interesting machine in this department is the button hole machine, which not only cuts the hole, but sews it around as well, in a perfect button hole stitch in the most rapid and accurate manner, working automatically.

Here also, the eyelets and the hooks for the lace shoes are put in by an automatic machine that is capable of putting the hooks and eyelets into 1,000 pairs of shoes a day. The eyes are put into a hopper and are fed to the machine one by one down a race way. While the machine is cutting the hole for the second eyelet, it is stamping the eye into the first hole. A button machine is also a very interesting one to the visitor and it sews the buttons on about 1,000 pairs of shoes each day with from ten to thirteen buttons on each shoe. All of these machines are owned by an eastern company and have to be leased by the factory which pays so much royalty for each shoe. After the uppers are fully completed and finished they are taken down stairs to the bottoming department, where they are met by the soles and are there joined to them to make the completed shoe.

In this department there are three methods employed in fastening on the sole. One is the welting system for men's shoes and the turning system for ladies' shoes, which correspond to the old fashioned hand sewing method, and is used in the finer grades of shoes, the Mackay system which is the ordinary machine method of sewing, and is used on the medium grades of shoes, and the third method, used on the coarser grades, is of fastening on the sole with screws. In this department the shoe is lasted in the machines for that purpose and the upper is drawn snugly over these wooden shapers that give the shoe the form of the foot. From the lasting machines it is taken either to the sewer or to the Goodyear welting machine, which fastens the sole to the upper by exactly the same process used by the old fashioned cobbler, performed with more efficiency by swift running machinery. These welting machines have a capacity for sewing the soles on 300 pairs of shoes a day.

The welt is then beaten down by means of another swift running machine and the sole is roughly rounded out into shape to fit the shoe. The lip under which the stitches are put in is then glued and pressed down over the stitches under a very heavy pressure, so that they are completely covered and protected from wear.

In this department also the Mackay or machine sewing is done, which is used on the medium grades and the screws, which fasten on the soles of the cheaper shoes are also put in here.

After the soles are on the shoe are taken to the leveller, where the soles are levelled up under heavy pressure. The Giant leveller is used upon the cheap qualities and the Gilmore leveller upon the welted and turned shoes.

Then the heels are put on, and the machine which nails these on is a very powerful and interesting one, nailing on the entire heel at one stroke and putting in all the slugs. The edges of the heels are then trimmed around and set and finished.

The shoe is then ready for the finishing department where the finishing touches are put on. In this room the heels and the soles are sand papered and polished and trimmed down, then stained in the desired color and buffed in a machine to make the shoe attractive. The uppers are blacked and polished and dressed until they are bright. The lasts are then taken out and the busy girls stamp each shoe with the size, brand and width.

The packing is the next step and in that department the shoes are tied up in pairs and packed into cartons and cases ready for shipment. These boxes, by the way, are all made in Keokuk factories and the box industry in this city practically started with this institution, and has been fostered by it ever since.

The shoes of all kinds are then taken to the company's wholesale house adjoining, where the goods are handled. All over the United States the company sends its goods, and it has upwards of 2,500 customers upon its books. Even in the east, the former seat of the shoemaking industry these goods are rapidly pushing their way and are now in hot competition with the best of the eastern goods. Like "carrying coals to New-

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castle" this factory is sending its goods there, and they are sturdily holding their own wherever they go.

The entire factory has from $35,000 to $40,000 invested in machinery alone. The plant is lighted by electricity throughout, furnished by the company's own electrical apparatus, and is protected from the ravages of fire by an automatic system of sprinklers. The power for the plant is generated in the factory itself with a powerful set of boilers and a low speed Corliss engine, while the electricity is generated by another high speed engine of the same type.

This entire work is under the direct supervision of John G. Erhart, the general manager and superintendent. He is familiar with every step in the process of making the shoe from the sole up and everything in the factory is conducted under his personal direction. He purchases all the raw material and makes all the estimates. To his complete mastery of the minutest details a great deal of the success of this company's product is due. Fred Fields assists in the routine of the superintendent's office work and in preparing the pay roll. The sole leather department is under the direction of Louis Tempe, and the sole cutting in that department is supervised by Henry Knights. William Mayer has general supervision over the bottoming department and William Brane has charge of the lasters there. James Egan superintends the work in the finishing department, and Thomas Edwards in the packing department. The cutting is supervised by August Baur, the general foreman, designer and draughtsman, who is assisted by August Baur, Jr., who oversees the supply of stock to the cutters. The fitting department is in the charge of Miss Mary Brown, assisted by Miss Mary Shehan.

Under the supervision of this able corps of managers the factory has made unprecedented progress in the eight years of its existence. As the improvements have constantly been made in machinery and methods, this up-to-date plant has been quick to adopt them. Some of these important innovations have originated in the fertile minds of the factory's busy brainy force and it is now one of the most complete plants in the country for the production of all grades and styles of shoes.

The Gate City.
MAY 10, 1900.
THE GATE CITY COMPANY,
KEOKUK, IOWA.

THE HUISKAMP'S

Their Enlargement of Business Here in Keokuk.

MAKES EVERYBODY FEEL GOOD

It is But the Forerunner of Still Greater Improvements to Their Factory.

The announcement in The Gate City yesterday morning that the Huiskamp company intended to add a fourth story to their large factory excited much interest generally and made everybody in Keokuk feel good. That improvement contemplates an addition to the working force and a greater output for the Keokuk factory, already a famous one.

The contract betweeen the company and the city is that the city owns the real estate and any additions made to the building is building on another fellow's lot. But the company has an option on the property in 1908 at a value and price to be appraised by three men, one chosen by each side and the third chosen by the two.

The Huiskamp company feel the need of much more room here than even this additional story will give them. Expressions by officers of the company indicate that it would like to enlarge the factory much more than that, but in the contract situation it does not care to mix matters with the city up more than necessary. So it will be content for the present with the addition of another floor to the factory and let other additions go to the future.

The goods made here are not fully appreciated in Keokuk, where few people are experts in shoes. The following from the Southern Review of Commerce is worth reading by Keokuk people to show them what this city actually has:

ARE NOT SURPASSED.

"We are aware of course that the retailer is at a disadvantage; he can not depend on the statement of the salesman, as each thinks that that which he represents is the best of the manufacturer's art. No journal devoted to the shoe trade could afford to give definite and positive answers to the inquiry, regarding excellence, and the customers—the customers are demanding that their shoes shall be in good style and possess a degree of wearing quality which shall be commensurate with the price.

"The Southern Review of Commerce therefore decided to investigate the question thoroughly through its editorial and reportorial staff, in most of the large cities of the country. Quite a number of different makes were examined and dissected to ascertain the quality of the material, particular attention being given to the workmanship. Experts on leather were called on for their opinion on the stocks which entered in the manufacture. Styles and shapes were also taken into consideration. Every effort was made to cause the investigation to be as comprehensive as possible.

"As a result, we are prepared to say that there are no shoes for men and women's wear in medium and high grades superior to those made by the Huiskamp Bros. Co., of Keokuk, Iowa, in any of the qualities which they make for excellence. Their shoes are of the latest style, excellent shape, honestly made from honest leather, and will give satisfaction whenever used. Those who have inquired of us may esteem this our reply, and inquiry from them will doubtless elicit information as to the channel through which their goods may be obtained.

"The Southern Review of Commerce has no interest in this firm or its wares, except to give credit where it is due, and the pleasure it takes in furnishing its subscribers with the most reliable information obtainable."

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as 2d class matter

JANUARY 25. 1899

THE SHOE FACTORY.

Its Operation to be Commenced at an Early Day.

On Monday next a car load of operatives leave Rochester, New York, for Keokuk. These are expert workmen who have engaged with the Huiskamp Bros. company to be employed by them in the extensive boot and shoe factory soon to be in operation here. The machinery is all in place and in running order and after a few other preliminaries are arranged the factory will be put in full operation. The work from laying the foundation on to the completion of the structure, with its vast array of machines, has been pushed forward with great energy and masterful skill. It is now almost ready to fullfil all the expectations of the people, who have watched its progress with great interest, and will be to Keokuk one of the greatest interprises ever inaugurated here and which will be more fully realized and appreciated hereafter than now. In a few weeks at the farthest we can say, without the imputation of brag or blow, that this city at the foot of the rapids has the largest and best equipped shoe factory in the west.

THE CONSTITUTION.

By S. H. CLAGETT.

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1876.

Convict Labor.

Huiskamp Bros., of this city, recently closed a contract with the penitentiary commissioners to run the shoe shops of the Fort Madison penitentiary for ten years, paying 45 cents per day per man. It seems that the sixteenth general assembly placed the minimum price at 60 cents per day, but at the last session the law was repealed, and the whole matter was left to the discretion of the commissioners, subject to the approval of the executive council. Those firms who had contracts under the old law claim, with a great show of justice, that they cannot make it pay, and have asked for a de-

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Huiskamp 7.

crease in price.

The Des Moines *Register*, alluding to this subject, says:

"The executive council held a meeting yesterday; and the commissioners were present. The council decided that no contract could be let for a term longer than five years, and consequently failed to confirm the agreement of the commissioners. They did not object to the terms, but merely turned the matter over again to the commissioners to decide upon the time, which cannot be longer than five years."

The governor and executive commissioners were expected at Fort Madison on Tuesday, to investigate matters and see what can be done. Huiskamp Bros. inform us that they have not as yet, decided what action they will take in the matter. The cutting of their contract down from ten to five years, will absolve them from all obligations, and they will be entitled to cancel it if such is their pleasure.

THE CONSTITUTION.

By S. H. CLAGETT.

APRIL 22, 1876.

PRISON CONTRACTS.

A Large Number Let at Fort Madison Yesterday—Huiskamp Bros. Take Sixty-five Men.

We noted several days ago that the executive council would soon be in session at Fort Madison to let out the contracts for convict labor at the Fort Madison penitentiary. The council, consisting of the secretary of state, the state auditor, and state treasurer convened yesterday, and in addition to the letting of contracts, had under consideration a number of improvements which are to be made to the prison premises, and the settlement of what claims might be presented to it. A number of claims were satisfactorily disposed of, and a contract for improvement of the premises, which includes the converting of the present residence of the deputy warden into cell rooms, a new building for shops, and a new frame residence, were let to R. F. Hosford, of Burlington, all except the deputy warden's residence which was let to a gentleman of Fort Madison, whose name our informant did not learn. The prison labor contracts let were: Sixty-five men to Huiskamp Bros. this city, for the manufacture of shoes; seventy-five men to Trebilcock & Johnson, of Fort Madison, in the chair factory, and one hundred and fifteen men to the Iowa Farming Tool company.

—Huiskamp Bro's. of this city, are working at present about sixty hands in the penitentiary, manufacturing shoes, and have all they can do to fill orders for jobbers. The force will soon be increased to eighty. Colonel Herman Huiskamp has charge of this department, and spends the most of his time in Fort Madison.

MAY 25, 1876

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
Keokuk, Iowa ....September 29, 1914

CUTTERS WALK OUT AT SHOE FACTORY

Twenty Employes at Huiskamp Factory Walk Out When Refused New Scale of Wages.

IS NOT A UNION SHOP

Poor Business Conditions Given by Factory Officials as Reason for Refusing Employes' Demands.

Twenty employees of the cutting room at Huiskamp's shoe factory walked out of the shop shortly before noon today when refused the new scale of wages that had been demanded of officials of the company. The increase asked for amounted to about twenty-five percent, according to John G. Erhart, superintendent of the factory.

An open shop is maintained at the factory but a few of the cutters are members of the union, it is understood.

According to employees of the company the trouble has been brewing for several weeks. It is claimed by officials of the company that the demand for the increase in wages was first agitated by two cutters who recently came here from St. Louis where shoe factories have been having quite a bit of trouble with their men.

The matter came to a definite point this morning when a new scale of wages, prepared by the cutters, was submitted to Mr. Erhart. The statement was made that unless the new scale was granted the cutters would walk out. The cutters gave the factory until noon to make its decision. When Mr. Erhart refused to grant the new scale the cutters walked out to a man.

The men in the cutting room are paid on a piece work basis. Just what increase the scale demanded by the cutters would amount to had not been definitely figured by the company, but it was estimated at about twenty-five percent.

Mr. Erhart says that on account of business conditions existing at the present time it is impossible to consider giving the men an increase in their pay. He claims that there is hardly enough business being done at the present time to justify keeping the factory open. He claimed that the place is being run mainly in order to provide employment for their men. Business in the south, he says, is at a standstill and several other shoe factories have been compelled to shut down.

What the outcome of the walk-out will be is hard to determine Mr. Erhart says that he has recently received forty applications for employment from cutters and that he could fill the places of the men who walked out in a very short time. However, he said, no action would be taken by the factory for a few days and that the cutting room would remain closed for the present.

CUTTERS' SIDE OF STRIKE TOLD

Statement is Made by Employes of Huiskamp Factory as to Reasons for Their Action.

SEPT. 30, '14

CLAIM WAGE TOO SMALL

Assert That They Asked Only for a Living Wage—Various Other Claims Are Made.

The cutters at the Huiskamp Brothers shoe factory have presented a statement to The Gate City giving their side of the strike question at the local factory. The statement is

signed by T. Feuser, chairman of the shoe cutters' committee:

After reading the article in last night's paper, the shoe cutters of the Huiskamp Brothers' factory have come to the conclusion that there has been a misrepresentation of facts in as far as their side of the story is concerned. The first claim that Mr. Erhart makes in ihs statement is that two cutt.rs from St. Louis agitated and started this trouble, is not true. The bare facts of the case are that the wages paid out by Mr. Erhart in his cutting room are an impossible living wage. And that seem, to be the main reason why there is trouble. The cutters of Keokuk held a meeting Monday, September 28, and decided that they would at least ask for a living wage which they thought the firm would at least consider.

The cutters claim that Mr. Erhart has been using the add columns in St. Louis papers and elsewhere to secure cutters, even going so far as to advance transportation, and also through correspondence, misrepresenting the positions by stating a cutter was capable of earning as much as $21 per week, which is an absolute impossibility under the existing prices and conditions, using that as a drawing card to attract men to your city. And after getting here and working one or two days, they find the existing conditions such that they leave in disgust. As many as ten men, two-thirds of them married, have come and gone within the past two weeks. Now these facts are true, we can prove and verify each and every statement and we defy Mr. Erhart to prove otherwise. Thirdly, Mr. Erhart claims that he is paying the topmost prices for the cutting of his shoes, that is one of the main reasons and objects he had in inserting any statement at all to the press.

The facts are that Mr. Erhart is not only getting this grade of shoes cut from 50 to 100 per cent cheaper, but he is practically getting his shoes cut from 2 to 5 foot of leather less per dozen than any other firm in the country. Now with leather so high in any market, leather selling from 20 to 35c per foot, the saving of four feet per dozen would at least mean a saving of about $1.00 to the doezn pairs of shoes to the Huiskamp Bros. firm. Now he pays about forty cents to have that dozen air cut, practically a gain on labor expenses of sixty cents on that dozen, he is getting his shoes cut for nothing when this is fully realized.

After presenting the bill of wages at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning, we spoke to Mr. A. Baur, foreman of the cutting department, explaining exactly the details of our bill of wages. He informed us that he thought it would be impossible to get desired results. After holding a conference with Mr. Baur for about an hour, he also informed us it would be out of his power, and that he would interview Mr. Erhart in regard to the matter. The committee then decided that they would give Mr. Erhart until noon to make a reply. Mr. Erhart was under the impression that the room was unorganized. The cutting department is made up mostly of men belonging to the United Shoe Workers of America, an organization that is fully alive and capable of protecting its members, and we informed him that he would have to negotiate with the original committee already selected. After being made aware of the fact, he gave Mr. Baur instructions to discharge all cutters, so then this fact stands out as proof that we did not walk out. We were locked out.

We ask the citizens to stand by and give us their moral support which we feel sure will be freely given when the above facts are fully realized.

SHOE CUTTERS COMMITTEE.
H. FEUSER, Chairman.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
Keokuk, Iowa .....October 4, 1914

CUTTERS' STRIKE COMES TO AN END

Agreement Reached Between Factory and Men, Both Sides Conceding Points in Dispute.

The strike of the cutters at Huiskamp's shoe factory came to a close yesterday when an agreement was reached between the company and the men. The cutters will go to work Monday morning. It was stated by the cutters that both sides had conceded some points in order that the matter might be settled.

The cutting room at the factory has been closed since the men walked out early last week after they had been refused a new scale of wages that would allow them to make greater wages. No men were secured to replace the strikers by the factory and no demonstrations were made by the men themselves. Only a few of the cutters were members of a union. END

DAILY GATE CITY

HUISKAMPS TO CLOSE APRIL 1 IT IS PLANNED

Local Shoe Factory Will Suspend Then Awaiting Further Manufacturing Plans, Its President States.

MARCH 14, 1929

An official answer to the rumors which have been current recently about the Huiskamp Bros. Co. plant in Keokuk, is found in the letter from the company addressed to the Chamber of Commerce, and printed herewith. A request from Secretary Holmes to the company for definite information relative to the rumors was answered by the following letter which is self-explanatory:

Keokuk, Iowa, March 13, 1929.—Mr. W. E. Holmes, Secretary, Keokuk Chamber of Commerce, Keokuk, Iowa.

Dear Sir: With relation to your inquiry regarding the closing of the Huiskamp Bros. company Keokuk plant, will say that the Huiskamp Bros. company has completed a forty year period of shoe manufacturing in the city of Keokuk.

The company's shipments to dealers in 1928, was in excess of $1,500,000, and larger than any previous year, except two years during the war. The company has always had an approximate annual average payroll in the city of $200,000.

The heads of the business are seeking to reduce their business activities and responsibilities on account of personal reasons, and certain changes in the business are anticipated.

Closed April 1.

The Keokuk factory will be closed about April 1st, awaiting definite decision as to further future manufacturing plans. The stock department will be reduced and standardized to cover fewer kinds, which can be sold in larger volume to meet the changed conditions of present day distribution.

The Warsaw factory was originally organized on a volume production basis and in the opinion of the directors, there will be no change necessary in that plant.

Yours very truly,
THE HUISKAMP BROS CO.
H. W. HUISKAMP, Pres.

DAILY GATE CITY

HUISKAMP CO. PLANT CLOSING ONLY TEMPORARY

MARCH 15, 1929

Warsaw Plant of Huiskamp Bros. Co., Remains in Operation—Stock Rooms and Offices Here Continue.

A misinterpretation of the headline in the Gate City last evening over the item concerning the plans of the Huiskamp Bros. Co. seems to have created some confusion.

In an interview today Secretary Holmes of the Chamber of Commerce said:

"The letter written to me yesterday by Mr. H. W. Huiskamp, explained that future successful operation of the Keokuk factory would require certain standardization and that plans were under consideration. It was stated that simplification of the Keokuk factory product and warehouse department would meet with the views of the heads of the company.

"I understand that it is the desire of the company to work out certain new methods, covering that portion of the business which is operated in Keokuk, and that these plans are to be referred to the stockholders. It is my understanding that the shoe business in general is always slow in the Spring, and that any changes necessary should be made at this time. The standardization of the Keokuk plant has been considered for some time.

"The business has increased during the past few years and the Chamber of Commerce approached Mr. Huiskamp with the idea of being of some assistance in the matter. However, the company is not seeking any assistance from the city.

"It should be fully understood by the letter which I received from Mr. Huiskamp, that the company does not intend to quit business on April 1st, and it is deeply regretted, if the headlines in the Gate City yesterday, may have implied this idea. In fact, the company has about 40 salesmen now traveling throughout the various territories, and a wrong impression would create considerable difficulty in working out future plans for the Keokuk factory.

"The company feels that the headline used in the publication of the letter yesterday did not conform with the context, but considers it important to make this explanation."

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matte

MAY 24. 1888

A MAMMOTH CONCERN.

Huiskamp Bros. Definitely Decide to Erect a Large Boot and Shoe Manufactory in Keokuk—The Factory to be Located at Second and Johnson Streets—Many Operatives to be Employed—An Important Industrial Acquisition.

The GATE CITY is gratified to announce this week to the citizens of Keokuk that the city will soon obtain a mammoth industrial acquisition that will promote the prosperity of the people and greatly enhance the importance of Keokuk as a manufacturing and distributing point. The stable and prosperous firm of the Huiskamp Bros. Company, the widely known and successful manufacturers of boots and shoes, have definitely decided to erect a large factory here, the plans and specifications for which are now being prepared by architects. It will be located on the southwest corner of Second and Johnson streets, adjoining the firm's present wholesale house. It will occupy 120 feet on Johnson street and 140 feet on Second street. Excavation will commence as soon as the old buildings which now occupy the site selected can be removed, and the company expects to have the factory completed and in operation on or before January 1, 1889. When completed the building will be equipped with the finest and most modern machinery in the country and the factory will start with not less than one hundred operatives, which number will be increased as the requirements of the company may demand. The structure will be of brick and large and imposing in appearance. Operation of the boot and shoe factory will require the importation of skilled labor, besides providing employment for a large number of our own citizens. For several weeks it has been rumored that Huiskamp Bros. contemplated the erection of a large factory but nothing definite was known until yesterday, when the firm voluntarily furnished the information to the press, at once settling all doubt as to the certainty of the enterprise being established. Huiskamp Bros. rank as one of the leading manufacturers of boots and shoes in the United States and through both the east and west their products, which are noted for their excellence and cheapness, have an extensive sale that is constantly growing larger and extending. The gentlemen composing the firm are so well known in Keokuk and vicinity that reference to their business integrity, their financial ability and standing as citizens would be superfluous. Keokuk has reason for congratulating itself upon securing so extensive a manufacturing plant and one that promises to develop into such great magnitude. While the firm is conservative in giving an estimate of the number of men that will be employed it is believed that at least three hundred operatives will be at work within two or three years. This means a large addition to the population and the annual distribution of a large amount of money in wages. Further,

it will have a tendency to induce other manufacturing concerns to locate here. The community will be glad that Huiskamp Bros. have decided to engage in manufacturing in Keokuk, where they have lived so long a d where they began business careers that have been crowned with a large share of success.

Within a decade Keokuk's future has not been so bright as it is at the present time. Her advancement, progress and prosperity seems assured and to the industrial and commercial supremacy she has already attained will be added still greater achievements in the not far distant future. Negotiations are in progress with several manufacturing concerns that may locate here. Their coming would mean a growth and development that the most enthusiastic citizen does not expect. One that is a certainty is the boot and shoe factory and another is the large powder mill plant, to which frequent reference has previously bee n made. These and other improvements in progress and contemplated will make the year 1888 a memorable one, for it will mark a new era in the development of the city. By united action of all citizens and hearty and generous support of those who are unselfishly striving to promote and advance the material interests of the people and the city, results will be obtained that now may not seem credible.

The Gate City.
— MARCH 5, 1897. —
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

Andrew J. Carlson, a Shoe Factory Employe, Almost Instantly Killed.

A VERY UNUSUAL ACCIDENT.

A Ponderous Machine Torn From Its Fastenings and Hurled Upon Him—First Serious Accident in Forty Years.

Andrew J. Carlson, a boy employed in the Huiskamp Bros. company's shoe factory, met almost instant death while engaged at his work about 4:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The exact manner of his death may never be wholly known, the accident occurred so suddenly and no one having seen the beginning of it and the lad himself being unable to say. He was engaged in the operating of a sole molding machine, a heavy piece of apparatus weighing perhaps 500 or 600 pounds. It rested on heavy iron legs, which are a part of the casting and which were securely fastened to the floor. It had been in use for eight years or more and was in first class condition. The machine was operated by means of a belt connecting with a pulley on the overhead shaft by which power is communicated to a number of machines adjacent to the molding machine and which are located on the ground floor in the southeast section of the big building on Second and Johnson streets. The amount of power directly applicable to the molding machine was regulated by means of an adjustable apparatus in the control of the operative. It is the supposition that the lad applied to great an amount of power, but whether he did or not can never be known to a certainty. At any rate, the belt became too taut and the ponderous machine was torn from its fastenings in the floor, lifted up and hurled over on the boy, one of the iron legs being broken squarely off.

The first intimation that any of his fellow operatives had that an accident had occurred was the crash of the falling machinery. There were several workmen within a few feet of him but none of them happened to have their gaze directed toward him at the moment. Hearing the crash, William H. Peters, who was closest to him, rushed to his assistance and found the boy struggling to raise himself, but was unable to do so because of his injuries and the further fact that one of his legs was pinioned under the machine. The workmen tenderly extricated him and carried him to a table near by and summoned surgical assistance. He died within a few minutes and before the surgeons arrived. He was crushed about the head and legs and sustained internal injuries.

Marshal Trimble and Coroner Brown were notified and they impaneled a jury, composed of W. F. Rash, John Leindecker and C. H. Anderson, who viewed the remains and adjourned to complete the inquest at the marshal's office at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The body was then taken in charge by Undertakers Hawkes & Ackley and conveyed to their establishment, where it was prepared for burial and then removed to the residence of the deceased's parents, at 1621 Carroll street.

The deceased was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carlson and came with his parents from Sweden two years ago. He had been employed at the shoe factory for about a year and a half and was counted a careful and industrious employe. He would have been 14 years old in April. He is survived by his parents, one sister, Annie, and three brothers, Peter, John and Charles.

Yesterday's fatal accident was the first one of so serious a character that has occurred in the factories of this company during the forty years the house has been established. From information at hand it was one of those accidents for which no one can be blamed and against which there is no known precaution, and the like of which may never occur again. The ones who are so suddenly and so sadly bereaved have the sympathy of the entire community.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.
KEOKUK, THURSDAY, MARCH 14.

CITY NEWS.

—Huiskamp Bros. will commence the erection of their new building on Johnson street next to Collier, Robertson & Hambleton, about the first of April. It is their intention to erect a double building, of brick, three stories in height, and one which will be an ornament to the city. They expect to occupy it about the 1st of October.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.
Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matter
JULY 12. 1888

RECONSIDERS IT.

Major W. B. Collins Decides Not to Oppose the Fulfillment of the Contract Between the City and Huiskamp Bros.

Major W. B. Collins having given the views and opinions expressed by prominent citizens upon his suit asking that the city be enjoined from appropriating $40,000 to be used in the construction of a building to be occupied by the Huiskamp boot and shoe manufactory careful consideration has concluded not to interfere with an industrial enterprise that gives promise of proving of vast benefit and infusing new commercial life into the city. Yesterday afternoon he informed Mayor Irwin and Mr. Huiskamp that he would offer no further opposition to the consummation of the contract entered into between the city and Huiskamp Bros. Co., and his word is as good as a government bond. In all probability the suit will be withdrawn. At least there will be no legal action that will in anywise interfere with the Huiskamp contract. A large majority of all public spirited citizens whose views have been ascertained sustain the action of the council and assert that it was wise and prudent and that the factory will be a most valuable acquisition. The universal approval which the contract has received, more especially from the larger taxpayers who will pay the most, may be regarded as indubitable evidence that the factory is something that the city ought not to lose under any circumstances. Those who did not understand the arrangement favored it when they became familiar with it, and so will everyone who has any concern or interest in the progress and welfare of Keokuk. As an abstract proposition the voting of public moneys for private use or gain will not be sustained by this or any other community. The circumstances in this instance are of such a character that the arrangement which the city has entered into (there being no gift or donation but the free use of a building for twenty years) will meet with general approbation because it will be of value to the whole people. Let the factory go up.

Constitution-Democrat

AUGUST 6, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

Description of the Tri-State Can Company's Plant.

How Sheets of Tin Are Transformed Into Cans by the Million, Many of Which Are Used in Keokuk

Just below Rand park, beside the canal, stand two long buildings and from these there emanates, day after day, the busy hum of many machines which indicate work and energy and industry. These two immense buildings are the seat of one of the largest industries in this city, the great tincan manufactory of the Tri-State Can company. It is into the great doors of this plant that many busy workers flock each morning, for it provides employment for a large number of Keokuk's busy toilers.

The Tri-State Can company came to Keokuk, incorporated under the laws of the state of Iowa, about six years ago and found what they had been looking for. The city was in a position to command a very large and constantly increasing demand for tin cans. The field was open wide and the city afforded ample means for the establishment of such an industry. The site upon which the factory now stands was found to be a model one, near the river and with easy access to the C., B. & Q. railroad, whose tracks run within a few feet of the door of the factory. Accordingly a plant was set up here and operated for nine months.

At the end of that time a spark from a passing engine started a fire which spread rapidly before it could be checked, and it consumed the entire plant, which had started under such favorable circumstances and had been giving such good promise for the future. It required but a short time to destroy completely the work which had been begun so well.

Nothing daunted however, by this very disheartening circumstance, the company proceeded to rebuild the plant at once. The new factory was built upon even a larger scale than the other one had been and upon the same spot. It is now a very large and a very commodious structure admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is built.

A few hours' visit to this, one of the most important of Keokuk's industries, is well worth the journey and will amply repay the visitor.

The first part of the plant that is of interest is the boiler and engine rooms, which are in a building apart from the rest of the factory. Here all the power which puts every wheel in motion and makes the factory throb with energy and life, is generated by the boiler and the Erie engine. The boiler has a capacity of fifty horse power and the engine of forty horse power. Over these presides Robt. Wilson, the chief engineer, who has full charge of this important part of the plant. Here also are two Clayton air compressors, one double and one single, which assist in some of the processes of the plant.

One of these compressors connects with a gasoline generator near by. The company uses gasoline in such quantities in the processes of soldering the cans together, that they are required to manufacture this commodity themselves. To this end they operate a set of machinery which prepares this fluid for use and generates the gas therefrom for use in the soldering machines.

In the same building with the engine room is the machine room. Here the dies for cutting out the various parts of the can are made by an expert die maker. This responsible position is filled by J. W. Hartley. Here also C. B. Ebersol, the general machinist, has his headquarters and attends to the responsible part of the machine repairs and construction.

Crossing a passage way from this smaller building one enters the main building of the plant and here the various processes of making the different sizes of cans are to be seen and are not without interest.

The first room is called the press room and over the workers in this department C. H. Williams is the foreman. Through a rear door, the sheet tin is received in boxes from the laden cars which come right up to the door of the press room. It is hauled into a fireproof vault and stored away in piles for future use. As it is needed, it is removed from the boxes and distributed to the workers.

The sheets of tin are first put through a cutting machine which trims away the rough, jagged edges and from thence the sheets are handed to the operator of a machine which cuts them into broad strips to form the body of the can. These machines are both very rapid and the sheets are fed to them very quickly and deftly by skillful young men.

In another part of the room is a line of Ferracute presses, and these machines cut out the heads and bottoms of the cans, stamping into them at the same time the necessary creases and forming them into the proper shape. This cutting is done by the steel dies, made in the machine room, and seven of these machines are in operation, cutting different sizes. Alongside of these presses in another line of machines, somewhat similar, called the cap dies, and these cut and press the small cap or top which fits upon the top of the can as a lid.

In this room also are the machines for cutting the company's output of solder. This useful article, which is used by their plant in such great quantities, is manufactured in the factory itself and cut up in this press room into the desired shape. The block tin, lead and other ingredients of the composition are bought in great quantities and melted down and united in proper proportions.

The parts of the can and the solder being all cut into shape, one is then taken into the upper story of the building to witness the joining of the parts into the finished article. This room is a great open place with plenty of light and air, while the running of the many machines and the incessant bustle of the workers make it a very busy place.

The first machine in the joining process is an edger, and with a rapid punch and a jerk it turns up the edges of the strip of tin which forms the body of the can ready for creasing. The strip then goes to a curling machine, which binds it around in the shape of a cylinder and joins the two crimped edges together with a side seam.

This side seam must be soldered and the tin cylinder quickly passes into a soldering machine, which is rapily revolving. The seam passes automatically under a stick of solder and a burning flame of vaporized gasoline at the same time and the operation is quickly done.

No time is lost, for as soon as the seam is done, the can drops out of the machine into a chute and an elevator sends it up into a trough overhead. Here it is siezed by a boy and thrown into the proper chute to one of the girl operators below. It is quickly taken and the head and bottom quickly and deftly clapped on and in a twinkling, the incomplete can is once more travelling down an incline to another automatic machine.

This spins around and as it does so it presses the heads tight and snug to the body and the can is ready for a further soldering. From this machine another elevator carries the can up into a bin and down a chute into the self-feeding soldering machines.

These form perhaps the most interesting and conspicuous part of the factory and there are six of them. Each machine works automatically and carries the can underneath a stick of solder and a hot flame. There the can stops for a moment and rotates, so that the solder is dropped all along the seam where the head in joined to the body of the can. It is then passed along to another part of the same machine where the bottom is automatically soldered on in the same way. Each one of these pieces of complicated mechanism has a capacity of soldering 10,000 cans a day and the six of them are running continually at this factory.

Ed. Egan is the overseer of the seaming machines in this part of the work and the work of the intricate soldering machine is supervised by Joseph Filker.

This company makes a specialty of soldered creased cans. By an improved method the little rim on the lid of the can is filled with solder so that the cap may be put on at once by the packer, as soon as the can is filled. By the old method the solder had to be shipped separate and was a source of endless annoyance to the user of the can. This feature alone is a very important one

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(Tri-State Can Co.)

and has made a decided hit wherever this kind of can has gone. The machines which pours this solder into the crease of the top are very simple, but very interesting and perform their work automatically in a very human-like manner. They are under the able supervision of Ora Phillips.

As soon as the cans are soldered they are plunged into water to cool them off and are taken to the tester. This is a very complicated piece of apparatus which plunges the cans into a tank of water and pumps compressed air into them. If the cans are defective, this air comes bubbling up and enables the operator to detect it and throw the faulty can out. Jas. R. Green occupies a very responsible position in the plant as the overseer of the work at this machine which requires several operators.

From the tester the cans, by means of an endless chain, pass over a series of steam drying pipes which remove the moisture. They are then tested and inspected by a corps of busy girls and are packed into wooden cases for shipment.

The finished product is packed in an immense two story warehouse 80 by 80 feet which is capable of holding 4,500,000 tin cans. This seems to be an immense number and yet the capacity of this building is often taxed to the utmost to hold the output of the factory. Over this great building S. Johnson is the foreman. The factory itself has a capacity for turning out 60,000 finished cans each day and is doing so now. The factory is employing their full force of 170 operators and will continue to do so until the end of the season, which will be when the frost comes. Business in this line has been quite dull for the last few years, but the management of this factory have had the nerve to continue the operation of this factory in spite of dull times and are still pushing things at a very lively rate.

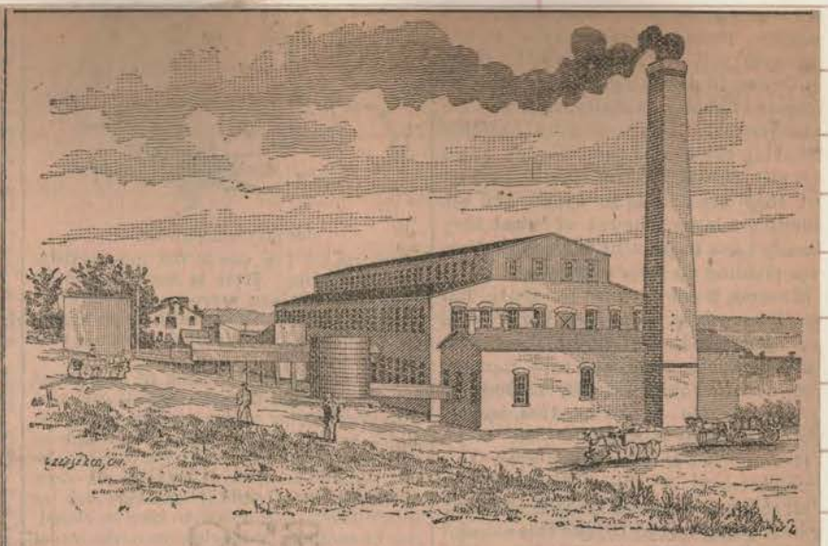
The responsibility for the successful operation of the plant as well as for the placing of its product rests upon James T. Smith the gentlemanly and courteous manager of the factory. Besides having contributed largely to the success of this Keokuk enterprise he is most cordial in his reception to visitors to the plant and accords them every courtesy. Another pleasant member of the office force is Adams Ballinger, the secretary of the company, who has been well chosen to fill this important position.

Constitution-Democrat.
MAY 19, 1893.

MADE BY MILLIONS.

The Best Tin Cans on the Market Manufactured in Keokuk.

A Vast Industry That Ships Its Product All Over the Country and Brings Much Money to the City—The Tri-State Can Co.'s Plant.



TRI-STATE CAN FACTORY.

A factory that turns out millions of tin cans every year is something that few cities can boast, but in the Tri-State Can company Keokuk has an establishment that is one of the most important of its kind in the country. A reporter for the CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT paid a visit to the company's large plant situated on the canal, Thursday afternoon, and was conducted through the establishment by James T. Smith, the courteous superintendent in charge.

The location of the plant is one especially adapted for the purpose. The canal, with an abundance of water, is close by and the C., B. & Q. railroad runs by the establishment, a private switch to the doors of the buildings making the receiving of raw materials and the shipping of finished goods an easy matter. The building at the extreme south end of the plant is the engine room and machine shop. It is a one-story brick 60 by 22 feet in dimensions and is divided into two rooms. The first of these is the machine shop, where an expert machinist is constantly employed making dies to press the tin into proper shape for cans and in repairing the machinery wherever needed. In the engine room is a forty-five horse power Erie engine, which drives the machinery for the entire plant. Steam is furnished by two boilers, made by the McElroy Iron works, of this city, their capacity being fifty-horse power. In this room are also situated four pumps, a cyclodial pump to force water from the canal into the boilers and into the large wooden tank that stands on the hill just above the plant, to be used in case of emergency; two air pumps, one a single and the other a double duplex for forcing air into pipes to be used for testing the cans, which will be noted later on; and last a hot water pump, that drains the water out of the heating pipes in the main building and forces it back into the boiler.

Leaving the engine house one enters the main building, where the cans are manufactured. This building is of brick, two stories high, with a roof ventilator running the entire length, and is 175 by 60 feet in dimensions. In this building from 135 to 140 men, girls and boys are constantly employed in rooms large, roomy, bright, cheerful and splendidly ventilated, 150 windows furnishing light and air.

The first place visited in this building is the large fire-proof vault where the sheets of tin plate, afterwards to be made into cans, are stored. In this vault from $15,000 to $30,000 worth of tin plate is constantly on hand. These sheets as needed are taken from the vault to the pressing room adjoining, some of them going to the squaring shears, of which there are eight, to be cut into proper sizes for the bodies of cans, and others to the seven compound press cutting machines, where the tops and bottoms are pressed into the proper shapes by heavy dies and cut from the sheets at the same time. The waste from this process, which is in large pieces, goes to the seven cap presses, which cuts out the small caps that fit over the openings in the can tops after the contents are put in at the canning factory. What waste is left from this process is pressed into fifty pound bales and sold to foundries, where it is cast into weights for elevators and window sash. Every scrap of tin is utilized. In the pressing room men and boys are employed. The balance of the first floor of the factory is used for the storage of manufactured goods and for the business office, which occupies one corner on the river side of the building. In the pressing room is also a machine that cuts long strips of solder into small pieces to be used above.

Ascending the stairs one enters a large room occupying the entire floor, where a busy scene is presented. As much of the work done on this floor is paid for by the piece, the prepared pieces of tin as they are brought upstairs, are laid out on tables where they

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are counted by girls into piles of 100 each. A lady here gives out checks to the men when they get their material so that the work can be kept track of.

The flat sheets for the bodies first go through one of the four sets of rollers which roll them into the proper shapes. These then go to the seamers, of which there are ten, each with a capacity of from 6,000 to 7,000 per day. Each of these machines is tended by three persons, a boy who takes the bodies and places them in the proper position on one of the six revolving disks as they come round to him; the man who solders the two ends or the side seam together as the cans revolve past him; and a girl who quickly and deftly fits the tops and bottoms on the cans after they are taken off the machine.

From the seamers the cans go the contracting dies, of which there are four, each tended by two girls and a boy. The first girl hands the cans out as they are received from the seamers, the second places them in the machine, and one from above, presses the different parts of the cans firmly but gently together, and hands them out to the boy in waiting, who piles them into cases and takes them to the soldering department.

This process is one of the most interesting in the whole course. There are twenty-one soldering machines, operated in pairs, each pair with a capacity of 5000 cans per day. These machines are complex and intricate but their work is perfect. The cans are placed on a revolving disk, ten at a time, and in the course of the revolution the top or bottom is rosined, heated by a flame from gas forced through a pipe from the gas tank in a seperate building where the company makes its own gas, a piece of solder is dropped down on the seam from above as the can passes under, and a hot iron afterward passes over the seam melting the solder into the openings and making them tight. If the top has been soldered first the can then goes to the other machine of the pair which solders the bottom. In this department there are three operatives to each machine. A boy puts on the cans, a young lady takes them off and examines them, and another boy brings the cans to the machine and takes them away when the work is done.

There is one process that all cans at the Keokuk factory goes through that always makes them salable and that is this: While going through the soldering machine a little ring of solder is run around the opening in the top which hards and remains. Afterward when the fruit or vegetable is put in the can all that is necessary to fasten the cap on is to heat the solder and apply the cap. This does away with any solder being used at the canning factory.

The boy that takes the cans away from the soldering machine takes them to one of the thirty testers, where they are thoroughly tested by an interesting and effective process. Each can is placed in a frame between two disks and then plunged into warm water. Air is forced into the top of the can through pipes which connect with the air pumps in the engine room, mentioned above, and if there is the least leak in the can the air bubbles through it into the water and is easily discerned. When a leak is discovered, the operator takes the can out, marks the defective place and sends it to the repairers, where it is made perfect and tested again. There being considerable heat about the soldering machines, from the gas used for heating the cans, and about the testers from the hot water, large fans extend from the ceiling over the operators' stations, which are operated by steam and furnish a constant current of fresh air.

The company goes to considerable extra expense to place their product on the market in perfect shape as will be shown by the following: The cans coming from the testers are wet and apt to rust. To prevent this they are thrown into buckets fastened on an endless chain, which goes up through a heated elevator, drying them effectually. They then drop down a chute and are caught by young ladies who put them into cases to be stored away for shipment.

On this floor are also the superintendent's office and a commodious and well furnished dressing room for the female operatives.

North of the main building and connected with it by a bridge, is a two-story brick warehouse 80 by 80 feet, in which the manufactured product is stored and from which it is loaded into cars. In this building are solid walls of tin cans extending from the floor to the ceiling, and of all sizes and kinds. There are at present stored in this building over 3,000,000 cans, or over 5,000,000 in the warehouse and main building together, over 4,000,000 of which are sold and are only awaiting shipment.

The canning factories in this city are supplied with cans by this factory, but this consumes only a small portion of the output. The goods are shipped into Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Mississippi and other states, and no better cans are put on the market those made here in Keokuk. The daily capacity of the factory is 50,000 cans and it is run on full time the year round. It is an institution which is a pride to the city in which it is located. It started under adverse circumstances, for nine months after it was opened the entire plant was consumed by fire and all the valuable machinery destroyed. By the indomitable energy of the men who are at the head of the concern, it was immediately rebuilt and furnished with the very latest and most expensive machinery. It pays out large sums periodically for help and that money is spent in Keokuk. It is gratifying to note that the prospects for a highly profitable season this year are flattering and that a little further increase in business means a probable increase in capacity.

The Gate City.

FEBRUARY 24, 1891.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

WILL BE REBUILT.

The Tri-State Can Factory to be Reconstructed if Certain Things Are Accomplished.

Business Men Express a Willingness to Aid the Company—Annual Meeting of the Stockholders and Directors Held—Left With Mr. Smith.

Yesterday morning, Lee A. Hamill, H. W. Huiskamp and W. C. Jamieson, constituting the committee of the Keokuk Business Men's association appointed for the purpose, called on R. Tynes Smith, president of the Tri-State Can company. A conference was held relative to the rebuilding of the factory, which was burned a few weeks ago, and the committee presented the wishes of the association and citizens generally that the factory be rebuilt. Mr. Smith stated that the company had not definitely decided upon the course to be taken, but he indicated that the desire of the community should be gratified if certain things are accomplished by the association. The net loss by the fire amounted to about $7,000, and if that can be practically made good by the association, the factory will be rebuilt. Mr. Smith said he did not wish a contribution of money from the association or from the citizens. But if the association could influence the business men from whom brick, lumber, hardware and other material entering into the construction of the buildings would be obtained, to sell it at cost to the company, that would go a long way toward making good the loss and the factory would be rebuilt. In the afternoon this committee called on several dealers in the various lines and without hesitation they expressed themselves as ready and willing to assist this enterprise in that way. So that part is settled. The association is doing everything in its power to assist the can company to its feet and will endeavor to get a reduced freight rate on machinery. It is reasonably certain that smoke will again be rolling from the factory chimney and the joyous confusion of machinery again be heard before

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before many months are passed.

At the office of the Buck-Reiner company last night occurred the annual stockholders meeting of the Tri-State Can company. There was a large attendance of local stockholders and all were enthusiastic for the rebuilding of the plant. A unanimous resolution was adopted to the effect that it was the sense of the meeting that the president, R. Tynes Smith, should proceed with the work of rebuilding at once. The books of the company showed that, if the fire had not occurred, the factory would have made about $1,200 clear the first year of its operation. That is an unusual and gratifying exhibit for the first year of such an enterprise. A. Weber was elected a director.

Following the stockholders meeting came a meeting of the directory. A resolution was unanimously adopted by this body, authorizing the president to rebuild if he saw fit, thus leaving the matter entirely with Mr. Smith. The old officers were re-elected as follows: R. Tynes Smith, president; Wm. Ballinger, vice-president; Adams Ballinger, secretary; Edward Johnstone, treasurer. These officers together with M. Weber, Asaph Buck and H. C. Huiskamp constitute the directory.

The Gate City.

MARCH 6, 1891.

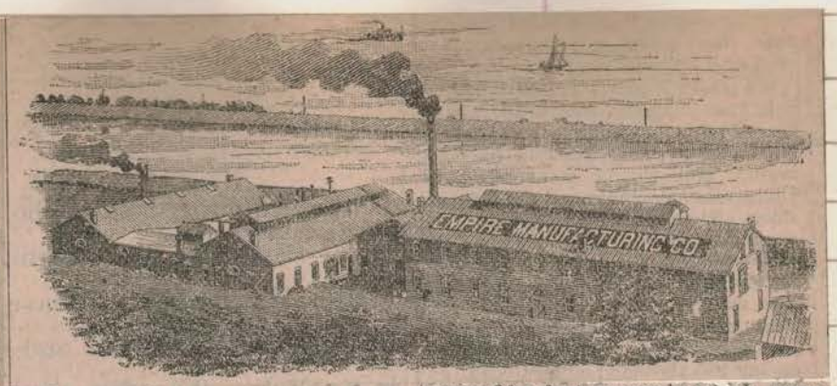
ONE OF MANY.

Description of One of Keokuk's Busy Manufactories.

The Empire Manufacturing Company's Plant, in Less Than a Year, Becomes an Important Factor in Keokuk's Industrial Prosperity.

Less than a year ago a company of gentlemen who had been engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements at Rockford, Ill., arranged with Keokuk capitalists, and particularly with the owners of the old plow works, wich had been idle for years, for the removal of their plant to this city. A company termed the Empire Manufacturing company was formed with a capital stock of $75,000, at the head of which was Col. H. B. Blood, of this city. R. K. Swift, one of the Rockford gentlemen, was made vice president, and J. J. A. Zeller, of the same place, secretary and treasurer. These gentlemen together with Hon. John N. Irwin, constitute the board of directors. The interest of the stockholders in the old plow works company was secured and consolidated with the interests of the Rockford gentlemen. The latter brought with them machinery, money and an established business. The Keokuk parties furnished money, influence, machinery and buildings.

It would have been difficult to devise buildings better adapted to the manufacture of agricultural implements. They were admirably arranged for the purpose and were in a condition almost as good as new. There was every department needed from the foundry to the store room. In addition the plant was equipped with first class machinery, engines, boilers, lathes, etc. With the additional machinery brought from Rockford and that which has since been put in, the plant of the Empire Manufacturing company has been made one of the best equipped in the state.



A GATE CITY reporter was interested in learning more of the factory and the business done by it than he could ascertain without a personal inspection of the plant, and paid it a visit yesterday afternoon. Perhaps the readers of this paper may have a like interest. At any rate the reporter will act upon that presumption and will record some of the things that were added to his store of knowledge. On calling at the office he found Secretary Zeller so busy that he could hardly find time to exchange greetings. On being acquainted with the reporter's wishes, Mr. Zeller turned him over to the guidance of C. M. Chaplin, general superintendent, and that gentleman courteously led the way through the labyrinth of whirling machinery and spacious ware rooms. The plant is located on the banks of the Des Moines Rapids canal, just below Rand park, and on the line of the St. L. K. & N. W. railway. It is a brick building, or rather several of them all connected, and a portion being three stories high. The first department visited was the iron foundry, occupying a room 100x50 feet in dimensions, well lighted, and heated by steam from the engine exhaust, as is the whole plant. Here at present fourteen moulders are employed under the foremanship of L. W. Lukins. All the castings for the factory are made here, and a large amount of outside job work is also done. The cupola has a capacity of four tons at a heat. About two and a half tons of iron are melted and moulded into castings each day. Passing from the foundry, a smaller room was entered where the castings are cleaned and polished after they come out of the sand, and where the rough edges are ground off and imperfections rectified. Several men are employed at this.

Adjoining this department is a room fifty feet square in which more noise is generated than in all the factory beside. Here the well known Empire brand of barb wire is made. Five wire machines employing in their operation seven men turn out four tons of wire each day, or two and one-half car loads a week. The company is behind on its orders for wire and the machines are kept rattling away twelve and one-half hours a day. A partition separates the manufactory from the dipping and store room which is next to the railroad track. Frank Huffman is foreman. Passing from the presence of this bedlam the machine and blacksmith shop is entered. It is a room 40x100 feet in dimensions and the finer machines are operated here, in making the castings ready for the harrows, cultivators, windmills, ect. A partition separates these machines from the heavier ones, such as the trip hammer. A dozen skilled workmen are required in this department. In the wood working room, which is 40x80 feet, the timbers are sawed and planed and gotten in shape by seven men. Next to it is the "putting up" room, 40x20 feet, where eleven men under the direction of Frank Whitman get the manufactured products ready for shipment. On the extreme south is a stock room forty feet square. Ascending by a large steam elevator in this room to the second story, a second stock room of like dimensions is reached. Passing through a door the visitor enters the paint shop, 40x 100 feet, where the brilliant red and shining black coats are put on the implements by eight men under the direction of Frank Wooley. On the third floor is a storeroom 40x140 feet. Adjoining the buildings are capacious sheds where material is stored. To operate the machinery of the plant is required a Cummer Corliss engine of 125 horse power, steam for which is furnished by a battery of two sixty-five horse power boilers. A steam pump brings all the water needed about the factory from the canal.

The products of this factory are the "Daisy" wind mill and "Keokuk" force pump; "Empire" disc harrow; "Empire" seeder and harrow combined; "Empire" disc cultivator, a novel implement, and "Empire" barb wire. All are articles of superior excellence and are popular with all who have used them. The company is represented on the road by Mr. Swift, W. B. Price, whose territory is northern Iowa, and W. R.

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Hinds, who sells to the trade of Illinois. Last June the factory began operations; and in this business the busy season begins with the spring. The Rockford contingent have been engaged in business for eight years and Mr. Zeller affirmed that the first year's business in Keokuk was at least twenty-five per cent better than any previous year. He estimated that the year's output would aggregate $70,000.

Seven families were added to the city's population by the acquirement of this concern, and now fifty-eight men altogether are given employment. Mr. Chaplin, the superintendent, gives his personal supervision to many departments in addition to having general oversight of all. He is a courteous gentleman and experienced in his line. In the office, Mr. Zeller is assisted by E. F. Brownell, bookkeeper, and Miss Ross, assistant. The company's officers are men of experience, shrewd in business, courteous in their dealings and richly merit the prosperity that is evidently attending their enterprise.

Constitution-Democrat

AUGUST 20, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

Another of This City's Prominent Industries.

The Large Cooperage Concern of F. Hilpert & Son, An Important Factor In the Manufacturing Industry.

On the corner of the alley between Concert and High streets, on North Tenth street, is a long low building which bears the sign, "F. Hilpert & Son, Cooperage." The sign is a comparatively new one as is the firm itself, but the building which bears it and the industry of which it is the home, is a very old one. Indeed it is one of the oldest in the city, and for many years it has been identified with Keokuk's commercial history and is now a prosperous, growing institution, contributing much to the success and the commercial prestage of Keokuk.

The founder of this industry, Fred Hilpert, Sr., is now quite an old gentleman but he is still hearty and active, taking a very lively interest, not only in the business which has grown up so well under his watchful care and unceasing labor, but in the interests of the community as well. Mr. Hilpert was born in 1836 in Bavaria, Germany, and there he received his education. When he was nineteen years old it began to be the time when he must join the German army and spend six years according to the decree of the country. To this he strenuously objected and he tells a very amusing incident of how he became disgusted with such a life. His cousin, a very tall, straight, handsome fellow had joined the army and had been placed in a company of cavalry. One day he came home on his furlough and his long straight legs were bent into an ugly bow by excessive riding. When the young man saw this he decided to leave home.

Accordingly he slipped away and without a passport, came to America. Here he has lived ever since and as the result of hard and diligent labor has prospered in his chosen calling.

His first place of abode was Charleston, Io., and there he hired out as an apprentice to a cooper, from whom he learned the trade. He stayed there for two years and having mastered the business he started a small cooper shop of his own. In 1858 he was married here and decided to make Keokuk his home. His stock was moved down from Charleston into a part of the building which the factory now occupies and the enterprise in this city was fairly begun. During the thirty-eight years that this business has been established, it has seen many vicissitudes and has passed through several periods of "hard times." Its founder is a firm believer, however, in the principle of hard work and "keeping everlastingly at it" and these have made the enterprise a success.

Fred Hilpert, Jr., is, indeed, a "son of his father" and has grown up to learn the same trade, under his father's direction. Two years ago he was taken in as partner in the industry. He is now the manager of the plant and practically relieves the senior member of the firm of the greater part of the labor. He is a young man who has risen to his position of responsibility by force of merit alone and he deserves the trust that is placed in him.

Few people realize, perhaps, the importance of Keokuk as a cooperage center. From this western town is shipped out each year an enormous quantity of these useful packages, which are now so very essential to such a great number of shippers. This city is, in fact, the largest cooperage point on the Mississippi with the exception of St. Louis, and there is more cooperage capacity in Keokuk than in any other city along the river. For this reason an industry of this kind is of very much importance to the city. Even in Keokuk, there is an enormous demand for barrels. The flour mills ship their product in barrels and these are supplied by this factory. The pork, meat, and poultry packers, the butter and egg shippers, the canning and pickle factories use many of these barrels as well as tubs, tierces and kegs. So a very large and increasing demand is existant in Keokuk itself. Indeed, most of the product of this plant is sold in this city while much of it goes to the surrounding states and to many distant cities.

The product of this factory consists of tubs of different sizes, tierces and different sized barrels for packing and shipping pork, poultry, flour, apples and eggs. Some of these packages may be turned out at the rate of 500 or 600 each day and some not more than fifty or sixty a day. In 1895 however the plant turned out as many as 32,000 finished packages.

To one who visits this factory the various processes through which the raw materials are put to make them into the finished barrels cannot fail to be of interest. The stock from which the stout, pliable, wooden hoops are made comes from the surrounding country, principally from Lee county, Io., Hancock county, Ill., and Clark county, Mo. These hoops are made from the tall saplings or poles of oak, ash and hickory. The poles are split and shaved into the pliable hoops and tied into bundles of fifty. In the fall and winter when the farmers are not particularly busy with crops, they often put in the time very profitably in cutting up these poles. In this busy season some eighty or a hundred such workers are employed in making hoops to supply this plant.

The staves are made from oak, ash and elm, according to the uses to which the barrel which they form is to be put. These, as well as the heads, which are also made from the same woods, are bought in Arkansas and Tennessee. These are now bought already cut and sawed out into shape by accurate machinery.

The processes of this plant, however, are carried on almost altogether by hand. Mr. Hilpert is rather conservative about the introduction of too much machinery into barrel making processes. He believes it to be very efficient in the preparation of stock for the work but he thinks that the hand made barrels still hold prestage over those made entirely by machinery.

In forming the barrel the row of staves is set up around a circular base and joined together by driving on temporary hoops. This wooden cylinder is then placed over a blast furnace, having a chimney which runs up the center of the barrel and prevents the burning of the wood. The fire then blazes up and warms the wood so that it becomes pliable and more easily worked.

After being taken from the fire the incomplete barrel is placed in a loop of wire rope and a windlass draws it tight around the cylinder, forming it into the correct round shape and joining the edges of the staves tightly together. In this factory there are two large blast furnaces and three windlasses.

The groove in the ends of the barrel are then put in by hand, the operator using an instrument resembling a plane, with a rounded surface, which fits the inside. This groove is to hold the head in the barrel.

The heading process is the next step taken and by this the ends of the barrel are put in and secured by the groove. In former times the plant used to manufacture and join these heads by a laborious hand process, but this is one branch of the trade in which machinery has worked a much needed revolution and the heads are now bought ready made by machinery. They come with the

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staves from Arkansas and Tennessee.

The process which completes the barrel is the hooping. Of this part there are various kinds. Some barrels are hooped with iron and steel, some with ash and some with hickory. The wooden hoops are first thoroughly dried out and are then soaked in water for three or four days before they are put on the barrels, in order to make them pliable. They are then put through a rolling machine which bends them somewhat into shape and are shaved and trimmed to the proper width and thickness. They are also notched at the proper length and placed around the barrel, being hammered down tight with a hand mallet. These hoops, drawing the staves together, make the whole package a compact one and tighten the hold of the stave ends upon the heads. The flat iron and steel hoops are riveted and driven down tight.

The completed packages, after going through these simple processes, which nevertheless, require the utmost pains and care, are then hauled to a large warehouse for storage and subsequent shipment. This warehouse is on the corner of Eighth and Johnson streets, the building formerly occupied by the Gate City Carriage works. There the firm owns two buildings each 40 by 80 feet and there the barrels are stored. The location is so near the uptown switch and affords such ample facilities for shipping that the plant will undoubtedly be moved there next year. In its present quarters the industry is at a more or less of a disadvantage for lack of room. In the new quarters it is the intention of the firm to enlarge the plant and place its business upon a larger scale than ever before.

This factory runs for fifty-one weeks in the year, practically all the time, but its busiest season is from October until February. The list of those who give their time and labors to this factory is not without some interest. Some of them are men who have been connected with the concern for many years and have contributed largely to its success by their faithful service. Among the older workers, who have served the plant for twenty or thirty years are Chris Hilpert, Rob't McKee, Nicholas Schnyder, John Hellenthal, Sr., John Granier and Charles McKee. Carl Findies has been with the firm about fifteen years and John Bachman about half as long. Among the younger men are Charles Kispert, George Ackerman, James Given, Theodore Skailand, Henry Sieman and John Hellenthal, Jr.

Constitution-Democrat

AUGUST 27, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

How Boxes Are Made in Wm. Schweer's Factory.

An Industry, Established and Maintained By Keokuk Capital, Which Has Grown From a Small Beginning.

It is a notable and a significant fact that most of the important industries of Keokuk, those which influence her commercial standing and the investment of her capital, are those which have grown up from small beginnings. It is the exception rather than the rule, that foreign capital has come to this city and controlled the development of the enterprises and the resources of Keokuk. This very fact alone has no doubt added great strength and stability to these institutions.

Such a manufactory is the box factory of Wm. Schweer on South Fifth street, between Main and Johnson streets. This plant was started some twenty years ago and is now in operation at the same place in which the first boxes of this factory were manufactured. Its interests are much larger, however, than they were then and its output much greater. Methods of manufacture also differ widely. Then the boxes were made by more laborious hand processes, and although some machinery was employed it was not so quick or so effective as that in use now. The ingenious nailing machines were not invented and various other important improvements have been made since those days, when the enterprise was in its infancy.

This city itself is quite a box consumer. A market for many different kinds of packages exists here and owing to this demand the box factory has come to be a real necessity. The shoe factory packs its output into neat cartons before placing them on the market. The cigar factories, of which Keokuk has quite a large number, all require the wooden boxes in which it is customary to pack cigars. The chewing gum and hog ring factories use packages of different sizes and shapes. The wholesale millinery houses also find a use for various pasteboard boxes. Nearly all of these consumers are supplied by this manufactory and during the busy season, when the demand is heavy, the workers are kept quite busy in supplying it. About fifteen hands are then given employment and the three stories of the building, which contain the works of the plant are then a scene of busy activity. During the summer the factory is still in operation, but is running on short hands, as it is the dull season of the year. The soft wood, out of which the cigar boxes are made, is received on on the lower floor and comes in long bundles. The rough brown pasteboard is received in bundles of sheets. On this floor also are the nailing machines, the saws, planes and the printing press.

The edges of the long thin boards are first dressed with a plane and are then cut. First a keen swiftly revolving ripsaw cuts slices off a long strip, and then this is cut up into smaller pieces, the proper length for the sides of the box frame. The tops and bottoms are also cut out in the required length and width.

From these cutters the parts of the frame are set up and taken to a nailing machine. This is an ingenious contrivance for driving the wire brads into the box frame. The machine acts automatically, the nails being fed into it by means of a series of chutes. At a pressure of a foot lever two of the nails are dropped into position and are followed up by a hammer which drives them home. The whole operation is very swift and the machine is a great economizer of time and tedious labor.

Another machine, which drives four nails at a time, puts on the bottom of the box. Here also the printing of labels on the boxes is done.

The box frames are then sent up into the third story for trimming and lining. The edges are bound with paper strips and labels are pasted on, and also the wooden cover, secured with a strip of muslin, which acts as a hinge.

The second floor is occupied with the processes of manufacturing the pasteboard boxes. The sheets are cut into the required shapes with a special machine, adapted for that work. The box is cut out all in one piece and the cover also, so that the sides are but turned up and pasted with muslin strips to form the package. These boxes, as they are cut, are made of the rough brown pasteboard and must be neatly covered with white or colored paper, upon which are printed the labels and trade marks, denoting the nature of their contents.

These coverings for the outside of the box are passed through a gumming machine by an attendant and they are carried along to the deft fingered operators, who work at a long table, by means of an endless strip of canvas which is kept continually moving. The girls then take the gummed paper as it comes along and neatly and skillfully cover the box. The covers are treated in the same manner and the box is dried and packed for shipment.

Mr. Schweer is always willing to see visitors to look at the work of the factory, which is quite entertaining to one unfamiliar with the processes of box making. The factory is so arranged as to properly adapt itself to various forms of work, and other kinds of boxes may as easily be manufactured as those which it is turning out daily.

Keokuk Constitution.

AUGUST 23, 1883.

KEOKUK PICKLE COMPANY'S PLANT.

Constitution-Democrat

SEPTEMBER 25, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

How the Keokuk Pickle Company Manufactures Relishes.

An Important Keokuk Industry — The Peculiar and Intricate Processes— Pickles and Vinegar Made In This City.

Pickles are luxuries, and yet they are so common, and so cheap, and so delicious that they have become the poor man's luxuries. Everyone can afford pickles, and nearly everyone is fond of these spicy relishes. They add zest and variety to the humblest meal or the most gorgeous feast.

Perhaps it is not generally known but the active western town of Keokuk contributes a large share to the pickle supply of the world. This city has a large plant, operated by the Keokuk Pickle company, which has been in operation for some years past. With but a single exception this factory has facilities for turning out more pickles than any other establishment in the west and "Keokuk" pickles are already a well known brand all over this country.

The place where these delicacies are prepared for the market is situated on the corner of Johnson and First streets, conveniently near the railroad depots and the steamboat landings. The plant extends back one-half a block along Johnson street and one-half a block along First street, and is built of brick. Part of it is three stories high and the rest two stories high.

A list of the products of this place is a long and varied one. It includes, primarily, pure vinegar and pickles, sweet, sour, and mixed. Besides these, other table delicacies are prepared. They are dainty white onions, olives, chow chow, Chili sauce, mustards, pepper sauce, sauer kraut, girkins, Gate City table sauce and tomato catsup.

Of all these products the sweet pickle is the prime favorite. The demand for this delicious luxury is increasing every day and the Keokuk Pickle company is responsible for a large share of its popularity. This company makes a specialty of the manufacture of sweet pickles and devotes particular attention to making them as spicy and as palatable as possible. The result is that their product is in active competition with the output of other factories all over the country, and is holding its own wherever it goes. The sweet pickle deserves all the popularity which it enjoys, for nothing else can supply the relish it affords.

The factory has been happily situated at Keokuk. This city is in the midst of a rich and prosperous agricultural country, where cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, cauliflower and other vegetables suitable for pickling are easily grown in abundance. Some of the farmers raise nothing else but crops of these vegetables, depending upon this factory to use the result of their labors and take it off their hands.

The Keokuk factory is full of interest to one who visits its cellars and is initiated into the various processes of converting the vegetables into finished pickles. Sometimes it is one or two years after the entrance of the raw material into the factory, before this is reached. One may witness the various processes in much less time however.

The green cucumbers are brought to the factory in bushel boxes, by the producers, and are deposited upon a receiving platform in the rear. Here they are examined and bought. The operator takes the boxes to the edge of a great yawning tank. This he proceeds to fill with cucumbers and pure salt. He pours in, first a layer of one and then the other. This process contunues until the tank is completely filled with the mixture of salt and cucumbers. The tank will hold 1,000 bushels, and there are many of these tanks in the factory, the whole plant being able to accommodate 100,000 bushels at one time. Water is then run into the tanks until it comes to the top and covers the cucumbers, dissolving the salt to form a strong brine. In this the cucumbers are kept until they are thoroughly cured, or until they are wanted. Sometimes they remain in these tanks for one or two years.

The next operation is known as "processing" the pickle and is performed with great care. The cucumbers that have been cured in the tanks of brine are ladled out and put into a carrier. This is placed on an elevator which takes it to the basement. There the contents are poured into the "processing" tank. Here they are immersed in in cold water and up through them, from the bottom of the tank, a pipe blows steam from the boiler. This peculiar process, together with some other mysterious operations, forces the salt out of the pickles. When they are put into the tank, too, they are shrivelled and wilted, but they come out of the "processing" tank crisp and brittle. This operation of processing, as per performed in the Keokuk factory, is on peculiar to that institution, and impart to their product a superior quality of flavor. Only enough pickles are "processed" to keep up the shipping supply, since the fresher they are sent from the tank to the market, the better flavor they possess.

The sour pickles are completed after this operation and ready for packing. Some of them are sliced in halves and packed in bottles. Spices are introduced and vinegar poured over them. Others are packed whole into bottles, kegs, or barrels and covered with vinegar. For mixed pickles, the onions, beans, cauliflower, martynias, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, which have passed through the same operations as the cumcumbers, are cut up and all are packed together in vinegar and spices. The materials for the chow chow are cut up finer and thoroughly mixed. The packing room is one of especial interest and is a place of busy activity. All of the packing must be done by hand and gives employment to a large number of girls.

From the packing tables, the bottles are placed under a corking machine which rams in the stoppers firmly. These are covered with sealing wax and a burnished colored capsule of lead foil. The gay labels are here pasted on and the bottles given a bright, neat appearance. They are then packed in one half dozen, dozen and two dozen cases, and, as soon as the labels are dry, surrounded with saw dust. They are then ready for shipment and a chute or slide carries them from the packing room down into the shipping room.

After "processing" the sweet pickles undergo another operation. They are assorted as to size and then taken to a great kettle of pure aluminum. This contains a sweet syrup of fine spices and pure granulated sugar. This is heated and the pickles immersed long enough to thoroughly scald them. They are put through the same process of packing as the sour pickles.

The olives are imported in "pipes," of 150 gallons each and are repacked in smaller packages, covered with vinegar, and placed on the market. They, too, are of a high grade and possess a superior flavor.

One of the largest departments of the plant is the vinegar factory which might well be termed a separate industry. The factory uses much of this useful fluid in its operations and the company finds it an advantage to manufacture it for themselves.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28, 1926

Rye, ground malt and shelled corn are used as materials in its manufacture. The corn is placed in a metal boiler or steam cooker. The whole grains are there thoroughly cooked until they lose their shape and the whole becomes a jelly-like mass. Then it is removed to the mash tub where a moving rake keeps it stirred up. There it cools and the yeast and the malt and rye are introduced. The mass then goes to the fermenting tubs.

When the process of fermentation is complete the mass goes to the sink and from there is pumped by steam into the top of a long still. This has thirteen chambers, each with a perforated bottom. The "wort," as it is called, trickles through these chambers and is met by the hot steam which is forced up through the bottom of the still. The vapor arises and is carried by a large tube from the still into a condenser, where it cools and becomes what is known as the "low wines," or weak alcohol. These low wines, if rectified, become whisky. By another process, however, they are made into vinegar. For this purpose they go to tank below the condenser. From this receptacle a steam pump forces the fluid up to the third story of the building into what are known as the "stock" tanks. There the supply of "low wines" is kept until they are needed in the vinegar factory proper.

This is a large room filled with tall narrow tanks or generators. Above each row of tanks runs a long line of wooden tubes from the stock tanks. These tubes contain a faucet over each of the generators, so that they may be supplied with "stock" or "low wines" from the tanks. The generators contain wood shavings and when the stock is run in at the top, it percolates through these. There it undergoes a peculiar chemical process called oxidation and comes out pure vinegar at the little faucet below the generator. From these the vinegar is slowly but constantly trickling. It flows through wooden tubes into receiving tanks on a lower floor. From these receptacles it is pumped to all parts of the factory, as it is needed.

All the water used in this factory is supplied by an artesian well, whose supply seems unexhaustible. It gushes forth from a large pipe continually and the flow never diminishes or increases. It is purer than the river water and is admirably suited for all the purposes of the plant.

Besides the factory in Keokuk, the same company operates a plant in Alexandria, Mo. The products of these two plants are shipped to all corners of the continent.

Sketches of Some Keokuk Industries

THE PURITY OATS CO.

In April, 1909, C. M. and A. H. Rich took over the old American Rice and Cereal Company's plant, which had been idle for almost two years, organized the Purity Oats Company, proceeded at once to renovate, remodel and add new buildings, with the one idea of concentrating on the manufacture of a quality rolled oat.

From the beginning the venture was a success as is indicated by the growth of the business of the Keokuk plant from a little more than $100,000 the first season to more than $3,000,000 per annum within five years.

By 1912 the business of the Purity Oats Company had grown to such proportions that another and larger plant was a necessity so the management and board of directors unanimously agreed to accept the proposition made by the Chamber of Commerce, and erect a plant in Davenport with more than double the capacity of the Keokuk mill.

Regardless of the newer and greater plant and interests in Davenport, neither C. M. nor A. H. Rich left Keokuk, contending that affairs in connection with the northern mill could be conducted through a resident manager, directed by the parent office in Keokuk.

The growth of the business continued on a rapid, substantial and profitable basis, soon reaching an annual output that easily placed the Purity Oats Company as the second largest industry of its kind in the world.

The Purity Oats Company developed and perfected and continues to be the sole owner of a process of manufacture which completely sterilizes its product and permits it to guarantee the keeping quality of Purity Oats anywhere, and for any time.

It was first to feature its product in the round fibre tube, and though at the outset every competitor ridiculed this innovation, each in turn fell into line until today the Purity package is universally used for Rolled Oats.

It was first to guarantee the consumer that the package purchased must reach him in perfect condition or his money would be refunded. No dealer or consumer has ever lost on a package of Purity Oats, except where he failed to report or return it.

Purity was first to experiment on and finally perfect a process of manufacture that produced Oats that would cook quickly and perfectly in less than five minutes.

It has been stated and never contradicted, that the men in charge of the Purity Oats Company, have introduced every new idea, from manufacture to merchandising in the rolled oats industry—that has been brought out and succeeded during the past seventeen years.

Finally the idea was conceived of placing a very attractive glass jar, identical in size and shape of the regular fibre tube, featuring the product most adventageously. The slogan that was adopted to go with this is, "It Takes Courage to Live in a Glass House." Any imperfection in milling or the presence of foreign grain, or "by-products," which have no place in human food, would show up in this glass jar. No competitor has seen fit to follow suit, or a willingness to permit the consumer to see and know just what is being purchased.

Probably no one industry has advertised Keokuk as widely as Purity Oats. It has been distributed in every state and almost every county in this country. It has been good advertising, because year in and year out, good crops or bad, the quality of Purity Oats has been uniformly maintained. On the Pacific Coast, or in the New England states, in Florida or Texas or the North, it is equally popular and continues to repeat in sales because it gives satisfaction.

From the day it began business, the Purity Oats Company has followed one fixed policy in its merchandising, selling only to the Service Wholesale Grocer who in turn derives his support from the independent retail merchant. This complete principle of protection is appreciated by every thinking citizen who wants to see his own community and his home merchant grow.

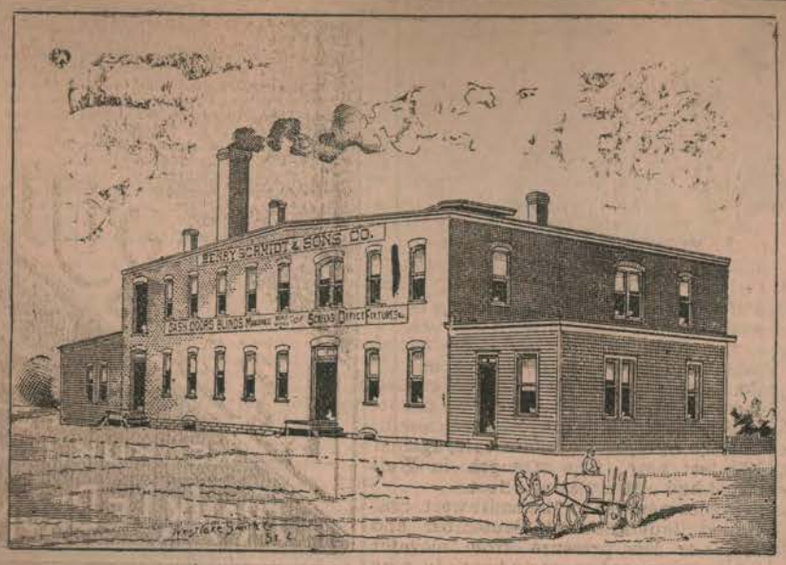
The pay roll of the Purity Oats Company is a large one and contributes greatly to the prosperity of Keokuk.

The management now is the same as it was when the Company was organized, but a number of new and energetic young men head the various departments—all experts in their lines.

During the past two years the plant capacity has been materially increased, new equipment has been added so that today the Purity Oats Company is producing a finer quality of both Instant and Regular Flakes than ever before.

The business of the Company is steadily growing and the outlook is as a whole satisfactory.

The Gate City



HENRY SCHMIDT & SONS CO. PLANT

Constitution-Democrat

AUGUST 13, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

Interesting Account of One of the City's Industries.

How the Wood Working Establishment of Henry Schmidt & Sons Co., Grew From a Small Beginning to Big Proportions.

As "tall oaks from little acorns grow" so has the woodworking mill of the Henry Schmidt & Sons company sprung up in Keokuk, from a comparatively small beginning, and become one of the most prosperous and thriving of all the city's industrial establishments and one which promises to become one of the largest as well.

It is now over thirty years ago that Henry Schmidt, a carpenter and builder, started a shop on the corner of Eleventh and Johnson streets. Mr. Schmidt was an efficient and skillful workman, paid strict attention to the exacting details of his trade, and these qualities put into his work, began to tell in very substantial results. His business began to grow and prosper and he began to take in a higher grade of work. Fine cabinet making, requiring workmanship of a higher order than at first attempted, began to become an output this establishment.

In 1878 a firm was formed, Mr. Schmidt taking in with him one of his sons, who had learned the trade under his father. Then the establishment also took another onward step and put in a system of hand machinery which facilitated the work to a vast degree and greatly increased the output of the shop.

In 1882 it was necessary to enlarge the capacity of this industry, which had long since passed out of its infancy and was now a strong, lusty institution, still growing. A two-story building was accordingly put up on the corner of the alley between Main and Johnson streets on Eleventh, and this became, in connection with the old building, the home of the enterprise.

The business still grew however, and another step soon became necessary. The old hand machinery was fast becoming inefficient to supply all the power used in the plant. Steam was necessary to operate the machinery and in 1886 an engine was bought, boilers set up and the machinery was puffed lightly into motion instead of being ground laboriously as before.

But still the business grew and even the two buildings would not contain it comfortably. The firm was pushing their product steadily into favor and more room was needed. In 1884 the company, as it now exists, was formed and incorporated under the state laws. Henry Schmidt, the founder of the business, is the president of the company; John Heineman, vice-president; C. O. Schmidt, secretary and treasurer; and Ed. Noelcke, director. In addition to this step a new building was erected diagonally across from the first building on the corner of Eleventh and Johnson streets. This building contains two stories and a basement and is 50 by 80 feet in size, besides a boiler and engine room in the rear, which is 20 by 40 feet, and the office of the company in front. This building stands as a monument to the thrift and industry of this company and is completely fitted up with modern machinery for making doors, sashes, blinds, screens and interior finishings for dwelling houses and stores.

The company takes especial pride, however, in their beautiful work on interior fixtures. Fine bars, beautiful confectioners' and cigar stands, soda water fountain woodwork, besides elegant bank, office and drug store fixtures are their specialities and their success in the making of these magnificent pieces of cabinet work is certainly very decided. These fixtures are made in such woods as cherry, curly birch, oak and mahogany, oak being the most popular. One whole story in the large building is devoted exclusively to this department of the mill's work.

Beginning at the top story, where the finest work of the plant is done, a visitor will find much to interest and instruct in this busy place. On this floor is done the beautiful hand carving, which adorns much of the fine fixtures. The reporter, in his visit to the mill, was shown an elegant bar, which, with the pillared canopy which is to cover it, was in course of construction. It was being made for a Peoria firm. On this floor is a new polishing or sand-papering machine, which smoothes off the nicer woods much finer than any plane can do, all ready for the hard oil finish and the rubbings. It has every modern improvement and was put in this spring.

Another important department on this floor is the steam dry kiln. Here every piece of lumber used in the work is thoroughly dried out by a steam heating apparatus, so as to remove every bit of the warping moisture, which would ruin the finished work. The steam pipes also run around each room in the factory and heat it admirably in the winter.

One descends to the lower floor by means of a steam elevator. The floor on either side of this hoisting apparatus is so arranged that it may be taken up and allow for the raising and lowering of very long fixtures, up to fully sixteen feet in length.

On the first story one encounters an almost bewildering array of swift moving machinery. Here is done all the cutting of the plant as well as the making of doors, sashes, blinds and screens. Here are to be seen, running at full speed, planers, moulders, joiners, rip and jig and cut off saws, and lathes each being employed for some different part in the process of making these useful parts in the construction of buildings. Here also is a sand papering machine constructed on a much smaller scale than the one up stairs and for use on soft wood.

All the shavings and dust are piped to the engine room by a series of chutes and fans which send a blast of air through the tubes and drive the chips before it. These are not allowed to go to waste, by any means, for they are altogether too valuable, and are used for fuel. The fire under the boiler is made with these and this seeming waste is a continual and economical fuel supply. A visit to the engine room itself is not without interest. This important factor is fitted up with a powerful engine, of sixty horse power, manufactured by a Keokuk firm, Kollmyer and Talbott. The boiler has a larger capacity, about eighty horse power, as it supplies the steam dry kiln and the steam heaters, as well as the engine. The basement of the main building is a net-work of belts and shafts and wheels, which distribute the power.

The old building formerly used by Henry Schmidt as a carpenter shop is still in use. Downstairs a part of the finishing of the fine fixtures and cabinet work is done. The hard wood work is treated, first with one coat of filler and then with three coats of hard oil, with a vigorous rubbing down between each coat and a finishing polish at the end. Some of this polishing and finishing is also done in the second story of the other old building of the company. It is found to be a great advantage to perform these operations outside the main factory in order to escape the flying dust which would ruin the polish. This second building also contains the glazing shop. Here the sashes and doors are fitted with the glass to complete them. The screens are also here covered with the wire netting and this and the frames are painted.

Besides dealing in these finished articles this firm has built up a prosperous retail lumber trade as well. For the proper preservation of their stock two sheds are erected and shelter the boards from the rain and sun. The cheaper grades are piled upon a level spot near the mill. The largest shed is 50 by 70 feet and contains a very complete stock of dimension lumber, siding, timbers, flooring, lath and shingles.

Such institutions as this factory make one very confident of the success of Keokuk's enterprise and her influence as a commercial center. Built upon a solid foundation and raised up slowly but surely from a small beginning, the strength and potency of an institution of this kind is a great factor in the city's commercial standing. It gives promise of even much greater things in the future.

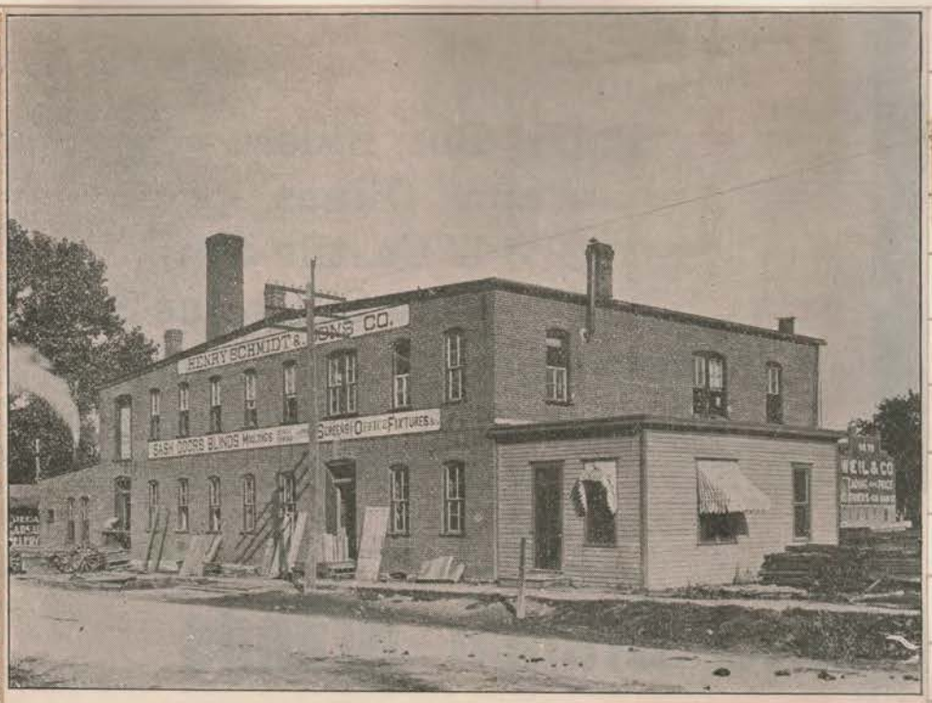
A list of the regular employes of the factory is given herewith. Most of these men are skilled workers who are each experts in the particular part of the work which he has to perform. They are all industrious and faithful men and contribute in a large measure to the success of the enterprise. Hard work is the motto of the establishment and that is the chief secret as well, of its substancial success. Those who are on the company's books as employes are Henry Miller, engineer; John Nelson, Charles Frank, John Lefever, Edward Naidlan, Chas. Adams, Al. Lowenstein, machine hands, William Martin, George Hixon, Benjamin Peterson, George Engler, Martin Moldruf, Fred Stubinger and August Ulrich, bench men; William Henry, glazier; Emil Kapp, finisher and Harry Ulrich, assistant finisher; Ray Cassall, deliverer; Axel Swanson, screen fitter.

Constitution-Democrat.

JANUARY 19, 1904.

A BUSY FACTORY.

IS THE WEBER-KIRCH COMPANY'S NEW PLANT.



HENRY SCHMIDT & SONS COMPANY, OFFICE AND BANK FURNITURE.

From a Small Start, This Factory Has Grown and is Destined to Be a Large Concern.

From a small start in March, 1901, when one man and a boy were making flue stops, the Weber-Kirch company, has grown until today the busy factory employs ten men, is trying to get more, and is six weeks behind on curry comb orders.

Few people in Keokuk know of this busy factory which has just removed into the buildings Nos. 517 and 519 Johnson street, a double three story brick with basement. The company also uses the two upper stories of No. 521 Johnson and are crowded now for space.

The firm is composed of Carl A. Weber who has left the A. Weber company after twenty-five years and C. J. Kirch who for fifteen years conducted a hardware and stove store in Kahoka, and whose patented articles are being made by the company. Mr. Weber attends to the office, while Mr. Kirch looks after the factory.

Besides the two proprietors, there are ten men at work today and more men are being sought for as the plant is working day and night in an effort to catch up with back orders. The factory expects to increase considerably during the coming year, adding new lines and the future predicts a large factory for this concern.

The basement of the factory is used for storage of boxes. On the first floor is the office and machine shop which is equipped with several power presses, drills, stampers and other machinery which is run by motor. A rattler is one interesting piece of machinery in the shop and a drill and emery wheel are in operation.

On the second floor is the tin shop and drip room for coloring the finished articles while the third floor is used as a paint shop and storage room for stock.

The line manufactured by the company consists of flue stops, flue thimbles, stove pipe collars, curry combs, cream separators, wash boilers, coffee pots and other tinware and the goods are sold mostly to jobbers, including the hardware houses from Ohio to the Pacific coast, through hardware manufacturers agents. A bill of goods was shipped this week to Tacoma and orders are being shipped out every day to various points throughout the central, western and southern states. Recently, a shipment of separators was sent to Constantinople, Turkey.

The company manufactures seven kind of cream separators including the Kirch and the Weber, each style coming in four or five sizes each, a patented flue thimble for either 6 or 7 inch stove pipes which can be sent out nested, three styles of the Kirch flue stop which fits any flue and is a great improvement over the old styles, and several kinds of curry combs, including the Kirch Korn Kob Kurry Komb which comes in two styles and the Imperial Curry Comb.

The factory cannot fill all of their curry comb orders for the reason that their appliance is something new and better than the old styles. They manufacture a comb for the mane and for the leg of the horse, one with a rubber scraper and one which is called the humane comb. These combs are inventions of Mr. Kirch and are meeting with a tremendous sale throughout the country.

The Weber-Kirch factory is growing rapidly and will some day be one of Keokuk's largest manufacturies. It is prosperous at present and growing at a rapid rate with brilliant prospects ahead. END

Constitution-Democrat

OCTOBER 2, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

One of the City's Oldest And Biggest Industries.

Hambleton Milling Co.'s Big Plant And How Its Products Are Manufactured—Output Goes All Over the World.

The city of Keokuk is situated in the midst of a prosperous and thriving agricultural territory. The fields and farming land of three states, Iowa, Missouri and Illinoie, are within easy access and their products can readily be transported here, both for shipment elsewhere and for convestion into various other marketable commodities. As a manufacturing city and as a distributor Keokuk possesses superior facilities and many of her most thriving industries are directly dependent upon the yield of the fertile lands which surround her.

For this reason, a flour mill has always thrived ever since the city was young. One of the oldest of all her industries is the plant now owned and operated by the Hambleton Milling company. But although it is old, its machinery is of the very latest improved pattern and its products, for superior excellence, are unsurpassed by any in the world.

The mill is operated in the ancient but substantial stone building on Water street between Main and Johnson streets. There the buzz and hum of the cogs and wheels never ceases for they run day and night. The mill is started on Monday morning and runs steadily and unceasingly through the week, grinding out the flakey flour and meal for the feeding of the multitudes. A double force is employed for day and night work. A peep into the mill is a revelation of wondrous ingenuity and a journey through its intricacies is well worth the time expended.

The processes of turning out the golden grain into snow-white flour are begun up in the fourth story of the building. It rests against the bluff and up to the back door the producers haul the grain, wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat and other cereals. They are weighed out carefully and bought at the market prices. From the door they are dumped into various stock bins for future use. The wheat is poured down a grating near the door into the bin below.

The first operation in the manufacture of wheat flour is the cleaning or separating processes. One is struck, all through the various operations, with this especial care exercised in order to make the flour perfectly pure. Special machinery is employed which works seeming wonders in this regard. Wheat which appears perfectly clean to the uninitiated, will be cleansed of dirt and impurity that no one would have supposed existed. The first machine is a Barnard and Lee separator, which removes the straws and coarse dirt from the wheat as it pours through. A system of elevators and conveyors then conducts the grain to the second machine. This is a Barnard and Lee "smut" machine. It takes out the smut and fine cheet which escapes the separator. A strong blast of air is forced through the grain and carries off unseen dust and impurity in abundance by an instrument known as the Cyclone dust collector. A Cranson scouring machine continues the cleansing process and the Richmond-Cass brush machine completes it. The latter consists of a stiff conical brush, which revolves rapidly in a perforated iron casing. The wheat falls into the latter and each grain receives a brisk rub and polish. Were they precious stones they could hardly receive more careful and rigorous cleansing. These polished grains then descend into the stock hopper and are ready for the rollers.

The roller process, as employed in all up-to-date mills, differs materially from old milling operations. Up to the present quarter century, flour was made by processes which were mere modifications of the old hand mill of the aborigines, consisting of an upper and a nether mill stone, one of which revolved against the face of the other. By the new process, as may be seen in the Keokuk mill, the grain pours down from the stock bins, between a series of corrugated steel rollers, which crush and grind the grain. Before passing into this series, the wheat passes through the steamer above. A blast of hot steam is forced up through the grain and tempers it for the grinding process. These rolling machines are called double stand break rolls and this mill has eight of them, which run incessantly, day and night.

An elevator carries the crushed grain to the upper story and into the "scalper." This separates the bran, or outside shell of the wheat, from the "middlings," which contain the germ of the grain and the flour. They are fed in at the top and pass over a wire shaking screen in constant motion. The larger bran passes over the meshes while the finer "middlings" or "break stock," falls through into the bottom. The bran goes to the dusting cloth, and is cleaned of all impurities. Then it passes into a Richmond duster, which completes the purifying process, removing all the flour from it and releasing it, clean and ready for use. It descends into the bins and is packed in coarse sacks for shipment.

The "break stock," now relieved of the bran, goes through thorough bolting or sifting processes, which are repeated over and over again, until the flour, pure and white and clean, is entirely free from husk or germ or grit. To this end it is placed in the separation reels. These are nothing more than long cylindrical frames, covered with a fine "grit gauze." In these the struck is poured and the reels revolve. The texture of the gauze varies in fineness, however, along the length of the cylinder and the finer flour is sifted out near the top while the coarser particles pass on to where the gauze is coarse enough for them to sift through.

The sifted flour goes down into the bins below, but there is more good yet to be obtained, from the middlings or coarser siftings for the patent flour, the finest product of the mill, is made from them. They are carried in spouts to the purifiers. Here they are cleansed by a blast of air, which removes all the fine dust. From the purifiers they pass once more through a series of rollers known as the "smooth rolls." Then more separating reels sift and bolt and resift the stock until the flour is completely pure. Whatever is left is the grit or germ of the grain and is called "ship stuff." It is not wasted, by any means, as it is valuable for feed.

The "patent" flour from these last boltings is the pride of the mill and of Keokuk. The finest is branded "Ambrosia" and the next grade, with but a shade of difference, is the "Perfect." "Ambrosia" flour commands a premium of 1 shilling, 3 pence to 1 shilling, 6 pence over all other brands on the European market. It is shipped, not only throughout America but all over the world.

The process of packing into sacks and barrels is interesting in itself. The white flour descends from a bin into an automatic packer. A broad cylinder extends to the bottom of the sack or barrel and a revolving screw deposits it firmly into the interior of the receptacle, pressing it down hard. The sack descends, as it fills and when the top is reached, the feeding screw stops automatically. The sack is then sewed up or the head put in the barrel, and it is ready to go to the ends of the earth.

Besides wheat flour, its principal product, the mill also turns out rye and buck-wheat flour and corn meal, which are ground out by the old fashioned "burr" processes. A special set of machinery also manufactures hominy from the grains of corn. The company also deals extensively in grains of all kinds. Wheat stations are established at various points along the K. & W, Rock Island and C., B. & Q. railroads. In connection with eastern firms they cribbed over 1,000,000 bushels of corn last fall at different places.

The power of their plant is supplied by a Cooper Corliss engine of 140 horse power, supplied with steam by two large boilers of greater capacity.

The mill has an interesting history and could its walls speak they might tell many a tale. The founders of its business were Messrs. Death & Death, whose mill was near the present site, on the corner of Johnson and Water streets. Billings & Davis, of which firm C. F. Davis, Sr., was a partner, next controlled the business and they sold out to Albert, Howard & Co. B. F. Hambleton & Co. were their successors and continued in business until 1884. The present mill

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was built before the war, in 1853, and still stands a substantial old structure. In 1884, its interior was completely remodelled and fitted up with the latest roller process machinery. The company was also reorganized and became a corporation, with its officers as follows: B. F. Hambleton, president; H. C. Huiskamp, vice president; C. H. Leas, secretary and treasurer.

The force of workers includes D. A. Manson and H. Beltz, millers; Robert Logan and Ed. C. Wells, engineers; William Holt, Fred Brilon, William Gahalan, William Metzinger, Jno Westerfield and D. Beltz. The office force is composed of Miss Elizabeth Timlin, stenographer, Chas. H. Leas secretary and treasurer, Arthur Hambleton and R. A. Whitley.

The Gate City.
JULY 24, 1890.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

WORLD'S GREATEST.

Such Will be the Starch Works of the J. C. Hubinger Company.

Prospects of Another Mammoth Manufactory For Keokuk. Prepared to Fight the Syndicate, Backed by Two Millions.

J. C. Hubinger has returned from Chicago, where he went to close a deal with prominent capitalists of that city, whereby the interests of his brothers, M. W. and J. E. Hubinger, in the starch business, were disposed of to Chicago parties and in turn transferred to the J. C. Hubinger company. Mr. Hubinger was seen by a GATE CITY seporter, yesterday, and he said his brothers had received the magnificent sum of a half million dollars for their interests. Saturday, articles incorporating the J. C. Hubinger company with a capital stock of one million dollars, were filed with the county recorder at this place. The new company will engage in the manufacture of starch; the furnishing of electricity for light and power purposes and such other lines of business as the stockholders may direct. All the property of Electric and Wax Starch companies in this city and at New Haven, Conn., the property of the Keokuk Electric Light and Power company—in fact all of Mr. Hubinger's interests are consolidated with the new company.

Some months ago a syndicate secured control of the starch manufactories in the United States. They attempted to gain control of the Hubingers' plants but were unsuccessful. The Hubingers never have engaged in the manufacture of crude starch, but purchased the crude article and put it through a secret process which transformed it into one of the best products on the market. Since the syndicate gained control of the starch manufactories of the country, the price of the crude material has been advanced. But the J. C. Hubinger company is now in position to fight the trust, being backed by about $2,000,000 of capital. If the trust does not choose to sell the crude starch at a reasonable price, the new company proposes to erect the largest starch factory in the world at this place, and make their own goods. In case the factory is established it will give employment to from 500 to 1,000 operatives. There will also be a number of side factories, among them a box factory, giving employment to a hundred or more persons. In addition to these enterprises, a large market for corn will be created, as from 10,000 to 30,000 bushels will be used each week by the starch works.

Mr. Hubinger has been appointed sole manager of the new company, a confidence worthily bestowed by his associates. Last year the Electric and Wax Starch companies declared a dividend of over fifteen per cent, a remarkably profitable return upon the large capital invested. Mr. Hubinger said, yesterday, that he would guarantee a return of eight per cent upon stock in the new company. If past successes are any criterion, he is perfectly safe in making such a guarantee.

"I am for Keokuk, now and always," said Mr. Hubinger. "I intend that Keokuk shall enjoy my prosperity with me so long as the city treats me right. I shall spend a great deal of my money here, as the public knows I have done in the past. If we don't succeed in making satisfactory arrangements with the trust, we will commence work on the big starch works in Keokuk, next spring. If we build the works, they will be the largest in the world."

"How about the natatorium?" enquired the reporter.

"I shall commence work on the foundation for it, next fall," replied Mr. Hubinger. "I will also soon resume operations upon my new business block on Tenth and Main streets."

Mr. Hubinger has great faith in Keokuk, as he has evidenced time and again. If the city had a dozen such enterprising gentlemen who had means and were willing to spend a portion of it for the benefit of the city, Keokuk would make phenomenal progress. As it is, she is going along at a steady gait making gratifying gains each year, and maintaining her place among the most thriving cities of the west.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.
JULY 18. 1889
Entered in Keokuk postoffice as 2d class matter.

The Powder Plant Site.

The following lines were suggested to Willie Funkhouser on a recent visit to the powder plant site:

Embraced by two irregular hills,
With robes of nature's choicest frock,
A wooded valley lay. Small rills
That trickle down ravines not rock,
Converging, form a brook meandering,
By grassy banks, o'er pebbles wandering.

A careless child, I often with
Untiring fee', unsated eyes,—
Wild nature and myself akith,—
Many hills where interjacent lies
The valley, strayed; 'till fields abounding
In flowers, I left; tare-f ot went sounding.

The brook, where pliant grasses grow;
Their bending stems, sand burried heads
Sugge t a r. cent overflow
In consequence new quick-sand beds,—
Or threw myself beside it panting,
When sun-born rays became more slanting.

Through penetrable roof-trees dark,
A star peeps down before her time,
An oracle imparting. Hark!
The Great Creator mine and thine!
In that unfrequent vale umbrageous'
Dreams, dreams alone my soul engages.

A counter scene now vivifies,
That valley once so dark and green;
In what was once my paradise,
Artisans' hands at work have been.
The sun pours down, with mighty power,
Where nature's rob'd of her choicest dower.

Unsightly yellow railroad cuts,
Seething in smoke and summer heat,
Once daisied, violet-covered juts,
Now mar; and heavy iron feet,
Amidst the sledge's and hammer's ringing,
Make resonance not wild bird's singing.

And willful waters once passed on,
Unrestrained from base or brow,
With smiles or frowns, with vim, in fun;
Hydraulic power controls it now.
No oracles their truth's inferring,
His name "in vain," instead occurring.

My eyes get dim with rising tears,
As on the valley I look down
Prostrate I fall,—alas those years
Have evanesced like dreams my own.
Those trees and flowers return no never!
Oh, childhood! thou art gone forever!

Constitution-Democrat

SEPTEMBER 3, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

Furniture Factory of the Akerson Ringstrom Co.

Keokuk Industry Begun in a Small Way With Keokuk Capital Now a Large Industry and a Great Success

If one feels depressed over the dullness which sometimes seems to reign in the business world and especially among manufacturing enterprises, he should step into the furniture factory of the Akerson-Ringstrom company, on the corner of Eighth and Johnson streets on a working day and see what an amount of business they are doing every day and what a busy hum of industry they keep up continually.

This factory was started and is now controlled by Keokuk capital and Keokuk men, young men too, who learned rudiments of their trade in this city and are now repaying Keokuk with all of the many advantages of an active factory established here.

This factory is a busy one all the year around. It runs continually and there are no "lay offs" or "short hours." Every working day in the year finds the full list of employes at their work and they labor ten hours each day. The management laughingly tell of an attempt to cut down the working hours of the factory. In the first year of its establishment, a nine hour day was tried for three days and the work was soon far behind, so a return to the full time was necessary. Since then the factory has run ten hours every day.

The company who control this enterprise was incorporated in 1892 and consists of Peter Akerson, Harvey Ringstrom and E. C. Peterson. The factory was started two years ago, in a small building in the alley between Eighth and Ninth streets and Main and Blondeau streets. There the first two members of the company worked hard for three years and under their management the business grew and prospered until new and larger quarters were necessary. Then they incorporated, four years ago, and erected a factory of their own, on its present location. It is 40 by 80 feet in size, with a separate boiler and room and adjoining sheds for the storage of lumber. This building is fitted up with a complete arrangement of improved wood working machinery.

The output of the factory consists of all kinds of furniture, especially that of a higher grade of workmanship. Their chief pride however, is in their store and office fittings. In this work, including bars, soda fountains, wood work, office, bank and store fixtures, there are many examples of their skill and care in the business houses of this city. Most of these fittings are now made of oak, that being the most popular wood at present, but they are also manufactured from almost any other wood desired.

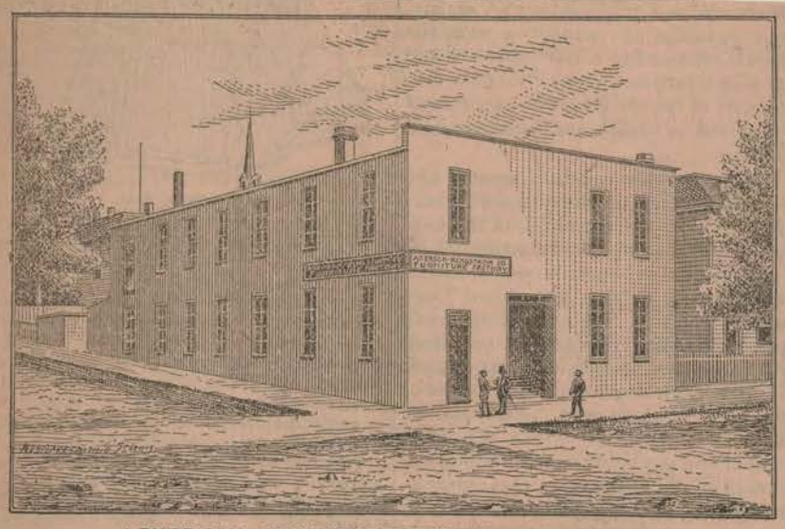
The first floor of the factory contains the engines and the many wood working machines, each of which has its particular function to perform. The engine has a capacity of fifteen horse power and the boiler twenty horse power. The boiler not only supplies the steam to the engine, but heats the factory with steam as well and heats the glue pots, so that no dangerous fire is required about the shop, but it is all confined to the boiler room adjoining. The fires under the boiler are fed with the shavings and waste chips of the shop, which are carried to them by a series of fans and chutes, thus economizing in fuel.

There are sixteen different machines, besides the grinders. They include rip, cross cut and band saws, shaper, joiner, borer, groover, sand paperer, tenant machine, mortice machine, moulding machine, lathe planer and a carving machine. On this lower floor the parts of the furniture are dressed, cut into shape and fitted together into the desired article. This department employs a number of skilled hands for the work on this fine furniture requires great care and skill.

Up stairs is a department for finishing and polishing. All of the wood first has its surface filled with what is known as a paste filler. Then it receives a coat of shellac and two coats of rubbing varnish. After these applications it is rubbed and then polished so that it has a very smooth, even gloss.

In the yard adjoining the factory the lumber and other materials are kept and the company contemplate the building, at an early date, of a stone wall in the back to support a roomy shed, where these can be better accommodated.

Every year this enterprise has been growing and a better grade of work has been turned out as well as a greater amount of it. The managers are hard workers themselves and personally supervise the labors of the employes, so that all the work has the benefit of personal supervision and it certainly profits thereby.



ACKERSON-RINGSTROM FURNITURE FACTORY.

Constitution-Democrat

SEPTEMBER 10, 1896.

WHAT KEOKUK HAS.

The Cigar Making Industry of the Gate City.

Twenty Factories Turn Out Different Brands of Cigars in This City—How the Fragrant Smokers Are Made.

Few people, perhaps, realize the extent of the cigar manufacturing industry in this city, and the power which it exerts. The business of making cigars is carried on in a very quiet way and does not involve a noisy plant with humming machines and puffing engine, and yet it is none the less an important factor in Keokuk's business.

There are twenty factories which manufacture cigars in this city. They are not immense plants, but they each turn out a very fair number of these articles of masculine consolation each day and their aggregate output is quite considerable.

This cigar manufacturing business also fosters another very important industry in Keokuk. All of these cigars are packed in neat wooden boxes for proper preservation as well as for shipping and convenient handling. Nearly all of the cigar boxes used by the manufacturers of this city are made in the box factory in Keokuk, so other lines of business are greatly benefitted by this industry.

The cigars made by home workmen and in home factories possess also another advantage over those that are of foreign make. Every cigar manufacturer in Keokuk is a member of the

Cigar Maker's International Union of America. This is an organization of first-class, high grade cigar makers and, to quote its label, it is "an organization opposed to inferior rat-shop, coolie, prison or filthy tenement house workmanship." This union, organized and controlled as most labor unions are, is doing a great work in this line of effort. It excludes from its ranks all inferior and low grade work and its members employ only the very best of skilled labor. The cigars show a material improvement. Not only is the work upon them performed with greater skill, but the materials are cleaner and purer. The cigar manufacturers of this city insist that only union makers shall be employed in their factories and this rule is rigidly enforced, thus insuring the Keokuk cigars against the dangers of cheap labor.

Many different brands are made in this city and are sold in Keokuk. Not only are the dealers content with the home market; but they are pushing their lines into other places. Many Keokuk cigars have become staple brands in other places and are meeting with a good reception and ready sales.

The manufacture of the cigars is in itself an interesting process and well worth a visit to one of the factories to witness. The tobacco leaves come into the factory in cases, just as they are taken from the plantation. The leaves of the plant have been stripped off and hung up in a long wareroom to dry. They are hung up in bundles tied together with a tobacco stem and there they hang and cure for several years before they are ready for the market. These bundles of dried, cured leaves are what the factory receive as raw material.

This must be prepared with much care before it is ready then to be made into cigars. It is first dipped in water to make it tender and soft. Then an operator takes the bundle of leaves, separates them and spreads them out. Then with deft fingers he removes the tough woody stem which runs through the center of the leaf. The tobacco is carefully inspected and examined to see that all of the sticks and stems are carefully removed as they injure the flavor of the cigar. The leaves are then separated, smoothed out and placed on a rack to dry.

The filler or the inside core of the cigar, is made of Havanna leaf. This is a brittle leaf and is unsuited for any other purpose except as filler. On the other hand no good cigar can be made without this Havanna leaf for a filler. It is not tough or strong enough for any other purpose. The operator takes a small bunch of the leaf and cuts it off at the required length. Around this bundle he wraps two leaves of a tougher, stronger tobacco, and this wrapper is known as the binder. This holds the cigar into shape and greatly strengthens it.

Around the whole of this little bundle of leaves is wrapped a long strip of very fine tobacco, known as the Sumatra wrapper. This is the outside dress of the cigar and must be put on with great care and nicety. On the cheaper kinds of cigars the shape is formed in a wooden mould, but in the better grades they are formed by hand. The pointed end is nicely rounded off and the end of the leaf is secured with a tiny application of pure gum tragacanth. The larger end is cut off square and the cigars are then ready to be packed into boxes.

The cigar dealers of this city who manufacture these articles of comfort and luxury are:

Joseph Moeller, Stephen Seibert, Fred Koechling, Wm. Reimbold, Jno. Leezer, Ward Bros, Jno. Sheehan, Jno. Eisenhuth, C. H. Sample & Co., J. W. Brinkman, Bonham & Haubert, Ed Pflug, Walter Powers, Albert Hall, Geo. Kraft, Geo. Kiel, Henry Leindecker, Harry Wolf, Ed Bevering and Geo. Lowenstein.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered MAY 3. 1888 as matter,

A MAMMOTH ENTERPRISE.

The Largest Powder Mill Plant in the United States to be Erected and Operated Near Keokuk—$200,000 to be Expended This Year—The Buildings will be a Mile in Length.

The announcement in yesterday morning's GATE CITY that a large powder plant would be erected on the tract of land near the city recently purchased created considerable surprise. For business considerations, Mr. E. S. Rice, who is the representative of the powder company, maintained a non-communicative mood until yesterday, when he unbosomed himself to the reporters at the Hotel Keokuk. Mr. Rice frankly stated he represented parties who would construct here one of the largest, if not the largest, powder mill plants in the United States but for private reasons refused to divulge the name of the firm or the capitalists whom he represents. Its purpose will be the manufacture of blasting powder for the coal mines of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois and the new fields now opening up in Colorado and powder used in business lines every day. During the next twelve or eighteen months Mr. Rice said over $200,000 would be expended in improvements upon the square mile of territory which he purchased and that that sum would be by no means sufficient to establish the plant, which will be one of great magnitude and constantly employ a large force of men. During its construction two or three hundred laborers will be given steady employment. Surveys are being completed, the plans prepared and active operations will be commenced as soon as circumstances will permit. A row of mills, buildings and storehouses of brick and stone a mile in length on either side of the stream of water running through the tract of land purchased will be erected and the output the first year the plant is in operation will aggregate several hundred carloads of powder and perhaps five hundred. Mr. Rice states that the location of the plant so near the city will prove of vast and permanent benefit. Supplies and material will be purchased in Keokuk and laborers of the city will be given preference upon fair and equal terms over those of other points. Keokuk was selected because it is such a central and admirable distributing point, possessing unsurpassed transportation facilities and because the land which was secured is exceedingly well adapted for the purpose for which it is intended. Mr. Rice added that the company was compelled to establish a large plant in the west in order to be nearer the points of consumption. First-class freight rates had to be paid on powder manufactured in and shipped from the east, while the material out of which it is manufactured is billed as fifth-class freight. The danger which is inseparably connected with magazines by the public mind, Mr. Rice said, is much less than people suppose. Methods now employed in the manufacture of powder and the precautions which are constantly observed reduce it to the minimum. The product will be stored in small buildings so that an explosion in one of them would not affect the others and would result in no injury whatever unless some one was in close proximity. It is certain no damage would be done in the city as the plant is too far distant. The company is liable for damages for destruction of life or property by reason of an explosion and this legal provision is the best safeguard against it. There are no buildings situated so near the proposed site of the plant that a possible explosion could injure or destroy. Mr. Rice's statements, and there is no reason to doubt them, indicate that the operation of the plant will prove of great benefit to the city and Keokuk will possess one of the largest powder manufactories in the entire country. Switches will be constructed from the grounds to the Rock Island and North Road tracks. It will be an important acquisition that no one expected or solicited but notwithstanding will be welcomed none the less.

HISTORY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL SITE,
WHICH WAS PURCHASED FROM HENRY PECHSTEIN
AND JOHN NAGEL, BY THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF KEOKUK, NOVEMBER
9, 1920.

DAILY GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 30, 1876

—In our directory of business cards, will be found that of Pechstein & Nagel, proprietors of the Keokuk Brewery, on Fourteenth street between Main and Blondeau. They are now prepared to fill all orders for lager beer, both in the city and country and solicit their patronage. The beer manufactured by them is a superior article and dealers will find that it always gives satisfaction to customers. XXX

Personnell of the Board:

W.B. Woolley, President
J.A. Dunlap, Vice President
J.O. Boyd,
J. Albert Kiedaisch,
L.A. Hamill,
Frank M. Jones,
C.F. Skirvin.
Frederic C. Smith, Secretary.
O.S. Stanbro, Treasurer.
William Aldrich. Supt. Of Schools.

The site of the new Keokuk High school, is one of the historic spots of Keokuk, for through it, at one time, ran the old Plank Road, known to pioneers and early settlers of Keokuk. It was the location of one of the biggest breweries in the state of Iowa, also, and there is further interest in the fact that the brewery was owned by three families whose names are familiar to Keokuk people.

The following history of the site has been compiled by Henry Pechstein, who has recorded the history of the several lots in the block, and the buildings, as well as some of the interesting facts generally about the site.

Lots One and Two were sold to P. Haubert, on the 18th day of May, 1854 by Reeves and Perry and their wives. W.W. Belknap, later Secretary of War under Grant, made out the deeds.

Lot Three was purchased by my mother from Judge D. Mooar, in 1874. The writer built the house known as 1416 Blondeau street in 1883, lived there eight years, after which it was rented to different people from time to time. The Cattaraugus Hunting and Fishing Club used it for a club house for about fifteen years.

Lot Four was bought of D. Mooar by Mrs. Mary Nagel in 1879, and the present story and a half brick house erected, shich she occupied, with her family until her death. It was later sold to Henry Hilt, and by him was sold to the Board.

Lot Five was owned by William Nelson, a carpenter by trade, who built two small frame houses on stilts and lived there in the early 70's, and then sold it to Andrew Wagner who occupied it for some time and then built the present two story frame house, known as 1424 Blondeau street. It was, after the death of Mrs. Wagner bought by my mother and later transferred to me.

Lot Six was owned by George Galloway, who was a Scotchman, a tailor by trade. He built a story and a half home in the early 70's, and later as his family increased, made a two story house out of it. He lived there until his death. Some of his children are stull living here. The house was later owned by Frank Schank and still later by Jim Fallon, of whom we bought it in 1911.

Lots Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten, for many years, were part of the old Plank Road, the road running diagonally

through the four lots. Some time in the early 80's a Mr. Crowdery came here from some town in Illinois and built a queer looking building in which he was to make windmills. He made but one or two, and then left here. I did not learn what became of him. The building was later used as a dwelling by colored folks, and later, when the Plank Road was closed to Sixteenth street, the house was moved near the alley. It was so badly damaged by fire that it was torn down. We bought this lot from Judge and Mrs. J.E. Craig in 1906.

Lots Eight, Nine and Ten, were owned, after the vacating of the Plank Road, by C. Hill who built a large barn on them for the stabling of his race horses. On the gable end towards Main street, was this sign, "The Home of Ashburton, Time 2:06 1/2". We bought these lots of Mr. Howard Connable in 1904.

Lots Eleven and Twelve. The front eighty feet were owned by Loewenstein and Svell, who were wagonmakers and blacksmith, respectively, and had a one story brick building on lot Twelve built early in the sixties and occupied by them until in the early 80's. This lot later came into the possession of George Cabus, of whom we bought it in 1887.

Cabus was a queer man, having been estranged from his wife, he lived a bachelor's life, barbered always alone in his shop as no other barbers would work with him. (This was in his later years when I knew him) He bought tax titles and thus came into possession of a lot of vacant property, and the time came that when taxes were due, he had to sell one or two lots to pay taxes on the others. The blacksmith shop referred to to above hade a sign on the whole side of one, which read, "Cabus, the celebrated hair cutter of the Mississippi Valley". The building was blown down by a severe storm the same day

the steeple of the Baptist church was blown over.

The rear sixty feet of Lots Eleven and Twelve was bought by our fathers in 1868 from Amanda and James L. Estes. Mr. Estes was the man after whom the Estes house was named.

The building erected by Mr. Haubert was one story and a half brick building, roof pitching towards Fourteenth. This building was covered with clapboard shingles, made of pslit white oak about four feet long and from six to eight inches wide. The rafters were of oak and the clapboards were nailed to strips 18 to 20 inches apart.

In the rear of this building were two one story brick rooms, with flat roofs. Altogether the buildings covered a space of 30 by 30 feet. Back of this were a number sheds, built, I suppose, as they were needed. From time to time he dug an underground cellar, with stone arch, size about 16 by 50 feet and ten feet high. This cellar is still there but has not been used in late years.

Mr. Haubert operated the brewery until 1860 when he rented to John Nagel and my father Conrad Pechstein, Mr. Haubert moving to Montrose where he built a distillery. How long he operated this, I do not know. He later moved back to Keokuk. I know that my father at one time was employed by Mr. Haubert, but what year was unknown to me, until recently when I saw his name listed in the copy of the directory of 1856 in "The Citizen".

Mr. Nagel and my father came into possession of this property by purchase April 23, 1863, and immediately began to enlarge the cellar by tunnelling five or six feet and then arching. When this section was complete another was begun until there was completed an arched cellar, 20 by 50 feet long

and 14 feet high.

In the summer of 1869 the half story was torn off the brick building and a seven foot story and gable roof built on, the gable facing Fourteenth street. In 1890 this building was razed. the foundation and the present office and storage building erected.

In 1876, Centennial Year, the two story frame building was erected, size 36 by 50; a new copper kettle of 30 barrel capacity installed. Our first steam boiler and engine, the boiler a steamboat type with two flues, 26 inches in diameter and eight feet long, supposed to be of eight horsepower. This boiler was made by Joe Leming, whose shop was on Fourth and Exchange streets. The engine, a six horse power horizontal type was erected by Sutton and Ribyn, and was only used for grinding malt and pumping water.

The motive power before this time was a two horse, horse power, gears overhead, mounted on a large oak center timber, to which teo beams, opposite to each other were attached, to which the horses were hitched. What a time we boys used to have trying to get away from driving the horses after school. This power was used only for grinding and pumping water.

In 1890, a fifty horse power boiler built by McElroy was installed, a new 20 horse power engine built by Kollmeyer and Talbot was put in, and new machinery and steam pums were added. A few years later a 70 horse power boiler was added and a small ammonia compressor for refrigerating purposes was erected, coils for cooling the cellars with salt brine were put in and some changes made to the buildings and cellars.

In 1901 the tall frame building was erected and a complete new brewing outfit of one hundred barrel capacity consisting of kettle, mash tub, hot water and cold water tanks

and rice cooker installed. Four years later, in 1905, the large cold storage building was erected which wil all equipments cost between $17,000 and $18,000. In 1903 or '04 a twenty ton refrigerating machine with a 65 horse power Vitler engine was installed. The bottling house with all modern new machinery was built on Main street about the same time, exact date missing.

The building now occupied by the Coca Cola company was erected in 1910 or 1911 and was used for saloon purposes.

The equipment of the storage building consisted of eleven open fermenters of 80 barrels capacity, on the upper floor;eleven closed storage tanks of 150 barrels capacity each on the second floor, and eleven upright and horizontal steel glass lined tanks of from 60 to 80 barrels' capacity, In the basement. There were also twenty white oak casks, capacity of from twenty five to seventy barrels each in the cellar now used by the Coca Cola company as a garage and store room. Our bottling capacity was 50 barrels of beer per day.

Mr. Haubert, the original owner of this brewery with his wife, came to the U.S. in 1848, and directly to Iowa. In 1854 he built the brewery and operated same until 1860, when he rented it to Mr. Nagel and my father and moved to Montrose. Pechstein and Nagel were renters for two years, and in 1863 bought the property for $2,700 and operated the same until their deaths. Mr. Nagel dies New Years' day, 1872, and my father's death occurred less than four months later, April 24, 1873. Our mothers continued the business, having a competent brewer to make the beer, and Mr. John Nagel, then only 18 years old, attending to the outside business.

The business continued in this manner until 1881, when I took charge of the brewing. In 1882 the state

voted on Constitutional prohibition, which carried by popular vote, but was declared unconstitutional by the Suppame Court of Iowa for some mistake or omission in the records of the House of Representatives. About this time Mr. Nagel and I bought the stock on hand and operated on our own hook, still under the old firm name, paying our mothers each a good monthly rent, making all repairs at our own expense, also paying the taxes.

About 1887 our legislature passed a statutory prohibitory law and werwere closed for more than a year, all of 1888. But beer was coming into Keokuk by the carload every day and saloons were more plentiful than before, one concern for a time duringthe summr of 1889 selling a car load of bottle and keg beer per day.

Some of the prominent citizens seeing this , got together and resolved that if outside beer could be sold here, why not let our own home concern supply some of this beer. So they passed a petition for signature, which was signed by nearly all to whom it was presented. When the leaders were satisfied the petition was long enough, they came to us and told us to start operation, that there would be no more trouble, and there was not.

The leaders of this friendly act were Col. Dick Root, Sam Clark and others whose names I never learned.

In 1895 I sold one half of my interest to my brother George who took charge of the brewing and I did the office work. In 1905 we incorporated under the name of Pechstein and Nagel Co., and continued under this name until closed on January 1, 1916 by the act of the prohibitory law.

Mr. Nagel, my father and Mrs. Nagel, then Miss Maybauer, crossed the Atlantic in the same ship. They had never met in Germany, never met on shipboard, but were all

three destined for the same spot in Iowa, Lee county. The landed in New Orleans in 1852. Mr. Nagel had a brother living in Keokuk, as did Miss Maybauer, and my father had a brother living in Dover Iowa, also a married sister in Franklin. Mr. Nagel and Miss Maybauer met and married shortly after their arrival here. Mr. Nagel farmed for some years near Charleston, moved to Keokuk and took up teaming, until forming a partnership with my father.

Their family consisted of two sons and five daughters all dead except the two oldest, Mrs. L. Loeffler and John Nagel.

The first work my father did in Keokuk was carrying the brick hod on the Chatham Square church. He and a Mr. Charles Bevering carried the last brick to the top of the tower. He worked for some time for Mr. Haubert, and later for Mrs. Lautenschlager who ran a brewery near Ninth and Fulton streets. Mr. Lautenshhlager died while my father was employed there. Later my fathe rented this brewery and operated it until forming the partnership with Mr. Nagel. My father married in the fall of 1857. This brewery was my birthplace. Our family consisted of four boys, myself, John W. George C, Conrad, and one daughter Lizzie, all living except Conrad who died in infancy and George C. who died in 1918. The children, all but myself, were born in the building erected by Mr. Haubert. My mother died October 25, 1921, aged 86 years.

My father was naturalized in the court of Thomas W. Claggett, September 9th, 1857, Erie J. Leech, clerk of court. I have this certificate in my possession, also his discharge from the Bavarian Army.

(Signed) Henry Pennstein.

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Hulson Grates, Designed Here, Go to War

ARE USED IN ALL LOCOMOTIVES OF ARMY AND NAVY

KEOKUK GRATES ALSO GO INTO ENGLISH AND MIDDLE-EAST ENGINES

THE KEOKUK GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION

World War II's Army Locomotive

Built by Baldwin, this standard locomotive is already on the job at one of the fighting fronts. Standing beside it are Lt. Col. E. F. MacFadden, Maj. J. W. Marsh, and Col. W. C. Knight, all of the Corps of Engineers. The locomotive is described by Major Marsh as having 19 in. x 26 in. cylinders, with 57-in. drivers. Weight is given at 288,950 lb. "These new Army locomotives," says Maj. Marsh, "do not contain any new or untried devices, and have been designed to operate wherever materiel and troops must be moved by rail."

666 SATURDAY, MAR. 6, 1943 Railway Age—October 24, 1942

Newspapers, magazines and news reels during recent weeks have carried numerous pictures of ponderous locomotives in process of being hoisted on and off ships in virtually every corner of the globe—England, North Africa, Iran and various ports in the middle-east. All of them have been designed and manufactured by American workmen to carry the war to the Axis, and, although few may be aware of the fact, a significant component of each bears a Keokuk label—the Hulson Tuyere-type grate.

This interesting information has been revealed by John W. Hulson, president of the Hulson Grate Company, in an interview with a Gate City reporter. All of the new locomotives built for the United States Army and Navy are equipped with these grates designed and patterned in the Keokuk plant, and are now in service in every theatre of the war.

The grates are not only used in the standard, American type locomotive, but in the new, light-weight engine of approximately 130 tons which is being shipped abroad in tremendous quantities and has been designated as the "Austerity" by the British because it is stripped of all non-essential gadgets. For the same reason the American builders call it the "Gypsy Rose Lee."

This locomotive has a 4 foot, 8½ inch gauge suitable for most English, West European and North African railroads and can haul 1,200 tons on the level. It is becoming a familiar sight in England and North Africa, and, it is hoped, will soon be just as common a sight to the people of Nazi-dominated Europe.

Keokuk-made grates are also playing a vital role in far off Iran where American locomotives are hauling a huge volume of defense supplies over miles of oil bearing desert to the Russian allies. Equipment designed here is standard and in addition to its part on the actual fghting fronts, bringing up supplies and men to the army and navy, is in use on 42 railroads in this country—railroads which are working at a history-making pace in the transportation of astronomical quantities of war material.

Because of their extremely low maintenance record, Hulson Tuyere-type grates have received the highest of praise on all sides and have surprised everyone by their performance. As a result the demand increased upon a vast scale during 1942 and, although figures are a military secret, an even greater quantity must be produced this year.

All of the drafting and designing are handled in the Keokuk plant, located at 21 South Ninth street, where L. E. Williams has been mechanical engineer since 1941. Patterns from these designs are also made here for production in five foundries located throughout the middlewest and eastern United States.

The castings, inspected and gauged for interchangeability by the Hulson Co., are shipped direct from the foundries to the locomotive shops, including Baldwin, American, Lima, H. K. Porter, Vulcan Iron Works, and the Davenport Bester Iron Works. Tuyere-type grates for large stationary boilers are shipped to Keokuk for assembly.

Keokuk is the headquarters of the company although John W. Hulson, the president, maintains offices in Chicago and handles the sales and service organization from that point because of its accessibility to the big locomotive shops. C. J. Shively of Keokuk is secretary-treasurer of the company, William F. Bradley, the chief pattern maker and Leo L. Fouts the machine shop and assembly foreman for stationary boilers. Each of these men as well as the firm's highly efficient corps of employes are playing an important role in the war effort by helping the "iron-horse" of commerce gear itself for battle.

HOME OF UNITED LEAD COMPANY IN KEOKUK

THE DAILY GATE CITY AUGUST 16, 1926

Four distinct units, employing ninety men, with a payroll of $12,000 per month. This is the record of growth of the United Lead company, which began operations in 1916 and in ten years has grown to be one of the biggest industries in Keokuk. The units metal, used in the automobile and machinery industry, for the manufacture of carbide, and recently a carbide can shop has been put into operation making the containers for this product and for the smelting of dross metal.

The original plant was opened in 1916 and has operated practically continuously since that time save for brief periods of shut downs. Its product is known as frary metal and it is used in the automobile and machinery industries. It is an alloy of barium calcium and lead, and is made electrolytically.

In the manufacture of this product 4,000 tons a year is used in the raw materials. The barium calcium looks like salt and is shipped in to the plant for the manufacture of the frary metal. Shipments of the finished product are sent over the United States, to the eastern centers especially where the auto and machinery industries are located.

Carbide Since 1921.

Since June, 1921, the United Lead company has been manufacturing carbide in its plant west of the city. This plant has been in continuous operation in the last three years. From this plant 50 cars of carbide a month are shipped out and to manufacture the output of this unit 12,000 tons of carbide, the same amount of lime and 8,500 tons of coke per year are necessary.

This carbide is shipped to many states and to Panama. It is sent to centers where acetylene gas is manufactured in huge tanks. Sixty per cent of the output is sent to manufacturers of this industry, twenty-five percent is used in the mining industry and fifteen per cent for house lighting and general purposes.

Making Own Cans.

Carbide is shipped in metal containers or cans, the average size of these being 100 pound drums A year ago the plant opened its four unit, a shop for the manufacture of these drums. The metal comes in sheets, is cut and scored and the tops and bottoms put on. Four men operate that plant now, and the capacity of the unit is 800 cans per day. This takes care of the output of the plant per day. The carbide is shipped to Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, South Carolina, Texas, California and Panama.

Besides the regular sized drums there is manufactured a larger sized drum which is returned to the Keokuk plant when emptied. The carbide is also put up in limited quantities in two pound tins.

The Dross Plant.

Another unit of the four-fold plant on the industrial tract is the dross plant in which dross is refined. Dross is the skimming from metal, especially type metal. This dross is refined by an electric process and then is shipped to Granite City, Ill., for further refining. Out of 300 tons of dross there is refined 275 tons of metal. The dross comes to the Keokuk plant from Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Alabama. It is reclaimed in what looks to be a huge iron pot, and is cast into big pigs and shipped to the Illinois plant for refining.

Twenty-three Buildings.

The four units of the United Lead company, cover about ten acres of ground and there are twenty-three buildings in all. A fine new office building was built two years ago. This building is situated near the entrance as one comes to the plant.

Besides the buildings in which the product of the United Lead company is turned out, there are store rooms and store buildings, laboratories and in the buildings are arrangements for the comfort of the employes. Shower baths and wash room, with locker rooms adjoining are provided for the use of the employes. A first aid room is provided which is fully equipped with medicine and bandages to take care of any emergency cases.

In one of the buildings which was built and occupied for a short time a few years ago by a company known as the River Smelting and Refining company, there is a long concrete pool of water. This is used as a cooling tank for some of the products of the United Lead, and it also serves during the summer as a fine swimming pool for the men.

Employes Are Insured.

One of the features of the administration of the United Lead company's plant is its care of its employes. Every man who has been employed by the company for six months is given a free life insurance policy of $500. This policy is increased with each year of service until the maximum of $1,500 is reached. This insurance policy is given free to the men, and is appreciated by them, according to the sentiments expressed by the workmen.

Some of the employes also participate in the ownership of company stock.

Many of the men drive their own cars to the plant, and there is a problem of traffic and parking to be worked out to take care of all of the automobiles which are parked daily in the sheds and driveway of the big plant.

Good For Vegetation.

Unlike some of the smelters which destroy vegetation surrounding them and make the landscape look like a section of the battlefields of France, this plant is one which is surrounded by unusually fertile ground. The lime from the carbide plant is used on gardens and field to correct the acidity of soil.

The United Lead company's plant is operating at capacity now and its payroll shows it to be one of the most substantial industries of Keokuk. A trip over the plant is interesting and one of the chief things which strikes an observer is the speed and quietness with which the manufacture of the four products is carried on. In the lead plant and dross plant especially there is little noise, little confusion, but the wheels are turning twenty-four hours in the day and Keokuk business interests are reaping the benefits . .

The Gate City
JULY 20, 1929

NEW COMPANY IS ORGANIZED HERE MAKING CARBIDE

Midwest Carbide Corporation Announces No Changes in Personnel or Equipment of Its Local Plant.

Announcement of the organization of the Midwest Carbide Corporation for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of calcium carbide at Keokuk; was made today in a formal statement from the company officials. T. F. Wettstein will be in charge of the manufacturing operations and becomes vice president of the new company.

The formal announcement is as follows:

"Midwest Carbide Corporation has recently ben organized by National Lead Company and Shawinigan Products Corporation, of New York, a subsidiary of The Shawinigan Water and Power Company of Canada, for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of calcium carbide at Keokuk, Iowa, heretofore conducted by United Lead Company, subsidiary of National Lead Company.

Gets Benefit of Experience.

"The new company will have the benefit of the technical skill and experience of the Shawinigan interests in Canada, as well as that of the former United Lead Company personnel, and it is expected that this formal union of the two interests will result in increased economies of manufacture and the firm establishment of the new company in this important field.

"The product of the new company will be distributed exclusively through Shawinigan Products Corporation, which had acted in the same capacity for United Lead Company for the last several years. Officers of the new company will be supplied from the staffs of the owning interests, Mr. E. J. Cornish, president of National Lead Company, becoming president, and Mr. L. F. Loutrel, vice president of Shawinigan Products Corporation, becoming vice president and General manager of the new company, and Mr. T. F. Wettstein, formerly of United Lead Company, continuing in direct charge of manufacturing operations, also with the title of vice president."

No Changes In Plant.

In addition to this it is announced that there will be no changes in the local plant. Operations will be carried on exactly as they have been with the same personnel as heretofore. No extensions in plant or equipment are contemplated at this time except possibly the addition of more storage space in the near future.

The officials of the Keokuk plant are: T. F. Wettstein, vice president and manager; W. J. Fulton, superintendent and J. P. Breheny, chief clerk and cashier.

The Daily Gate City

Now Midwest Carbide

United Lead Co. marks 50th anniversary

In July, 1916 the United Lead Company, a subsidiary of National Lead Company built a lead-alloying plant adjacent to the plant of another subsidiary of National Lead, (the River Smelting & Refining Company) on the site of the plant now owned and operated by Midwest Carbide Corporation, on Carbide Lane.

The River Smelting & Refining Company plant brought in zinc-ore concentrate from their plant in Florence, Colorado, took this zinc concentrate into solution in sulphuric acid, and produced therefrom chemically pure zinc by an electrolytic process. Zinc was in great demand during the first World War for the manufacture of brass.

Bearing metal

The United Lead Company plant which was built by the late Thomas F. Wettstein in 1916, produced a bearing metal by the electrolysis of molten calcium and barium chlorides over molten lead. This alloy was a substitute for babbitt metal for bearings which was in short supply at that time, because supplies of tin had been shut off by hostilities of the First World War.

Both plants purchased hydro-electric power from what was then the Mississippi River Power Company which had completed the installation of the dam and power house in 1913.

River plant dismantled

After the Armistice in 1918, demand for electrolytic zinc was reduced sharply. The River Company plant was dismantled shortly thereafter.

The lead-alloying plant continued in operation, and for a number of years supplied the lead-calcium-barium alloy to the Ford Motor Company for thrust washers and differential bearings in the Model T Ford.

Calcium carbide

In 1920, the Company built and started the operation of a calcium carbide plant adjacent to the lead-alloying plant, a carbide operation having a capacity of 10 tons per day. In 1923, the Company sold its entire output of carbide to Shawinigan Products Corporation of New York City, and in 1929, the Shawinigan Products Corporation bought a half interest in the plant from the National Lead Company. This purchase resulted in the formation of Midwest Carbide Corporation.

Thereafter, in 1942, the National Cylinder Gas Company of Chicago (now Chemetron Corporation) purchased the remaining half interest from the National Lead Company, and since that date Midwest has operated as a jointly-owned subsidiary of Shawinigan Products Corporation and Chemetron Corporation.

Second furnace

In 1927, a second carbide furnace was installed, the latter being a Soderberg self-baking continuous electrode furnace which had a capacity of 100 tons per day.

This newer and more modern furnace was in operation thereafter as the main supply of carbide, the original furnace acting as stand-by. During the Second World War both furnaces were operated continuously at peak capacity of 150 tons of carbide per day.

Two of the original buildings built in 1916 are still in use, and are pictured here, namely the sub-station bearing the name "United Lead Company," and the lead-alloying building.

So far as is known, none of the original employes of 1916 are living in this area today. However, the picture shown below was taken in the early 1920's.

STILL IN USE at the Midwest Carbide Corporation plant are the sub-station, upper picture, still bearing the name "United Lead Company" and below the lead-alloying building.

Dinner Thursday

Thirty members of Midwest Carbide Corporation Thirty-Year Veterans Society observed this 50th anniversary at a dinner meeting at the Keokuk Country club on June 30.

Ten new Thirty-Year Veterans were presented certificates of membership in the Society. Names and date of employment follow:

Kenneth John Horner, May 8, 1936.

Joseph Kenneth Eder, June 18, 1935.

Lester Pezley, June 12, 1935.

Edward M. McAndrew, June 1, 1935.

Charles W. Youngquist, May 27, 1935.

Henry Herman Kampe, July 21, 1934.

Orville Wayne Martin, July 19, 1934.

Martin Joseph Weirather, February 27, 1934.

Frederick Owen Howren, April 26, 1931.

Floyd Leo Link, November 22, 1930.

Names and dates of employment of other members are as follows:

Lorenzo Dow Puder, July 5, 1929.

Francis Emmet Billings, May 10, 1929.

Osborn Luther Kincaid, January 9, 1928.

Harrison Alfred LeMaster, November 18, 1927.

Robert Phillip Briggs, November 17, 1927.

Joseph William Ashley, September 8, 1926.

John Nicholas Eder, May 24, 1926.

William Frederick Kampe, June 10, 1925.

Herbert Moulton Prince, April 1, 1925.

THIS OLD PICTURE, taken in the 1920's shows twelve employes of the original lead-alloying plant at United Lead Co. Standing, left to right are Leo Droe, August Droe, Harold Willoughby, Leo McQuade, Charles Fader, Jr., and Henry Schevers. Seated from left are James Breheny, Lee Wilson, Frank Welch, James Kensett, J. L. Patterson and Delmar Thomas.

Albert Joseph Sansone, August 9, 1923.

Vollie Richard Rose, June 23, 1923.

Louis Frederic Loutrel, May 1, 1923.

Francis Huston Taylor, April 1, 1923.

August John Droe, January 10, 1923.

James Lester Patterson, September 14, 1921.

William Jewett Fulton, December 20, 1920.

Ross Alexis Peterson, September 1, 1919.

Charles Valentine Fader, July 1, 1919.

Thomas Forrester Wettstein, July 1, 1912.

Harold Martin Willoughby, March 26, 1925.

Louis Henry Miller, December 22, 1924.

William John Henke, December 10, 1924.

Thomas Henry Jones, April 19, 1924.

David Lee Coovert, April 19, 1924.

Carrol James Risser, March 1, 1924.

William Patrick Keefe, September 17, 1923.

William Mack Gundy, September 5, 1923.

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City council accepts gift of National Carbide property

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, NOV. 25, 1967 — 3

By Joe Malkin

The city council last evening at a special meeting approved the acceptance of all of the National Carbide property on the riverfront as a gift from the corporation which has ceased its operation here.

The property amounts to some 4.2 acres. In accepting the gift, the council stipulated conditions that the firm pay all 1967 taxes and any liens that may be on the property, and demolish any buildings on it.

Johnson objects

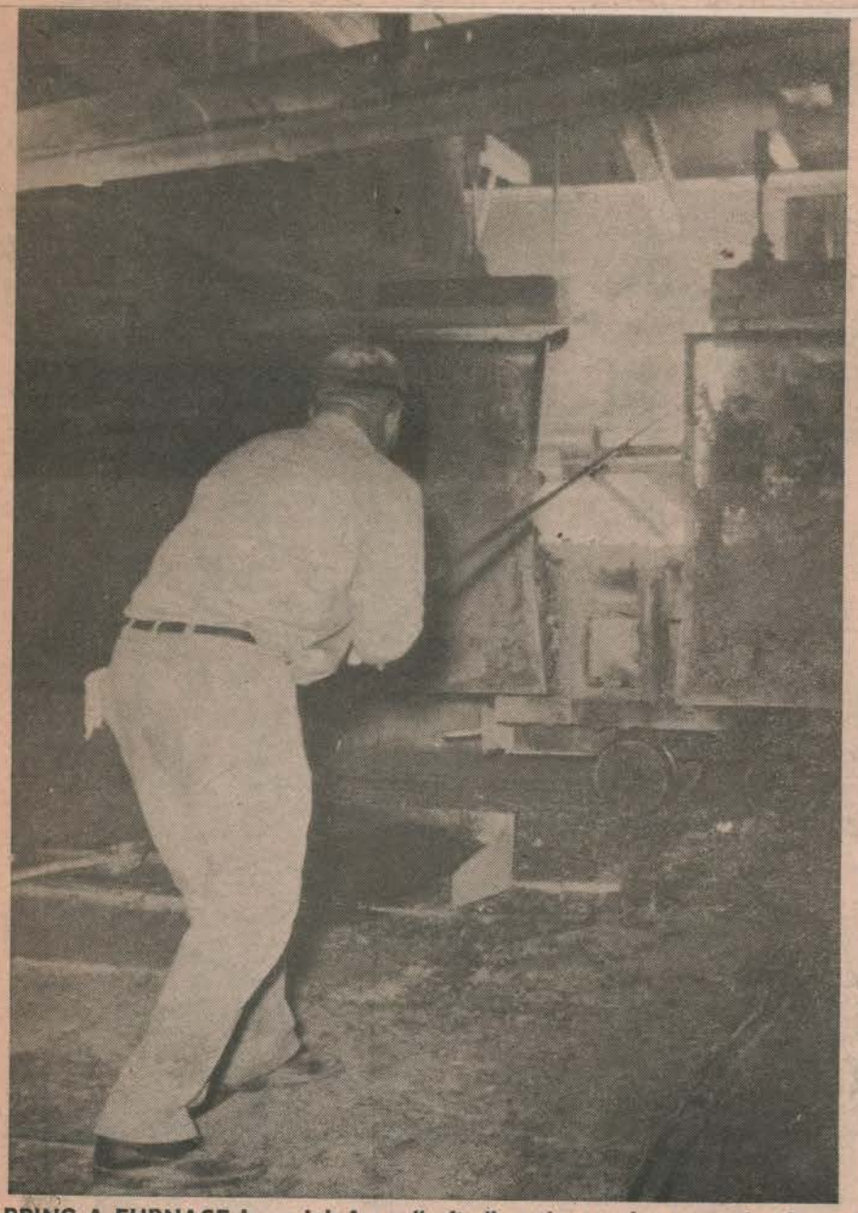
One councilman, James Johnson, vociferously objected to acceptance of the property, and cast the only dissenting vote. He indicated he opposed the loss of tax revenue, since the city would pay no taxes on it.

The mayor and several councilmen said that the company would pay practically no taxes on it if it kept the property, since the buildings would be torn down and there would only be taxes on the land; and if they did not pay those taxes, the property would have to eventually be sold in a tax sale. The city intends to use it as an industrial development site.

Midwest Carbide --

SEPT. 29, 1959

First installation here in 1915; United Lead Company branch



TAPPING A FURNACE is no job for a "softy," as the tapping operation is completed while the furnace is at a temperature of 5000 degrees. The greatest care is taken to insure the safety and welfare of the workers in this type of operation and all safety regulations are strictly adhered to by the workers, themselves.

The plant that eventually has become the Midwest Carbide Corporation was built in 1915-1916 as a branch of the United Lead Company, a subsidiary of the National Lead Company.

The first installation made in late 1915 was an electrolytic zinc refinery built and operated by the River Smelting & Refining Company, also a subsidiary of the United Lead Company. Zinc-ore concentrate produced at the River Company's plant at Florence, Colorado was shipped to Keokuk, and pure zinc metal was produced therefrom by electrolysis using electric power from the newly built Mississippi River Power Company's hydro-electric plant.

In 1916, Thomas F. Wettstein, a son of the president of the United Lead Company, came to Keokuk, built and put into operation another United Lead Company branch which manufactured a lead-calcium barium alloy. The raw materials for this operation were pure pig-lead, calcium and barium chloride; the operation consisted of the electrolysis of molton calcium and barium chlorides on top of a pot of molton lead, the electric current decomposing the chlorides and the metallic calcium and barium alloying with the lead.

Frary metal

The product was known as Frary metal (for Dr. Francis Frary the developer of the process) and was used extensively as a babbitt metal substitute because of the shortage of tin during the First World War.

It was a satisfactory bearing metal, and a large tonnage of it was used by the Emergency Fleet Corporation during World War I. Subsequently, many tons of this metal were used for the manufacture of three small

Sept 23, 1959 - page 2
(Midwest Carbide)

MIDWEST CARBIDE

WHEN THE TAPPING is completed, the molton carbide flows from the taphole into ingot cars, in which it will be allowed to cool before going to the next stage of the complex operation. The entire tapping project is completed with the workers behind heavy steel protective doors, left center.

bearings in the Model-T Ford automobile.

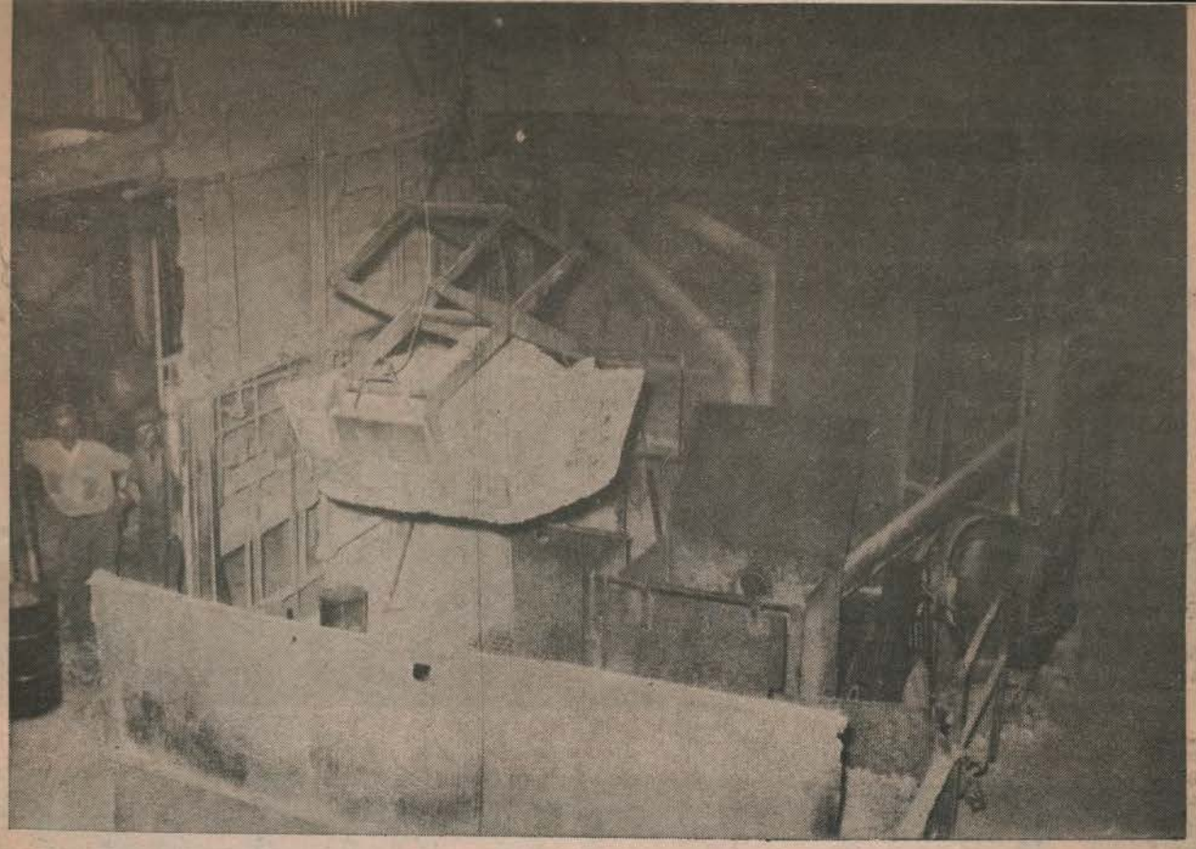
As a result of the lack of demand for electrolytic zinc after the end of the war, the River Company plant was scrapped in 1918, but the United Lead Company's plant continued to operate, and in 1920-1921 expanded its operation through the construction of a plant for the manufacture of calcium carbide.

Calcium carbide is produced in the intense heat of the submerged arc electric furnace by fusion of quick lime and coke. The entrance by the company into this field was a natural consequence of a plentiful supply of hydroelectric energy, nearby lime supplies, and very satisfactory sources of high grade coke in the Chicago and St. Louis districts.

In the early 20's a great many tons of calcium carbide were used for farm house lighting, for miners lamps in various types of mines, and a substantial proportion for oxy-acetylene welding and cutting. Over the years, the tonnage used for house lighting and miners lamps has dwindled to a comparatively small amount, but the tonnage now used for the production of acetylene for

ONE OF THE PRODUCTS of the Midwest Carbide Corporation plant in Keokuk is Soderberg Carbon Electrode Paste, a semi-plastic carbon product made from calcined anthracite coal, bonded with tar and pitch. This carbon paste forms the electrode material in continuous self-baking electrode furnaces. Shown here are two of the Midwest employees piling blocks of the carbon paste in the warehouse.

Sept 23, 1957 - page 3 (Midwest Carbide)



AFTER A COOLING PERIOD in the ingot cars, the 3000 pound ingots of carbide are lifted by means of a huge "pincher" hoist, similar to the principle of the old ice-man's tongs, and moved to the place where they will be dropped into the crusher for the final stage of the carbide producing operation.

chemical synthesis has grown amazingly.

Acteylene gas is produced by the simple addition of carbide to water, and this highly reactive gas is considered one of the foremost "building-blocks" in modern synthetic chemistry.

150 tons per day

From it are produced acetaldehyde, acetic acid and various acetates, many of the higher alcohols, solvents, Acrylonitril (used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber) and a host of plastics too numerous to mention.

From an installation producing approximately 7 tons per day in 1921, the Keokuk plant has been increased to a present productive capacity of 150 tons per day.

In 1923, Shawinigan Products Corporation of New York City (a subsidiary of Shawinigan Chemicals Limited of Montreal, Quebec) took over the sale of the entire carbide output, and since that time the output of the plant has been sold under the brand name "Shawinigan Carbide."

National Lead Company sold half of its interest in the plant to Shawinigan Products Corporation in 1929 with the resultant formation of Midwest Carbide Corporation, and in 1942 the other half interest was sold by National Lead Company to National Cylinder Gas Company (now Chemetron Corporation) of Chicago.

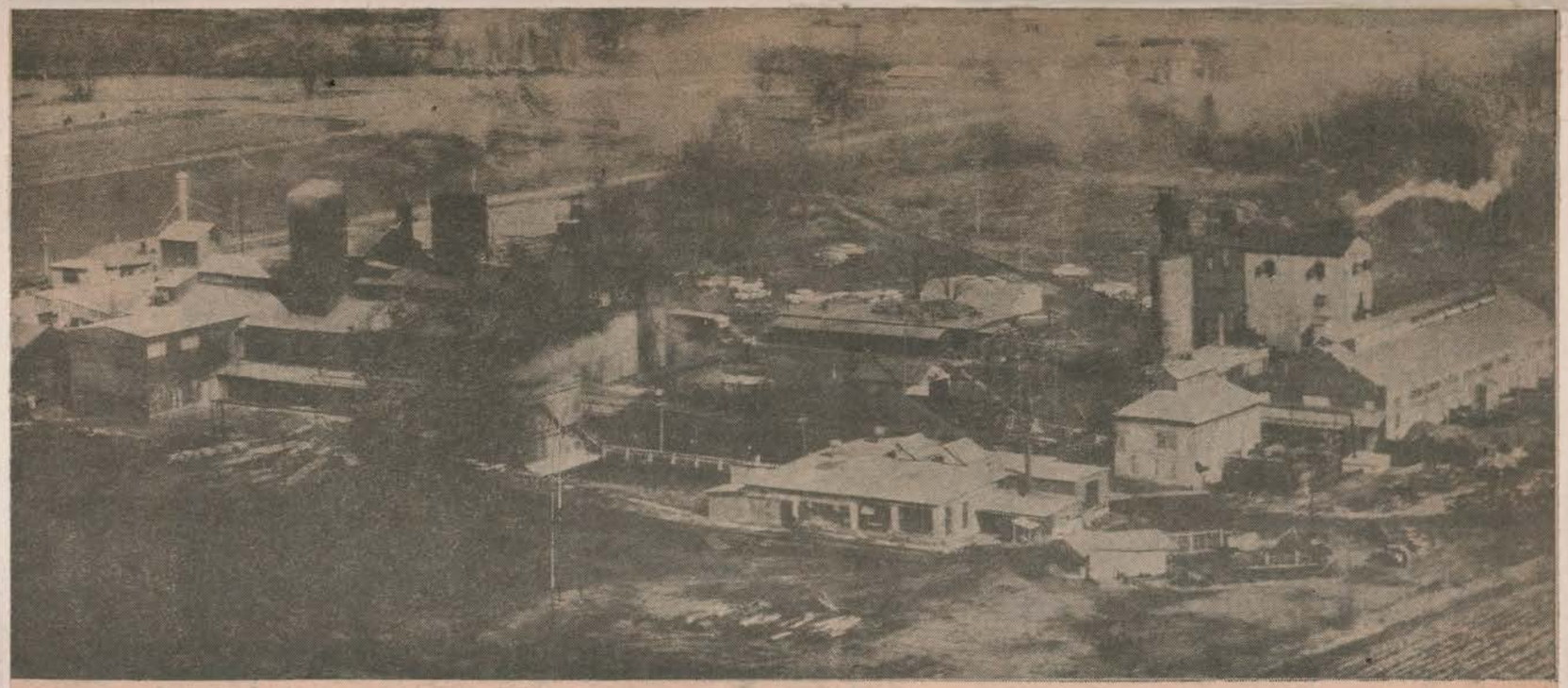
During the war, the plant was under the supervision and security regulations of the Seventh Service Command, and thousands of tons of carbide were shipped abroad, principally to England.

In 1953, the company built and put into operation a calcium carbide manufacturing plant at Pryor, Oklahoma having a capacity of 120 tons per day.

The Keokuk plant manufactures one other product, Soderberg Carbon Electrode Paste. This is a semi-plastic carbon product made from calcined anthracite coal bonded with tar and pitch. This carbon paste forms the electrode material in continuous self-baking electrode furnaces. The electrode paste manufacturing department has a capacity of 10,000 tons per year, and the paste is shipped to a number of electric furnace plants using the self-baking electrode.

WITH AN ELECTRIC hammering device, a Midwest Carbide employee tamps the Soderberg Carbon Electrode Paste, while piping hot, into cast iron molds, from which it will be removed when cooled in the form of individual blocks. The blocks thus formed are easier to store and handle when needed for later use.

MIDWEST CARBIDE-2



KEOKUK'S INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH is the Midwest Carbide Corporation, whose plant in Keokuk is located at the northwest edge of the city on what has come to be known as "Carbide Lane." The plant and office area is estimated at thirty acres, although it sets on a 140-acre tract owned in that section by the Midwest Carbide Corporation. This plant is fed by a trunk line of the C.B.&Q. railroad, as are other plants in the northwest Keokuk area. There are approximately 120 persons employed at the Keokuk plant of Midwest Carbide.

—Daily Gate City Aerial Photo

Corporation officials

Louis F. Loutrel of South Orange, New Jersey is Chairman of the Board of Midwest Carbide Corporation, and James W. Dunham of Chicago Illinois is President. Local officials are W. J. Fulton, Vice-President and General Manager, F. H. Taylor — Works Manager, G. J. Kiedaisch—Chief Engineer and Superintendent, and C. J. Risser —Assistant Treasurer.

Present employment approximates 120 at the Keokuk plant and 60 at the Pryor Division. The company provides certain life insurance benefits gratis to employees after 45 days service. Sickness and accident and hospitalization benefits are also provided at no cost, and an old age pension fund is built up by each employee (starting after one year of continuous service) by contributions made by the employee and by the company to the fund.

Many of the employees of the Keokuk plant are veterans of the early days in carbide manufacture; at a recent meeting of the Midwest Carbide Corporation Thirty Year Veterans Society, service awards were presented to fourteen employees with thirty-five years or greater service, and to ten employees who had been with the company for between 30 and 35 years. END

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FIRST FACTORY FOR KEOKUK FROM THE POWER COMPANY

Industrial Department of the Mississippi River Power Company Announces a Smelting Plant for This City.

BUILDING AND PLANT TO COST $75,000

Promoters Hope the Business Will Reach One Million and a Half and an Enlarged Plant Will Be Built Here.

A manufacturing building and plant costing $75,000 to be built at once in Keokuk is one result of the activities of the industrial department of the Mississippi River Power company.

And this $75,000 plant is only a sort of model from which later the real, big plant is to be built to do business running over $1,500,000 a year.

The vice-presidents of the company coming to Keokuk will be here next week to select a site for their plant.

Contracts have been closed which make this addition to Keokuk manufacturing a certainty, and the news was given out this morning.

TO SMELT ORES.

The company is the Johnson Electric Smelting company, with its main offices now at 18 East Forty-first street, New York. It has an electric process for smelting zinc, lead, and other ores by which the largest quantity of metal is secured at the minimum of smelting cost.

The present plan is to build at Keokuk a smelting plant to use a hundred tons of ore a day.

The company is conservative, and especially desires to demonstrate that its process works well in the large size plant planned for Keokuk. To this end, it will build first a demonstrating plant costing about $75,000, and will run this over a year under thorough test conditions.

TO GROW BIG SENSIBLY.

Then, the company will take advantage of the experience and testing done in the primary plant and build the really big one adjoining the smaller first one.

The contract made by the Mississippi River Power company with the Johnson Electric Smelting company is very favorable to the smelting company, if the latter completes its intentions and builds the big smelter later. If the smelting company stops with the demonstration plant to be built at once, or fails to build the big plant, the smelting company will pay a large forfeit.

Woolsey McA. Johnson, first vice-president, and Joseph Struthers, second vice-president, of the smelting company, will be here between July 18 and July 28, to arrange the location of the demonstration smelter.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY

Keokuk, Iowa .....July 14, 1914.

The above are facts furnished from an authentic source to The Gate City and the announcement of the first big factory for Keokuk since the availability of electrical power from the dam.

And it will be of interest to know in this connection that it was the very low and favorable rate made by the Mississippi River Power company that brought the factory to this city.

The Mississippi River Power company has been working on this proposition for a long time and has exercised great care in investigating the men who are back of the project, satisfying themselves that the men are thoroughly good people.

If the development is as there is every indication it will be, this plant will become one of the largest in the country and be to Keokuk what the steel plants are to Joliet, Ill.

This plant will give employment at the start to about one hundred men. As stated the location will be determined later, upon the arrival of the officers in this city.

If a factory of this character can be secured during the prevailing industrial depression, there is good reason to believe that with a return of better times Keokuk will be able to attract many others.

Cheap power and plenty of it is certain to make this city an industrial center and the Mississippi River Power company has an abundance of power and for sale at a price that will prevent no factory from selecting its home here.

To those who have been discouraged because the industrial development has not been speedier it might be well for them to stop and canvas other cities in this section and enumerate if they can the number of industries that have been locating elsewhere. If they do they will have a difficult task and the investigation will end with the result that the figures will show that Keokuk has made just as much progress as other cities in this section. The thing for Keokuk to do is to get behind its Industrial association and the M. R. P. C. industrial department and give every pound of co-operation and support possible. The result will be a humming, buzzing, busy city. Faith and

persistency will win.

INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION PLEASED.

The announcement of the coming of the factory to Keokuk was pleasing news to the industrial association. Manager Towne of the association personally congratulated Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Trawick on the success of their efforts, and expressed their appreciation of what is being done for all of the towns in the power zone, since the prosperity of one is more or less linked with that of the others.

"The securing of this factory shows that we have something no other place has to offer in the same proportion" said Mr. Towne. ."It shows that our advertising and industrial efforts are beginning to count, and that in spite of the fact that financial conditions generally are sized up as bad, still they must not be so bad, when a com pany will invest this amount of money in an experimental plant to prove the absolute excellency of electro-smelting over other methods for certain metals.

"We are delighted with the announcement that the concern is going to locate here, and I have taken pains to congratulate both Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Trawick on the success of their efforts, and we are most appreciative of the efforts that have been put forth."

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
Keokuk, Iowa ...September 27, 1914

SMELTING PLANT TO LOCATE HERE

Announcement is Made That Keokuk Will be the Point to Which Eastern Concern Will Move.

ON INDUSTRIAL TRACT

This is Location Which It is Announced Will be Used by Company—Some Material is Here Now.

The Johnson Electric Smelting company will locate its plant in Keokuk. The decision of the eastern concern to come here was announced from the offices of the Mississippi River Power company here, yesterday afternoon. This disposes of all of the talk that the plant would go to Hamilton.

It was announced that the plant will locate on the north end of the industrial tract above the Des Moines river in the valley. It is understood that the plant may occupy some of the land near the Taber mill for the present and later move to the industrial tract. The fact that there are no street car lines, sewage or water mains to the tract, lends color to the belief that the factory may be located first on some lots owned by the power company somewhat nearer to these facilities.

The Johnson Electric Smelting company expects to build a building worth $75,000 and install machinery to a similar amount. This will give Keokuk a fine factory, and will no doubt be the start of similar industries here, owing to the proximity of the electric power.

While the first factory will be only an experimental one, it is the idea of the company of which Woolsey McK. Johnson is president, to enlarge this and make it a permanent factory if conditions warrant this.

It is understood that there is in storage in one of the local warehouses some office furniture, laboratory fixtures and supplies, patterns and some of the material which will be used. This equipment has been in Keokuk for some time, awiting the decision of the Johnson company.

The Johnson company is dismantling the factory at Hartford, Conn., preparatory to bringing it to Keokuk and locating it here.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
Keokuk, Iowa .....Augus 3, 1914

JOHNSON IN CITY, TELLS WHY KEOKUK WAS CHOSEN

Head of the Electric Smelting Plant Which Will Locate Here Says City Has Advantages.

HUB OF CIVILZATION

Says Plenty of Industries Should Settle Here Owing to Central Location and Power.

Woolsey McK. Johnson, of the Johnson Electric Smelting company, accompanied by R. W. Earlee, were in the city last week on business connected with the factory which locates in this city. Mr. Johnson gave out the following interview to The Gate City:

"We located our smelter in Keokuk after spending a lot of time and over $5,000 investigating places in Colorado, Montana, Idaho and British Columbia, and after careful consideration we found that Keokuk has more advantages than any other place," said Woolsey McK. Johnson, vice president of the Johnson Electric Smelting company, yesterday at the hotel Iowa.

"Other places has certain advantages," he continued, "for instance Butte, Montana, was nearer the ore, but on the other hand Keokuk has the great advantage of cheap coal—and we use coal both for its carbon and chemical reactions in the electric furnace and to pre-heat the ore. We went into everything very carefully, and it was talk—talk—talk—four of us, for a long time, and finally we decided that Keokuk is the most advantageous place to build a big industrial business.

Can Compete Even with Norway.

"We intend to use electricity in large blocks of 10,000 horse power, and the rates for current here compare extremely favorable with those at any other water power. Your Keokuk water power is enormous, and it is permanent. With it and the favorable conditions of labor I believe we can compeet here with Norway, even, with its extremely cheap electric power.

"Here at Keokuk we are right in the center of civilization and can get everything here easily—you are right between Chicago, Saint Louis and Kansas City on the main road east, west, north and south.

"You ought to get a lot of industries to locate here with all your advantages in Keokuk. Men can live here in the midst of so much food produced on the farms, and all living

Aug 3, 1914 - page #1 (Electric Smelting Co.)

SMELTERS

Aug. 3 1914 - page #2 (Electric Smelting Co.)

conditions are good in Keokuk which is highly important."

Chose Keokuk on Merits.

When the smelting company got ready to enlarge greatly and sought a permanent location, four men started out to find the right place. They were Mr. Johnson, the inventor of the process used; President Eldred of the company; Dr. Struthers, formerly professor of metallurgy at Columbia university, and Dr. Barlow, the eminent mining engineer who went down on the Empress of Ireland recently. After long and thorough investigation they decided upon Keokuk as having the greatest aggregate of advantages for a large industrial plant.

The present plant at Hartford, Conn., is comparatively small and it will be abandoned as soon as the larger one here is completed.

"We will take all the machinery, the men, and everything, and bring them to Keokuk," said Mr. Johnson.

Attracts Ore from Antipodes.

The Johnson company is really outside of all competition, since it reduces ores that no other smelter can handle. The presence of zinc in ore makes it very difficult to smelt by the ordinary processes, and the zinc is lost and an extra charge is made by the smelter. But the Johnson process not only takes out the zinc and other metals, but does it without any premium charge—it does the hitherto impossible at an actual saving in cost.

Mr. Johnson said that his company is now smelting ore at Hartford that comes from Burmah, Asia, and that ores are constantly being shipped from all over the west to Illinois, while ore goes from Butte, Montana, to Clarksburg, West Virginia, to be smelted. About 40 percent of the zinc production of the United States is smelted in Illinois, at LaSalle, Depue, Danville, Hillsboro and other places in that state. There will be no difficulty about bringing ore to Keokuk which is comparatively near the mines.

Sulphuric Acid By-Product.

For every ton of ore a ton of sulphuric acid is made as a by-product, and being near the market for this and other by-products was another advantage in favor of Keokuk.

Mr. Johnson and the chief engineer of the company R. W. Earlee, were in Keokuk a couple of days and left last evening for the east. One object of their visit was to choose a site for the smelter. Several good sites were inspected, but no definite choice between them was made, this being left for future decision.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
Keokuk, Iowa .....July 16, 1914

SOMETHING ABOUT ELECTRO SMELTING

How Johnson Factory Which Will be Built Here Will be Operated is Described by an Expert.

ZINC CAN BE EXTRACTED

This Will Save Penalties Attached Under Old Process—Method is Interesting One.

Since the announcement Monday in The Gate City, that a $75,000 electric smelting plant was to be located in Keokuk, there has been considerable interest evinced as to the exact processes used in smelting ore by this electric process. The question was put to C. B. Rhodes, industrial commissioner for the Mississippi River Power company this morning, asking him if it could be answered without going into a maze of technicalities.

Mr. Rhodes' answer was that the process is that of taking complex ores, containing lead, copper, silver and zinc, and subjecting it to an electric process which extracts from the ore all the metals in one operation at a minimum cost. The electric process, according to Mr. Rhodes saves the zinc, which under old style methods could not be extracted, and in consequence miner were penalized for the zinc in the ore.

Zinc, as one expert has expressed it, has played the baby of the metallurgy family ever since man began to work the ore. By the new Johnson process, however, zinc is extracted and the penalties are removed.

Three Parts to Process.

A bulletin issued by the Canadian Mining Institute containing a paper by Woolsey McAlpine Johnson on "The Commercial Aspect of Electric Zinc Lead Smelting" contains a very clear and interesting account of the process.

There are three parts to the process as described in Mr. Johnson's paper. First there is a rough roasting process to expell a large part of the sulphur until it does not exceed from 4 percent to 6 percent. "This roasting is an ordinary operation and can be done in general practice at a cost of less than one dollar per ton. If the original ore or concentrate is high enough in sulphur, it can be roasted by sulphuric acid manufacturers at little or no charge to the metallurgist, and the cost of this preliminary treatment would then be reduced to that of freight handling, only.

Final Reduction in Furnace.

"Pre-heating and pre-reducing the ore with admixture of soft coal" is next according to Mr. Johnson's outline. "This is to reduce much of the iron oxide to metallic iron which is necessary in the subsequent treatment in the electric furnace. More than half of the heat required for the chemical reactions is supplied very cheaply in this pre-heater.

"The final reduction to metals in the continuous zinc furnace in order to decompose the sulphides of zinc and lead, forming a metallic zinc which is volatilized and collected in the condenser, copper matte, and lead bullion which are collected in the bottom of the furnace and molten slag which floats on the top of the matte is the most important step in the process," as Mr. Johnson gives it.

How Furnace Works.

The Johnson furnace for the electric smelting process contains a crucible in which the smelting relations occur. At the bottom of the crucible is a water cooled tap hole for the molten matte and lead bullion and there is also a tap hole for the removal of molten slag. Four copper covered electrodes five inches in diameter are attached to the bus bars by water cooled clamps. These electrodes supported by chain tackles project through the arched roof of the furnace into the crucible. Hoppers for the introduction of ore, flux and reducing material are situated conveniently close. There is a flue to carry the vaporized zinc and furnace gases to the condenser in which the zinc is collected in molten metallic form, and the esaping gas, chiefly carbon monoxide is burned in a steady flame as it escapes through the small orifices.

Some Chemical Reactions.

It would not be possible to give in comprehensive form all of the chemistry changes. To quote from Mr. Johnson's paper in the bulletin, "The sulphur combines with reduced copper, first, and then with reduced iron to form copper matte, which collects some silver and gold and settles to the crucible. Similarly the reduced lead in molten metallic form collects the rest of the gold and silver forming a base-bullion which settles. Silica and some other metals form slag which floats on top of the matte. The zinc which is reduced to metallic form is immediately vaporized at the temperature of the furnace and passes to the condenser at the side where it is condensed and collected in a molten condition."

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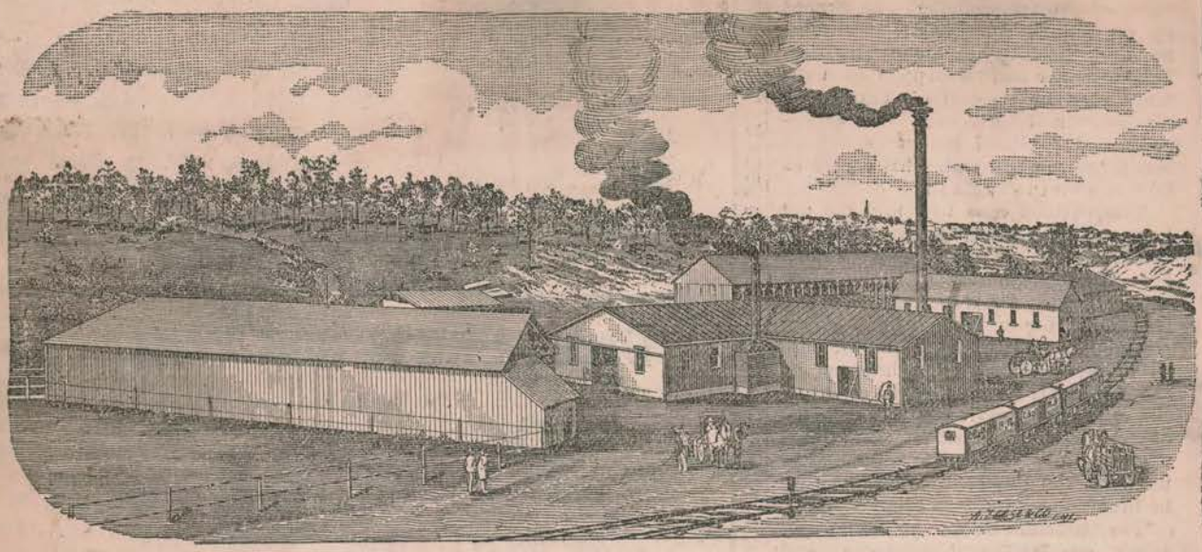
KEOKUK BARREL AND HOOP CO.



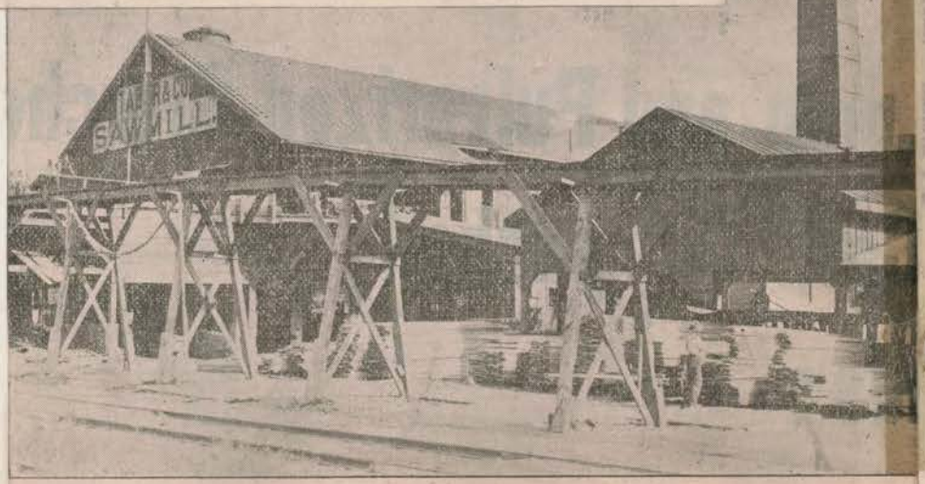
MAUFACTURERS LARD TIERCES AND PORK BARRELS

JOHN WACKER, Manager, KEOKUK, IOWA.

7TH & JOHNSON. NORTH →

1899

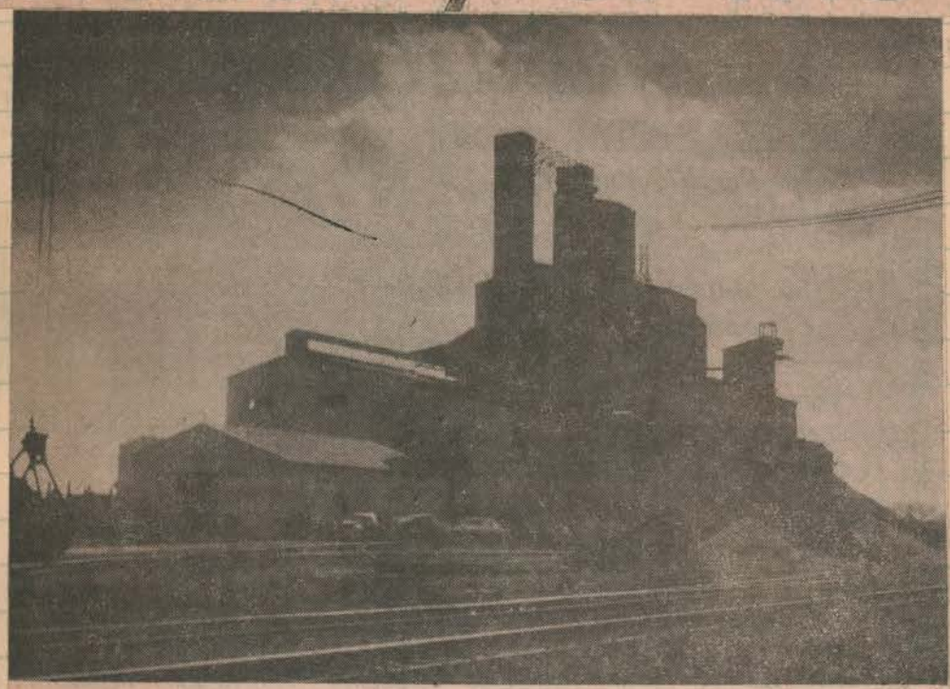
KEOKUK CANNING COMPANY.



1899

TABER & CO. SAWMILL.

Electro-Metals industry of the month



NEW NO. 9 FURNACE of the Keokuk Electro-Metals Company, completed in 1957, looms against the sky with its towering stacks in this excellent picture taken by the Rev. C. O. Basinger.

Big industry born in Keokuk in 1916

JAN. 2. 1960

Since early this year a division of the Vanadium Corporation of America as a result of a merger, the Keokuk Electro-Metals Company is native to Keokuk and was founded here in 1915 by the late G. E. Weissenburger.

Earlier he had envisioned the commercial possibilities of the manufacture of ferro-silicon and other ferro alloys by the electric furnace process and brought his dream into materialization here.

Came with water power

Because of the excellent supply of hydro-electric power made available by the then Mississippi River Power Company with the completion of its dam and power plant, he selected Keokuk as the ideal location for his project.

In 1916 the first furnace was completed and began its operation on April 10 of that year. From that date on the glow of the furnaces on the banks of the Mississippi just above the mouth of the Des Moines river has been one of the familiar sights of Keokuk.

New furnace in 1957

As demand increased, additional furnaces were added with the latest and largest, Number 9, being completed late in 1957. The present normal capacity in terms of Kilowatt demand of the Keokuk plant is approximately 53,500 KW.

This means that in a year of capacity operation the Keokuk plant would consume around 470,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, or as much as would be used in a year's time by 130,000 average households.

Wenatchee plant

In 1948 Keokuk Electro-Metals Company acquired an electric furnace ferro-alloy plant near Wenatchee, Wash. It had been built by the U. S. government during World War II and had been abandoned after the close of the war due to inefficient operation and lack of markets in a peacetime economy.

After considerable rehabilitation, together with several years of development work on high silicon alloys, this plant has become an important part of the Keokuk Electro-Metals operation with four electric furnaces having approximately 35,000 KW capacity in production at the present time.

Vanadium merger

On May 15, 1959 the Keokuk company merged with Vanadium Corporation of America, an important producer of a wide line of ferro-alloys at four plant locations as well as owner and operator of mines and mills for the production of chromium, manganese, vanadium and uranium ores and concentrates.

Under terms of the merger, Vanadium Corporation of America became the survivor corporation with Keokuk Electro-Metals Company being operated as an autonomous division of the corporation.

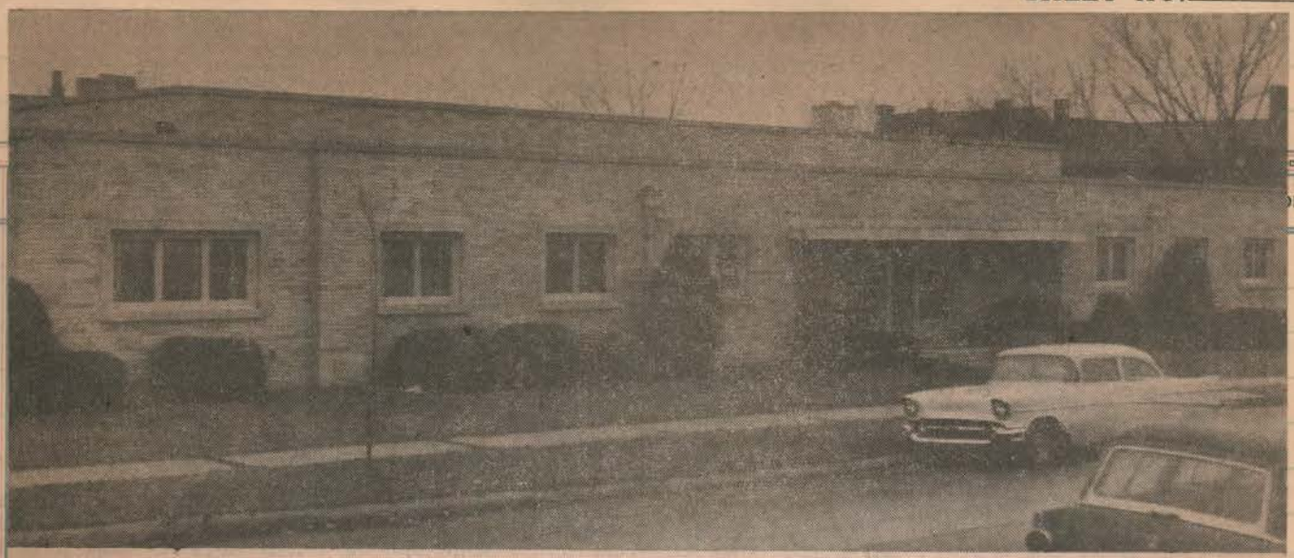
President of Vanadium Corporation is William C. Keeley.

Weissenburger heads division

G. L. Weissenburger, son of the founder of Keokuk Electro-Metals, who has been responsible for its tremendous development in the latter years after the death of his father, is a vice president and director of Vanadium Corporation as well as president of the Keokuk division.

Other Keokuk division officers include William T. McGinnies, Edawrd H. Fries and L. Earl Othmer, vice presidents, and Leon Coquillette, assistant vice president and comptroller.

Principal business of Keo-



BEAUTIFUL OFFICE BUILDING of the Keokuk Electro-Metals Company adds to the attraction of the residential neighborhood at Fourth and Concert streets. —Daily Gate City Photo

kuk Electro-Metals Company is the extraction of the element silicon from its natural sources and combining it with iron to form the product ferro-silicon. This, in turn, is introduced into the melt of foundries and steel mills in order to add certain properties, or to achieve certain chemical reactions from the silicon addition.

Found as silicon

In nature the element silicon is not found free but occurs as silica, of which common sand is a familiar example. Nature has made this bond of silicon and oxygen extremely strong and it requires the terrific temperatures of the electric arc furnace to break it apart.

At Keokuk the principal product is a special form of ferro-silicon containing between 14 and 25 per cent silicon and known as "Silvery Iron," or, since it is sold in pig form, as "Silvery Pig Iron."

Many different types

Many different analyses are made according to customer specifications and additions of chrome and manganese may also be made to the basic ferro-silicon to give alloys for particular uses. The Keokuk plant also produces a form of ferro-silicon containing approximately 50 per cent silicon as well as ferrochrome, an alloy of iron and chromium.

KEOKUK ELECTRO-METALS DIVISION plant of the Vanadium Corporation of America covers a wide area on Keokuk's Mississippi river front extending almost to the mouth of the Des Moines river, far left in this panoramic view of the large

industrial area. Twin stacks of the new, Number 9 furnace, can be seen at the left in the central section. First furnace of the plant went into operation in April of 1916 and it has been expanding steadily since with a current payroll of 560

The Wenatchee, Wash. plant, on the other hand, produces higher silicon alloys, including silicon metal which is a high purity product containing more than 98 per cent silicon and used by the aluminum industry as an alloying agent.

Community factor

In the community scene, Keokuk Electro-Metals Company has been a strong factor for many years, both from the standpoint of the company itself and from the contribution of its individual employes to the activities of the community.

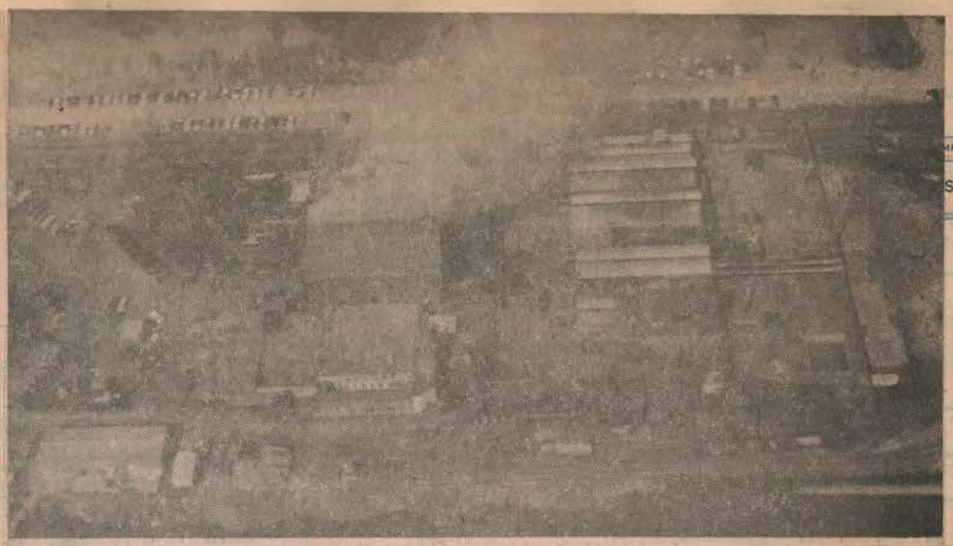
The company is presently the largest payer of local taxes outside of the public utilities with a current local tax bill more than $140,000 annually.

There are presently 560 employes in Keokuk with the hourly paid employes at the Keokuk plant represented by Local Union No. 148, International Union of Operating Engineers.

Own steam plant

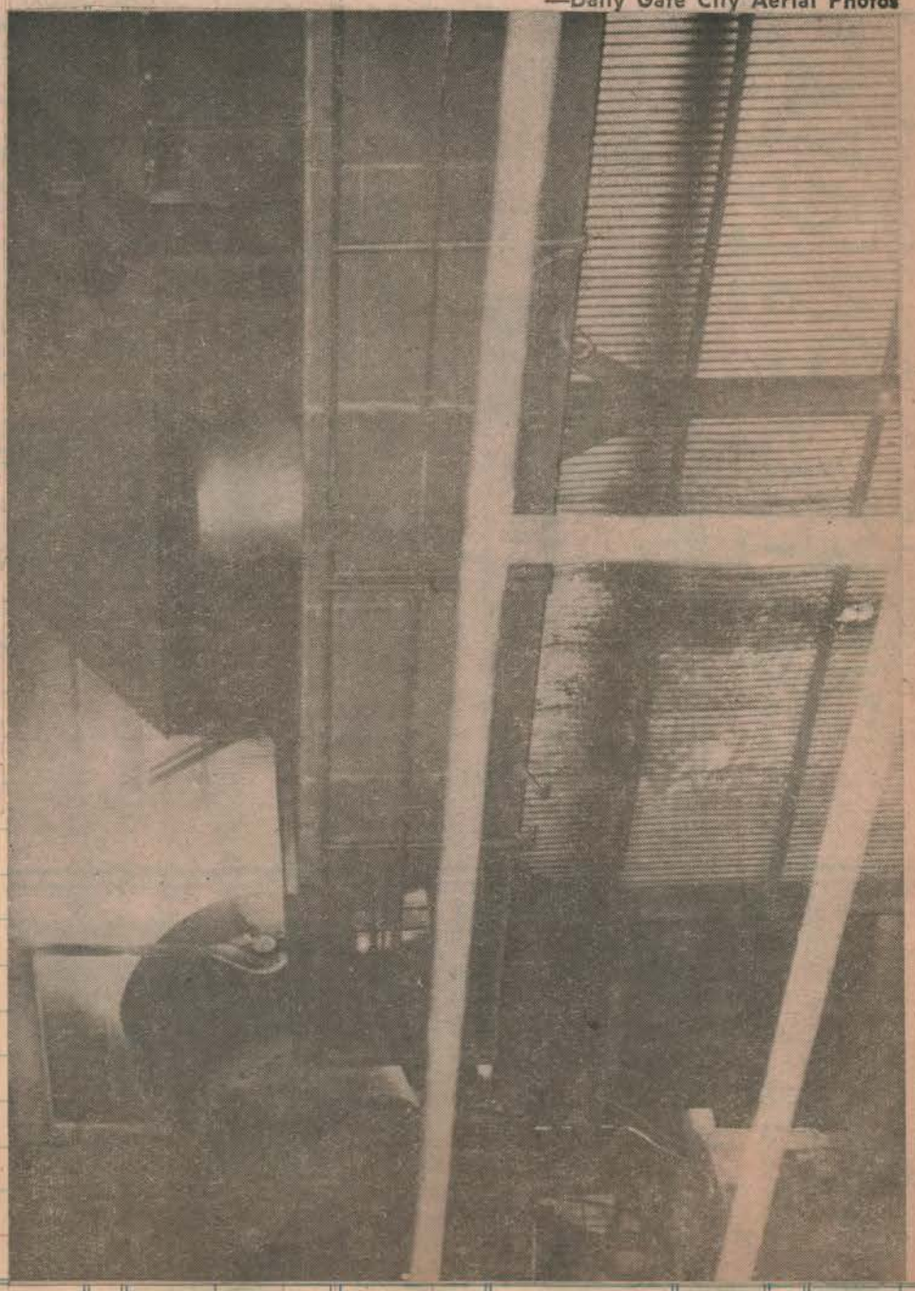
In addition to its furnaces, the company operates its own steam power plant, constructed in 1942, which supplies a portion of its power requirements with two 7500 KW turbogenerators.

The local plant handles approximately a half million tons of raw and finished materials each year with ores coming from as far away as Africa, Turkey and the Philippines. It has its own river dock facilities and as a result handles a substantial portion of both incoming and outgoing materials by river barge.



persons, all contributing directly to the economy of Keokuk.

—Daily Gate City Aerial Photos



FUSED AT TERRIFIC TEMPERATURE, molten ferro-silicon from the No. 9 furnace at the Keokuk Electro-Metals Company plant on Commercial Alley is being transferred by a huge ladle, left, into a cooling vat before being poured into ingots. Ferro-silicon is a combination of the element silicon, found in common sand, and iron and is used commercially in foundries and steel mills.

—Daily Gate City Photo

DAILY GATE CITY

ELECTRO METALS PRODUCT TAKEN BY AUTO PLANTS

Ferro Alloys of Keokuk Plant Used in Castings and Rolled Steel—Electric Refrigerator Making Strides, Too.

, MAY 9, 1925

Quartzite from South Dakota, steel filings from Houston, Texas, are combined in the melting pots of the Keokuk Electro Metls company into ferro alloys and silvery iron, which are used in the manufacture of engines and parts for automobiles. Electric furnaces combine these ingredients into the finished product which is shipped to Milwaukee, Saginaw, and other points to be made into castings and rolled steel for the engines which run automobiles which are seen every day on the streets of every city in the United States.

The production of these steel alloys has picked up considerable extent in the last two weeks, G. E. Weissenburger, of the Keokuk Electro Metals company, said yesterday, due to the fact that the manufacturers have exhaused surplus stocks and are buying now for immediate delivery. Between ninety and a hundred men are employed in the plant which is one of the big industries located in Commercial Alley. The plant has been operating on full time, which means twenty-four hours, and indications are favorable for continued full time operation, for the manufacture of automobiles and their engines knows no season.

Expect Continued Gains.

Renewed prosperity in industry is seen by the company in the letters received recently making inquiry about production or giving shipping instructions. This renewed activity is laid to the fact that for a period immediately following the election last fall, factories were well stocked and had to use this up before getting new material. Now they are asking for immediate shipment of materials to satisfy their needs.

Every bit of material made at the Electro Metals plant is analyzed in the chemical laboratory of the plant, in which two men are always at work. The raw materials are tested, and the finished product is also subjected to chamical tests to prove its fitness to be sent out. The laboratory is an important part of the machinery of a plant of this kind, although few people realized this fact until it was brought to their notice by several of the steel plants at the Made in Keokuk show last month.

Materials Come From Distances.

Quartzite comes to Keokuk from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and this material contains the necessary silica base for combination with the steel filings to make the ferro alloys. Tests conducted in the chemical laboratory guide the men in the plant in the mixing of the quartzite and the steel filings.

Once this material is made in the Keokuk plant it is shipped east to be made into casting and rolled steel for automobile engines. The Buick company, the Nash, the General Motors company are a few of the users of the ferro alloys made in the Keokuk plants. Saginaw, Mich., is the furthest east that the preduct is shipped at the present time.

The Electric Refrigerator.

The offices of the Electro Metals company are located at 29 South Twelfth street. In this building also is located a new Keokuk industry, but one that its officers are confident will become one of the large industries of the city and that before long, the Keokuk Refrigerating company. The Electric Household Refrigerator is being turned out by this supplying the 200,000 electric refrigerators which public utility men figure will be in operation in the country in another year.

Six men are at work in the factory of the Keokuk Refrigerating company, assembling the refrigerator and building the parts which are put into the cabinets after they come to Keokuk from Waterloo where they are made by the Herrick Refrigerator company. The cooling unit is placed in the ice cabinet, and the motor and other equipment placed in the lower compartment of the cabinet, before the finished product is turned out of the Keokuk plant. The company is being its efforts now to introducing the machine into all parts of the country.

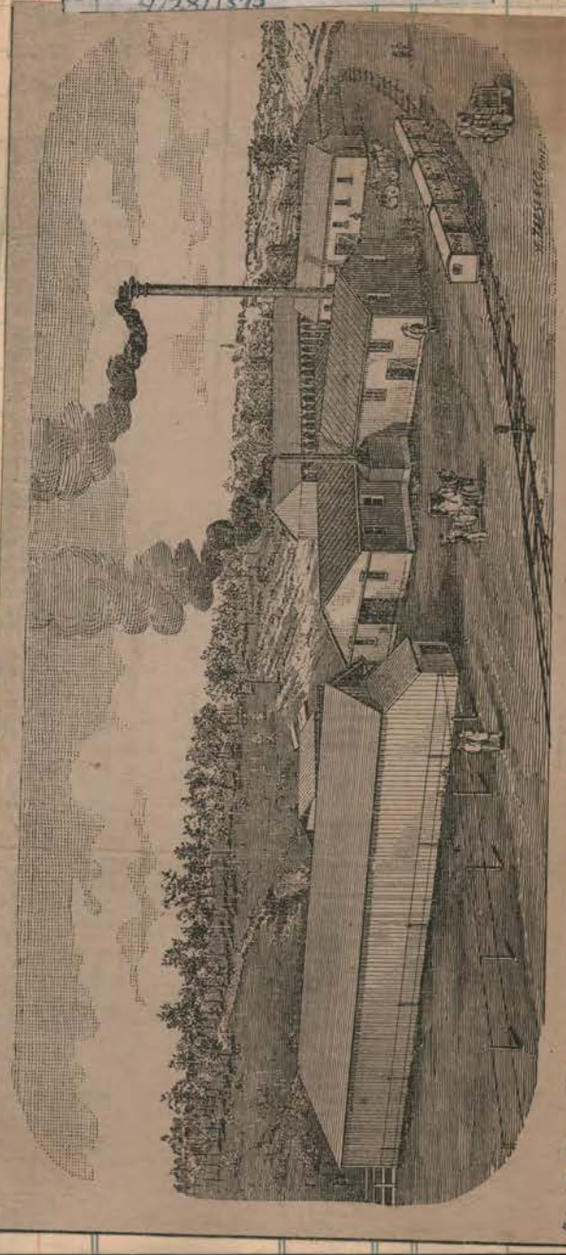
Placed in Wide Territory.

In more than thirty-one cities as far east as Massachusetts, south as far as Florida, southwest to Texas and north as far as Iowa, the Keokuk made refrigerator has been placed. Following this introduction it is the intention of the company through its sales department, headed by John Dillon, to push the sale and use of this newest of Keokuk products. At a recent meeting of public utility men, it was forecast that 200,000 electric refrigerators would be in use by next year, and Keokuk expects to supply a lot of these.

Operation is Automatic.

The operation of the refrigerator is automatic, and it is claimed for it that the temperature is kept colder than ice can do it. Tests have shown a temperature of below forty-eight degrees in summer in the various compartments. Government standards put 50 as the maximum for the preservation of foods.

Letters are being received from many parts of the country asking about the refrigerator and it is confidently expected that by another year this infant in Keokuk industries will have cast asiue its baby clothes and will be among the large manufacturing plants of the city.



Works of the Keokuk Barrel and Hoop Company.

CONS. DEM. 3/1/1891

THE DAILY GATE CITY.
, NOV. 24, 1928

11,000 POUND CASTING WAS POURED HERE

This is the Largest Steel Casting of Its Kind Ever Made in This Country Officials of Steel Casting Company Say.

The biggest steel casting for the kind of work for which it is designed, ever cast in this country, was poured yesterday afternoon at the Keokuk Steel Casting company's plant in Commercial Alley. According to W. H. Jacobi, general manager, the local plant is going into active competition with European foundries for large castings. Heretofore he said that casting for American plants had been made in Germany and brought to this country, but that the Keokuk Steel Casting company was demonstrating the fact that big castings could be successfully made here.

The casting weighed 11,000 pounds. The one cast last week which is for the same company weighed 10,000 pounds. The casting is one and three-quarters inches thick, and the two pieces of machinery made here will be used as superheaters for steam for the Duke Power company of Charlotte, N. C. The castings were poured in one piece, and when machined will weigh in the neighborhood of 7,600 pounds.

Plan to Exhibit Castings.

It is planned to exhibit the products in transit. Signs will be erected on the side of the cars carrying these to their destination, "Super-fittings for Super-Service, for the Duke Power company of Charlotte, N. C., made by the Keokuk Steel Casting company." Engineers and foundry people will be asked to view the castings and efforts will be made to give experts a chance to see what can be done in the way of American made castings.

The casting was poured yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the presence of a big crowd. Owsley Brown, of Springfield, president of the Keokuk Steel Casting company was here for the event. Others with him were W. C. Doud and Mr. Adams of the Dayton-Doud company of Quincy; H. G. Meyers and E. J. Maloney of the Gardner-Denver company at Quincy. There was a big gallery of local men present, too, who had gathered on the invitation to see the casting made, and to have a part in watching the writing of a chapter in industrial history.

Classes in chemistry in Keokuk high school and from Wayland high school were here to see the casting poured. The Wayland boys and girls came by truck, spending the afternoon in the plant.

Pictures of the first casting were distributed by Mr. Jacobi, who with Ralph O. Mackie of the company explained the various processes and showed the visitors over the big plant. It proved an interesting afternoon for everyone, with of course the climax coming when the big casting was poured.

"Dress Rehearsal" and "Show."

It was like being let in on the dress rehearsal and production of the big show all in one. The metal was heated in the electric furnace, and the big dippers out of which it was poured were also heated almost white hot, before the metal was poured out of the big furnace. Molders were busy making molds of other castings, and by watching this process one could see just how the molds were built up for this huge casting. A special mixture of sand is used by the company in making these molds. The traveling cranes swept overhead like airplanes and the scene on the floor of the foundry might easily have led one to believe that he was watching the rehearsal of some battle problem.

Frequent tests of the heat of the molten metal were made, and at last the right consistency had been obtained. The cranes picked up the big dippers and carried them to the furnace where they were filled with the metal which poured from the furnace in a stream of fire. The slag was poured off and the dippers of molten metal were brought by the cranes to the molds. Men swarmed around the molds, and the dippers were tilted pouring their load of white hot metal into the sand where it took the form of the machines that were to be made.

Some Real Fireworks.

One of the dippers slipped a little to the side, the heat being so intense that the men could not hold it for a minute, and there was the prettiest display of fireworks that one could ask for. It drove the spectators closest to the job back in confusion, and the hot metal singed coas and hats, but it was all over in a minute, due to the prompt action of Frank Young, one of the men on the job. He stayed with the dipper in spite of the fact that he was being bombarded by the melted metal, and directed the stream of molten steel into the mold, thus saving the casting. Everyone admired his pluck in staying with the superheated dipper and its load of liquid fire.

As soon as the metal was poured, the molds were removed and the rough casting was exposed. It must now be machined, and then will be ready for shipment with its twin to the Duke company where it will be installed in the plant.

Subjected to Much Pressure.

The casting will be subjected to a pressure of 2,800 pounds to the square inch when it is completed. The first casting made last week was subjected to pressure of 2,000 pounds to the square inch yesterday, and after the casting is placed in the annealing room it will be ready then for the final test. It was shown yesterday that no pin holes or other leaks developed.

The casting is so large that only a spare inch and a half is had in the annealing chamber with the casting put in slant-wise.

Commenting on the record growth and development of the Keokuk Steel Casting Company to a party of Chamber of Commerce representatives yesterday, general manager W. H. Jacobi said:

"We have some plans for the near future which we think will be of interest to other manufacturers of this city and we hope, to the general public. Especially since the war, the world has come to understand the term 'morale' which is as important in industry as in the army. For the employe it spells better working conditions, greater contentment, steady employment, maximum pay for labor performed; for the employer it means the reduction of absenteeism to the minimum, an enthusiasm for tasks well and intelligently done, loyalty to the best interests of the employer and maximum production. It is not a one-sided proposition, employe and employer benefit alike.

Instruction for All.

"Within a very short time this company will have completed the organization of a night school in our plant, open to every shop employe. We are planning a series of intimate talks on various phases of our work, molding, handling metal and the like, as well as a study of English, practice in speaking and will lay special emphasis on 'citizenship.'

"The office employes of the company will be urged to avail themselves of the splendid opportunities offered in the public night schools, paying particular attention to the study of economics. In fact, if any of our employes want to enter the public night school for a study of what is familiarly know nas 'the fundamentals,' mathematics, spelling, drawing, etc., we will endeavor to make it possible for them to get the greatest advantage out of their work.

For the Families.

"We plan during the winter to have several meetings at which the families of employes will be entertained with programs of special interest to the women, in fact a series of picnics and get together meetings will be continued throughout the year."

Mr. Jacobi dislikes the term 'welfare work' but states that the interest of the officials of the Steel Casting company will extend in a helpful way to the homes of their employes. He points to the fact that the one common practice of driving employes has practically ceased in American industry; that the modern employer prides himself on knowing personally, and often by his first name, every employe on the payroll, and that aside from attention the employer owes to every sick and injured employe there are other very definite obligations that are being diligently observed with the inevitable result that these new relations mean prosperity and contentment for all concerned. Mr. Jacobi needs no assurance that the result of his plans will be watcher with much interest in Keokuk.

Keokuk salutes Steel Casting as its Industry of the Month

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April 28, 1959 (1st page)

KEOKUK STEEL CASTING COMPANY was selected by the Chamber of Commerce as its Industry of the Month for April and this large diplay was set up by the firm in the lobby of the Hotel Iowa. Its shows castings of various sizes and types for a multiplicity of uses in the country's modern industry — for farm equipment, trucks and trailers, heavy road equipment, oil field equipment, pumps, excavating machinery, materials handling and general industrial use.

Daily Gate City Photo—

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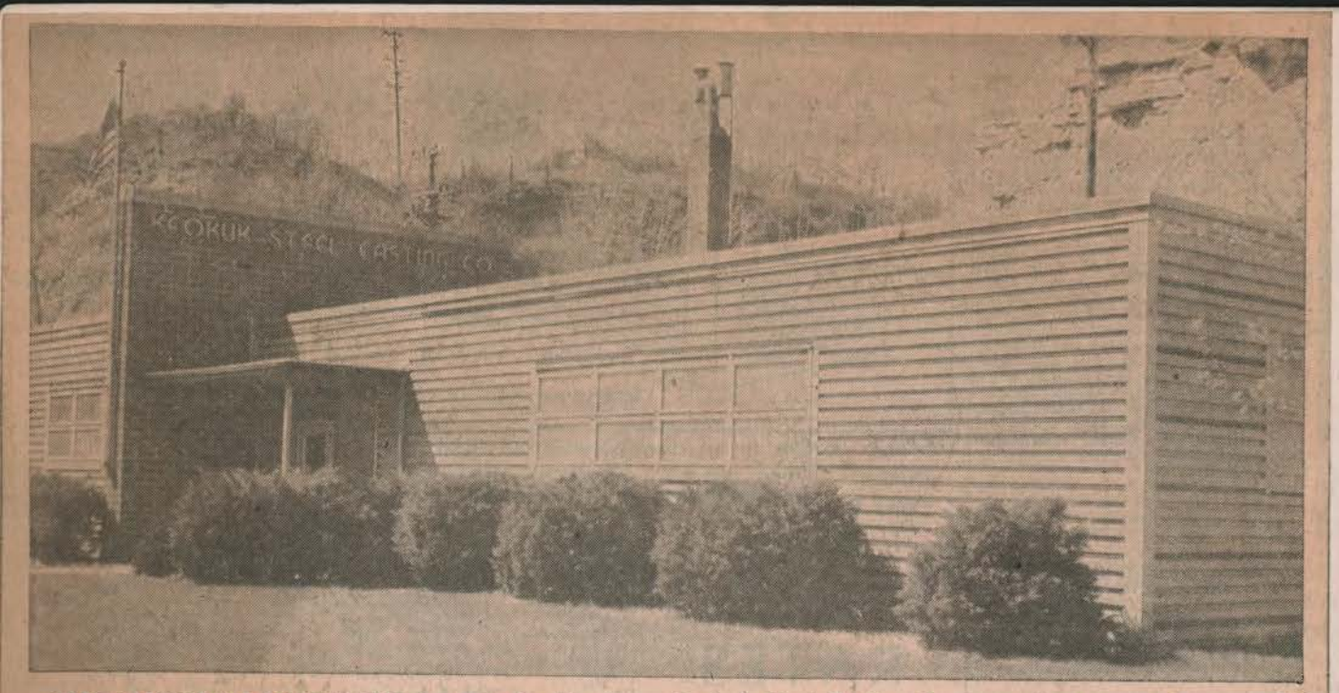


ATTRACTIVELY LANDSCAPED in a work-a-day industrial setting in the trim office building of the Keokuk Steel Casting Company, just across Commercial alley from the sprawling plant of the company.
—Daily Gate City Photo—

April 28, 1959 - page 2
(Steel Casting Co.)

Success is created from a futile start

One of Keokuk's most progressive industries, now saluted by the Chamber of Commerce as its "Industry of the Month" for April, had a most inauspicious if venturesome beginning back in World War I days.

It is the Keokuk Steel Casting Company, Commercial and M streets, which was organized in 1915 as the Centrifugal Casting Company of Keokuk. It was one of the first plants to attempt spinning cannon and gun barrels.

Try it differently

The experiment proved unsuccessful but, according to Walter A. Miller, president of the present firm, "this pioneering spirit, this 'we'll try it and if doesn't work we'll try it a different way' attitude is behind today's progress at Keokuk Steel Casting and its associated firm, Mid-Continent Steel Casting Corp. of Shreveport, La. headed by Harry D. McChesney as president.

What it failed to do in one World War, however, it accomplished during the second by making a significant contribution to the war effort with the production of castings for tanks manufactured by John Deere Company.

Guiding genius

Walter J. Miller
1888-1939

Multi-directional

It is a far cry from the original company's concentrated effort on cannon barrels to its multiple operations of today. Since 1936 when the late Walter J. Miller became the guiding genius of the plant, its progress has been steady and multi-directional in the Keokuk and Shreveport operations.

Production now covers simple or complex castings, large or small for many diversified applications.

Geographical coverage has increased from four states in 1936 to 24 at present.

Payroll $1,750,000

The payroll has increased from $80,000 in 1936 to $1,750,000 today.

Its casting output has risen from 796 tons to 16,000 and it now has 115,000 square feet of usable space for its foundry operations.

After the abortive attempt of the original company in 1915, the Springfield Boiler Company of Springfield, Ill. acquired the foundry in 1918 to manufacture its own cast steel boiler headers. During this period the plant was expanded to about four times its original status but in 1931, during the depression, it was again abandoned.

Reopened in 1936

The big building remained vacant until 1936 when Walter J. Miller took over control and management. His broad experience in the steel industry was gained as owner and operator of the Northwestern Steel and Iron Corporation of Minneapolis, and as manager of the American Steel Foundries in Pittsburgh, Penn.

In taking over the Keokuk operation, Mr. Miller brought with him several key associates, among them his son Walter A., now president; Harry D. McChesney, his son-in-law, vice president, secretary and treasurer and Karl G. Jansson, vice president and director of sales for both companies.

Buy Shreveport plant

Under these men the foundry progressed rapidly and in 1946 the interests of the Springfield Boiler Co. were purchased. In 1950 the Keokuk Steel Casting Company purchased a steel foundry in Shreveport, La. from the J. B. Beaird Company and named in the Mid-Continent Steel Casting Corporation.

The company does not specialize in any one product and everything is made to order from the customer's patterns and specifications. It operates its own pattern shops and chemical and physical laboratories staffed by experts in their fields. In addition it maintains sales offices, also manned by experts, in Chicago, Tulsa, Okla., Houston, Tex. and Chattanooga, Tenn.

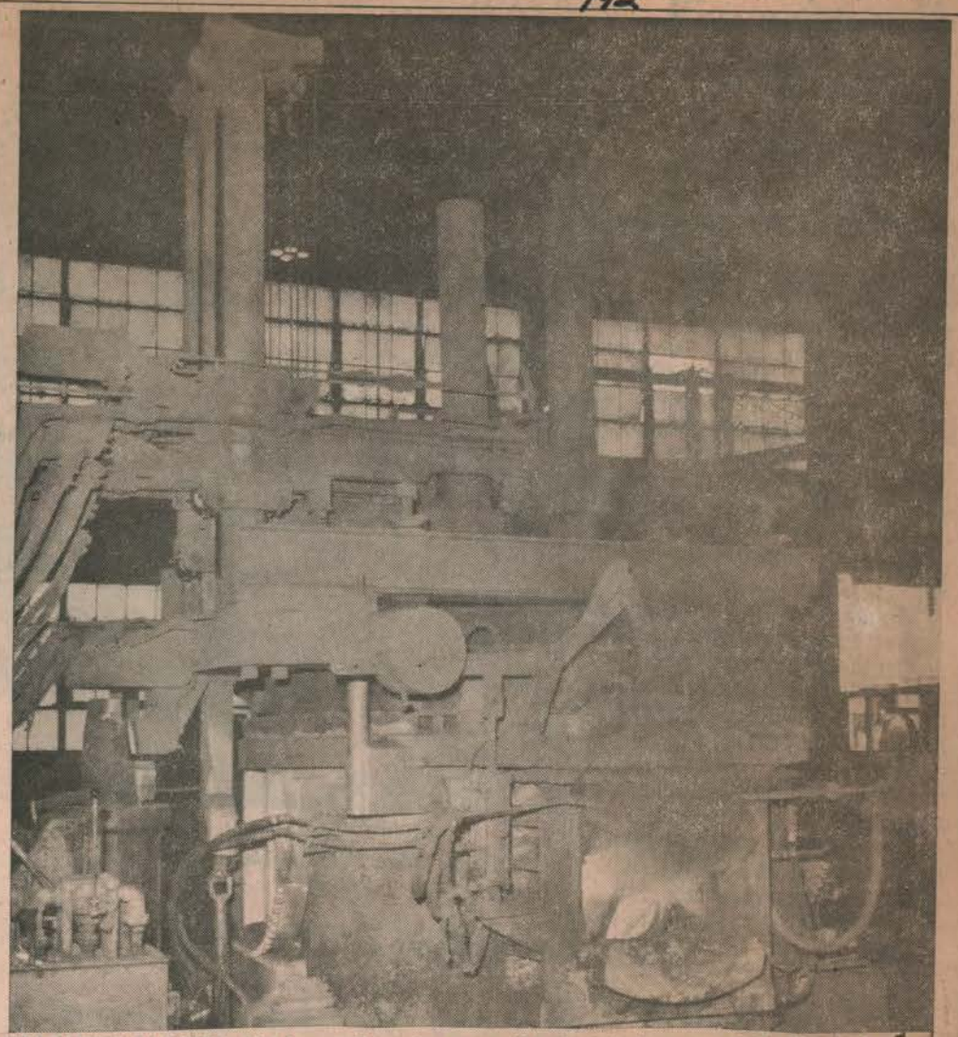
Complementary operation

Facilities of the two plants are geared to complement each other and patterns are frequently shuttled by air

from one plant for production at the other, thus avoiding bottle necks and making sure that uniform castings are delivered on time. In addition to production floor space, the two plants maintain five sprinkler protected warehouses for the storage of some 10,000 patterns, each representing a separate job.

Although the company produces castings for several key industries, specialization in castings for any industry is traditional. Here diversity is the key—diversity in size from castings weighing a few ounces to those of more than a ton; diversity in application with castings for railroads and automotive equipment, agricultural machinery, mines, quarries, material handling, steam generation, oil field equipment, valves and fittings and heavy road building equipment; and diversity in quantity—from several hundred castings to a carload.

Apr 28, 1959 - page 3 (Steel Casting Co.)



BELCHING FLAME is the huge, three-ton capacity electric furnace at the Keokuk Steel Casting Company which tilts forward to facilitate the tapping of a heat.
—Daily Gate City Photo—

WORKMEN ARE DWARFED in the large production room of the Keokuk Steel Casting Company on Commercial Alley where steel and alloyed steel castings ranging from a few ounces to a ton are turned out to precision specification. Monthly tonnage at Keokuk averages more than 500 tons.
Daily Gate City Photo—

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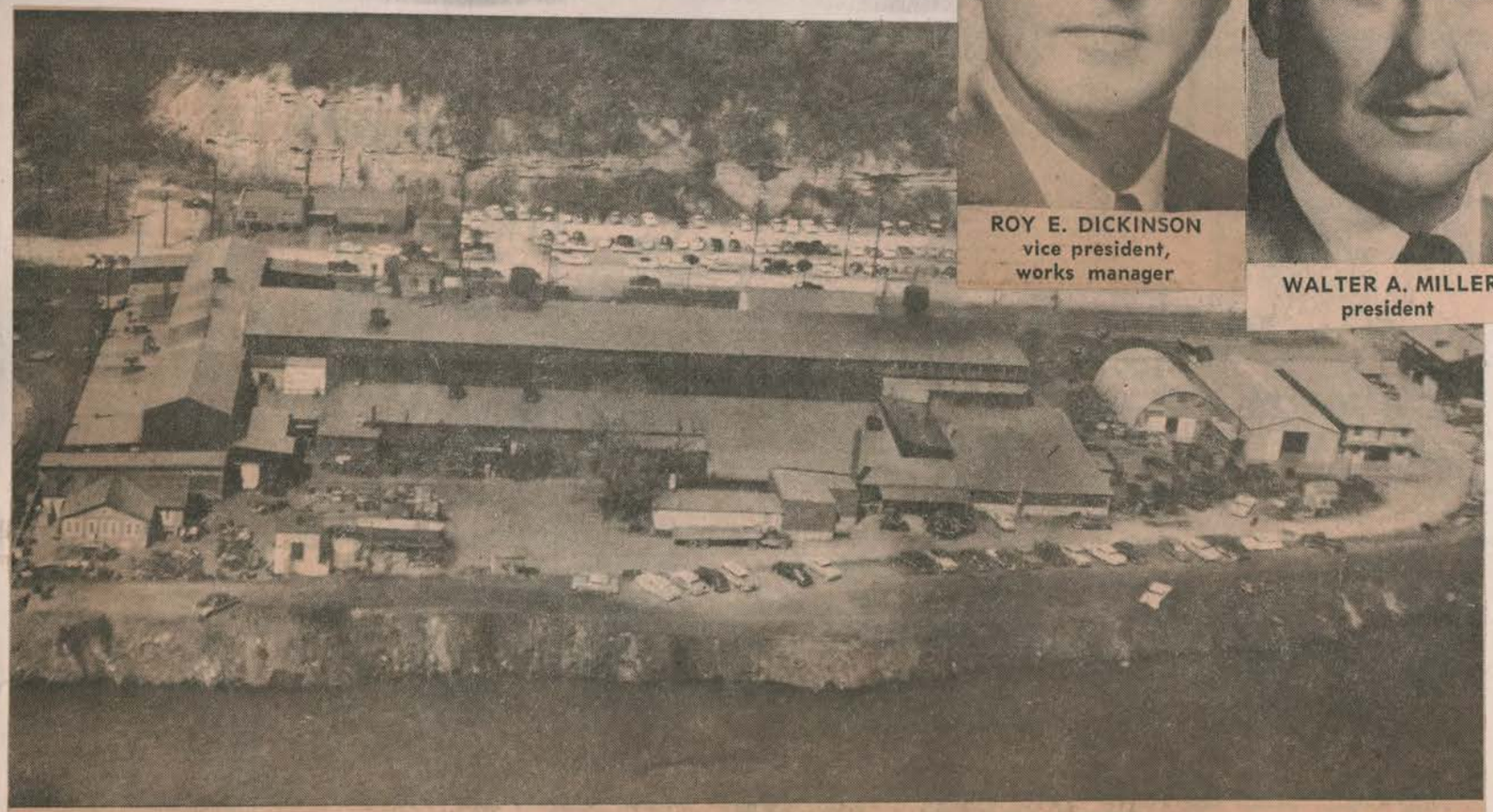


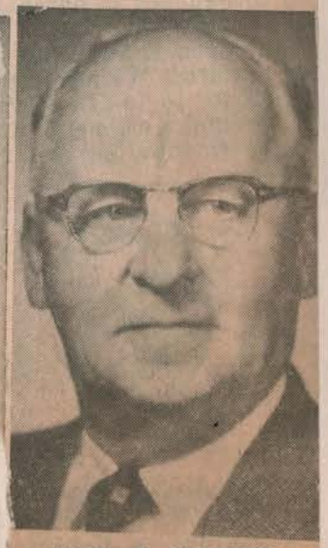
A BIRD FLYING DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI would have this view of the sprawling plant of the Keokuk Steel Casting Company located on the busy river front and Commercial Alley between the Keokuk Electro-Metals plant below and National Carbide above. Forced to shut down by floods in early years the company has built up a tall dike along the river front on which a number of cars are parked as can be seen here. The office is across Commercial alley from the plant at the left.
—Gate City Aerial Photo—

Steel Casting officers

ROY E. DICKINSON
vice president,
works manager

WALTER A. MILLER
president

HARRY D. McCHESNEY
Mid-Continent president



KARL G. JANSSON
vice president,
sales director

Sheller-Globe Produces Auto Safety Equipment

Des Moines Sunday Register
Jan. 7, 1968 11-A

By a Staff Writer

KEOKUK, IA. — Your safety in cars and trucks is a growing source of concern and profit here at Sheller-Globe Corp.'s Keokuk division, formerly Sheller Manufacturing Corp.

This city's biggest employer by far, Sheller-Globe produces plastic-covered crash pads that fit snugly over dashboards to protect drivers and passengers against injury.

Standard Equipment

Once a style and safety feature found mostly on luxury cars, crash pads now are standard equipment on all cars and trucks. The federal government made them mandatory in 1966 during the national debate over auto safety.

The plant's 1,200 to 1,500 employes, about 70 per cent of them women, also produce sponge-rubber weather stripping, gaskets for taillights, and other small rubber items for the auto industry.

Workers here make some 8,000 crash pads a day in a variety of colors, textures and styles matching car interiors. Extensive tooling is done every year to keep up with the auto-makers' changing styles.

Ten years ago, crash pads were a small part of the total business, said William F. Poupard (pronounced Pope-ard) of Keokuk, general manager.

"When the government made them mandatory on all cars," he said, "we were in an excellent position from a technological standpoint because of our years of experience in producing crash pads."

The pads became mandatory on 1967 models (on the market starting in the fall of 1966) but, said Poupard, Sheller-Globe began tooling up a year before that.

New Building

The company added a 14,000-square-foot building a year ago. Its total plant covers 350,000 square feet on 39 acres in northwest Keokuk on U.S. Highways 61 and 218.

The company has installed a new "stationary line" system for molding and curing the crash pads' vital ingredient, urethane, a spongy, tough, shock-absorbing plastic.

To make the pad, workers heat a wide strip of plastic until it softens. The strip is placed on a metal form and, at the flick of a switch, suction shapes the material to fit a particular dashboard.

Hardening quickly, the molded cover is placed in a cure mold. Syrupy liquid urethane goes into the vinyl shell, often supported by a metal insert. More heat and pressure make the urethane expand, and the pad is ready for finishing in a few minutes.

Youngsters touring the plant could be counted on to exclaim happily about the enormous supply of fat licorice strips around in boxes, in stacks and wiggling around machines.

What looks like candy is the weather stripping, also found in wide variety for different-shaped cars and trucks.

The stripping is used to seal doors, trunk and other areas of a vehicle.

Safety Portion

Originally, this was a rubber manufacturing plant which started 54 years ago in Keokuk. Rubber products today represent about one-third of its total volume output.

The plant here, with a payroll of about $8 million a year, is one of 21 divisions producing tools, metal stampings, rubber and plastic automotive products and office furniture, equipment and supplies.

A plant in Iowa City makes urethane foam products.

The corporation is a major producer of steering wheels for cars, trucks, boats, tractors and other equipment.

Sheller-Globe was formed Jan. 1, 1967, with the merger of Sheller Manufacturing Corp. and Globe-Warnicke Industries, Inc.

The Keokuk division's fortunes are closely tied to the auto industry and, Poupard reported, "the projection for the next five years shows an upward trend in auto and truck production."

Des Moines Sunday Register
Jan. 7, 1968 35-A
Iowa Business Review

325 VARIETIES OF DIECASTING

By Jerry Szumski
(Register Staff Writer)

KEOKUK, IA. — After eight years here, Emil Labanics still finds himself frequently explaining, "No, ma'am we're not making stuff to tint your cake-frosting."

"Most of the local people think we're making sugar coloring," said Labanics, first vice-president and manager of St. Louis Diecasting Corp., a busy, 58-employe shop of perfectionists at the outskirts of this southeast Iowa community.

The confusion is understandable because there used to be a sugar-dye plant here, he said.

Actually, St. Louis Diecasting makes 325 kinds of aluminum and zinc castings—components for telephones, washing machines, tractors, lawn-mowers, food mixers, roto-tillers and even housings for automatic coin-changers.

Tooled to a hair's breadth, the gray and silver castings range from a 1½-ounce adapter that fits on a tent-pole to 15-pound valve covers for tractors and transmission cases for washing machines.

Some of the firm's customers are Philco in Fairfield and AMF Western Tool in Des Moines. Its annual payroll is $200,000.

Lebanics is one of seven St. Louis, Mo., tool and die makers who organized the corporation in 1945. "Schooled in the shop" during the depression they saw as World War II ended a potential booming demand for castings made in steel dies.

By 1959, their St. Louis plant was "boxed in" and had to grow. They built the 4,700-square-foot Keokuk shop to accommodate customers in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. In 1963, a third plant was added in Ripley, Tenn.

Labanics said the Keokuk building, neighboring such plants as Hoerner-Waldorf, St. Louis Gear Co., Smith Carlton Industries, Inc., and Midwest Carbide Corp., "is so designed that it can be doubled in size."

"We anticipate in a few years we will have 150 to 200 employes," said Labanics, a tall man fiercely fussy and proud of the exacting dies cut in his shop.

Labanics strongly supports Iowa's relatively new venture into area vocational-technical schools.

"Iowa has plenty of water, plenty of power and the manpower's here," he said. "We need the skills, and we have taken a giant step forward by going into vocational training.

Evidence of Labanics' faith in being "schooled in the shop" is an intricately wired vertical lathe in the shop here.

One company said the machine would cost $100,000 to develop, but Labanics put a Navy-trained man with a high-school education to the task and it was done in two months at a fraction of the estimated cost.

Constitution-Democrat.

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.
DEMOCRAT—Established 1853.
Consolidated March 26, 1888.

AUGUST 26. 1891

KEOKUK BRICK.

Another Important Industry Established Here.

The Keokuk Brick and Tile Company Commenced Operations To-day and Will Turn Out Fine Pressed Brick.

Another new industry started up in Keokuk to-day, one that gives promise of being an important one, and one that will bring ample returns to its proprietors. We refer to the Keokuk Brick and Tile company. The large plant of this concern is located on the North road just back of the fair grounds and is reached from the city by passing through those grounds. Forty-five acres of the best clay of several kinds are owned by the company, and will furnish good material for the manufacture of the different kinds of brick it is the purpose to make. The machinery now in position is designed only for the manufacture of pressed building brick, but it is the intention, as soon as possible, to put in the necessary apparatus for making paving brick and also fire brick. The plant is located on a hillside, sloping down to the railroad track and is arranged in the most convenient manner. The clay is first dug at the top of the hill and hauled into a dry shed, whose dimensions are 130x60 feet. At present there is but one of these sheds, but two more, exactly like the first, will soon be built. In this shed the clay is spread out and thoroughly dried. It is then hauled to the back end of the power house, which is 100x54 feet in size, and dumped into a chute, from which it passes onto a broad platform. It is then shoveled into an immense Peterson crusher or dry pan, which consists of a large circular pan in which two large heavy rollers revolve at a rapid rate, crushing the clay as fine as dust. After going through this process, the earth drops into a receiver, where it is taken up by small buckets fastened to an endless chain, and elevated to the top of the second floor where it drops into the top of the screener and mixer, a machine constructed by M. F. Williams & Co., of St. Louis. On entering the machine the clay is received into the screener and is shaken up by its revolutions, the fine clay falling through into the mixer, the roots and clods being retained and discharged into a barrel furnished for the purpose. The mixer is a large box, with paddles extending out from the center, which pass through the clay, mixing it thoroughly. It is then discharged through a hole and passes down large tubes into the brick machine on the first floor. This is the Andrus improved dry press brick machine manufactured right here in Keokuk, and is the best brick machine on the market to-day. The clay goes into the moulds and each one receives a pressure of 100 tons and comes out onto the delivering table a complete and perfect pressed brick from whence they are carted on spring trucks to the kilns in front of the building and constructed into arches for the purpose of burning. The capacity of the brick machine is 20,000 per day. The first brick ever made at the works was turned out in the presence of a CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT representative, and is now on exhibition at this office. The kilns will be constructed on the board flat surface between the power house and the railroad track, where there is room for six kilns at once. After being burnt the brick are wheeled on trucks into the cars and shipped to their destination. Thus the clay starts at the top of the hill and on its journey down goes through various processes until the complete brick is loaded into the car at the bottom of the incline. A side track 640 feet long has been laid in front of the works. This will accommodate a car in front of each of the six kilns, beside several cars of of oil which will be used in burning the brick. The yards are thoroughly drained, over 310 feet of ten inch tiling carrying off what moisture may accumulate. The power for the plant is furnished by a 100 horse power Westinghouse engine, the steam being furnished from a 120 horse power Fairbanks, Morse & Co., boiler, which is supplied with a powerful steam pump which brings the water from a lake above the plant where the water is seventeen feet deep. This pump can also be used in case of fire.

A sample of the fire clay on the grounds was sent to Galesburg and tested with like clay from three other localities, and the verdict of the experts in charge was that the Keokuk clay made fire brick far superior to that from either of the other localities. Great credit is due Mr. Wm. Weismann, who has been untiring in his efforts to get this industry established in Keokuk, and also to Mr. J. C. Hubinger, who is interested to a large extent. From now on builders can obtain a superior quality of fine building brick without being compelled to go from home to buy it, for we have it at our doors. May the new enterprise realize the most ardent expectations of its promoters, who have put their time and money into it. END

The Gate City.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

JANUARY 24, 1892

BRICK IS THE BEST.

Engineers and Experts Pronounce it Superior to all Other Paving Materials.

Its Advantages Set Forth—A Quincy Man Suggests a New Mode of Laying the Pavement—When Will Keokuk Act?

Brick street paving has passed the experimental stage, is growing in favor wherever used, and should be subject to a careful consideration in the future improvements of streets in towns and cities. Among the virtues claimed for brick paved streets are:

They are easily repaired.

They are easily cleaned.

Are practically noiseless.

Are impervious to water and dry quickly.

Are not appreciably affected by frost, fire or moisture.

They are so smooth as to reduce the tractive power and wear and tear on vehicles almost to a minimum.

The first cost is less, at least in many localities, than any ordinary durable pavement.

They can be made of any size or shape for gutters, slopes, etc., without much, if any, additional cost.

Bloomington, Ill., is the birthplace of brick pavements, and the samples of which have been in use sixteen years without requiring any repairs whatever; the brick are not worn by the horses' shoes or wheel tires, but on the contrary, it is stated, the wear is on the other side. Brick that wear off from contact with the wheels are not good, and should be condemned.

The advantages of brick paving have become so manifest in Philadelphia that the owners of property on several macadam streets in Germantown are talking of tearing up the macadam and repaving with brick at their own cost, rather than wait for the "no patchwork" plan, for the city to do it from the public taxes.

AT QUINCY.

Quincy has many blocks of brick paving and it gives great satisfaction. But not long ago one of those peculiar eccentricities of human nature occurred. Some people thought that macadam and gravel streets would be cheaper and better. But they think better now.

"I have come to the conclusion that brick pavement, properly constructed, is the best and most durable pavement that can be provided

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Jan 24, 1892 - pg 1 (Brick is Best)

Brick is Best

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in Quincy," said Col. Prince to a representative of the Whig.

"During the past few weeks," continued Col. Prince, "I have made a very careful and comprehensive study of street paving. At first I was an advocate of gravel streets, but have changed my mind, after looking up the authority and getting together reliable information on the subject, and I am now a strong advocate of brick".

Col. Prince stated that he had first looked up the gravel pavement, and found that no process of construction would make the surface solid. The wheels of a loaded wagon driven over the gravel and turned short would make a slight rut which would be increased in width and depth by other wheels; this rut would be filled up with dust and with mud, carried on from unpaved streets and in a short time the handsome gravel surface would be changed to a muddy street. It could not be cleaned and the street would soon become as bad as before it was paved with gravel.

In looking up the brick paving Col. Prince has the opinions of twenty of the best engineers of the country, men eminent in their profession, whose opinions are authority. These engineers all agree that good hard paving brick is the best material obtainable for street paving. Tests at the Illinois state university have shown that good paving brick will stand almost as much wear as granite.

Col. Prince is decidedly of the opinion that one course of brick is sufficient. His plan for paving is to put down first three inches of macadam, then three inches of concrete, then one inch of sand and then the single course of paving brick. This would make a total excavation for paving of only twelve inches instead of eighteen inches as the streets have heretofore been paved and would do away with one course of brick. In the light of all the information he can gather, after six weeks constant study, correspondence and research, Col. Prince has come to the conclusion that paving constructed as he suggests is the best and most durable that can be provided. He says that the under course of brick as it has been put down in Quincy is substantially worthless. The bricks are soft, easily broken and soon crumbled to dust. Sand, properly rolled, is better than these brick.

1891 END

August 26, 1891 - Page 5 (Brick Is Best)

The Weekly Gate City

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1876

PORK PACKING.

PERTINENT POINTS PERTAINING THERETO.

Opening of the Season at the Packing House of Geo. B. Smyth & Co.---The Others Will Start Up Soon--- Prospects as to Hogs and Prices.

Pork packing is one of the important interests of Keokuk—so much so that our city ranks among the leading in the West, outside of Chicago and St. Louis. The extent to which operations are carried on here not only makes this a disbursing point for large sums of money, but furnishes employment to hundreds of laboring men during the winter, when they would otherwise be idle. For these reasons our citizens generally will be glad to learn that operations have already been commenced here, and that all of our packing houses will be run during the season.

Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co. have made a packing arrangement with one of the largest houses in England, Messrs. Fowler Bros., who now rank among the largest merchants of the world, and who are prepared to market property in all portions thereof. They have the largest distributive trade in England, and other portions of Great Britain, for provisions, of any house in America or England; and as there are six brothers of them in active business life, their business, wherever it is represented, receives their close personal attention. They have a large house in Liverpool, one in Manchester, one in New York, and one in Chicago; and are in constant communication with the markets of the world. In Chicago they have one of the largest packing houses there, which they run winter and summer. Last year, they cut in it, three hundred and seventy-six thousand hogs. They have recently rented the Ashbrook House in St. Louis, and expect to establish a house there.

Mr. Chas. Dickey, of Belfast, Ireland, will take charge of the running of Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co's. packing house, as the cutting and curing of English meats will be made a specialty, in the making and curing of which he is an expert, having had great experience both in Ireland in and the packing house of Messrs. Fowler Bros., Chicago, where he has been actively employed for the past three years. Mr. T. J. Godman, who has had charge of the operative management of Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co's. packing house since it was built, has accepted a minor position—that of running the slaughter house, under the direction of Mr. Dickey, until he can obtain a better position else where.

Farmers and drovers can now depend on getting full Chicago prices here for their hogs, Winter and Summer, less the cost of transportation, shrinkage and cost of sale in that market; and drovers will find it to their interest to ship their hogs to Chicago via Keokuk, and if they sell here they can stop them. All hogs coming this way are finding a ready market here. Messrs. Geo. B. Smyth & Co. killed seven hundred head Thursday, and will increase their killing to one thousand daily so soon as hogs begin to move freely enough to enable them to purchase that number at relative prices to Chicago.

Messrs. Patterson & Timberman and James Hagens & Co., have laid in supplies of salt and cooperage, and are about ready to commence operations. The former will probably begin killing this week, and the latter sometime between now and the first of December. The number they will pack will depend in a measure upon the supply of hogs and the prices at which they can be purchased, but the indications now are that if the crop proves an abundant one and prices are not too high, the season will be one of the most active in the history of our city.

Of course, opinions vary considerably as to the prospects. There are no doubt localities where the cholera has been very disastrous and the number been very materially thinned out, but to what extent this will effect the aggregate, cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy. Experienced packers say the cry of short crop is raised with such unfailing certainty every year, that they are not so easily frightened by it as they used to be, and predict that the supply of hogs will be larger this year than it has ever been before.

However this may be, it is generally conceded that the season will be late and the weight probably not up to that of previous years. The high prices which have been paid for hogs for summer packing have, it is said, drawn in a large majority of the old hogs that were in a condition to market. In consequence of this, those that are left for the winter season are mostly young hogs.

As to prices, no reliable predictions can be made. The season opens here at $5.00@5.25, but what they will be a month hence, no one can tell. One thing is certain however, shippers can always rely on realizing Chicago prices here.

THE GATE CITY:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 14, '79.

WATER POWER.

The Board of United States Engineers Reassembles and Resumes Its Labors.

General C. B. Comstock, General G. Weitsel and Colonel D. C. Houston, composing the Board of United States Engineers, appointed to examine and report upon the practicability of utilizing the water power of the Des Moines Rapids Canal, arrived in the city yesterday morning. D. C. Jenne, of Sterling, Ill., who represents the city in the matter, reached here the evening previous. The Board met at 2 p. m., and with Mr. Jenne spent the afternoon examining data in the office of Major Stickney, and consulting as to the different plans that have been suggested for rendering the water power available.

This morning at 9 o'clock the Board, accompanied by Mr. Jenne and others, will leave for a trip along the canal in the government propeller, for the purpose of making a thorough inspection. The members of the Board and Mr. Jenne are stopping at the Pattersan House.

GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT FRIDAY, OCT. 30, 1953

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Union Electric Co. Celebrates 40th Birthday of Keokuk Plant

Walter Pitkin may have said, "Life begins at forty", but much, more important is 40 years of service and the 40th anniversary of the Keokuk dam which is still the greatest water power project of all time. This was brought out and proven, last evening, as the High Tension Club sponsored the celebration of the anniversary and also celebrated its own anniversary.

It truly was an important occasion, a red letter event, with so many of the high officials of Union Electric Power Company present; the presentation of watches to eight employes who have served the company well and efficiently for forty years; the unfolding of the history of a water power project that has meant so much to Keokuk, the Tri-State area, the nation, and the world; the showing of pictures of the progress of the construction and also pictures of the men who formed the Keokuk & Hamilton Water Power Company; and the introduction of W. N. Sage, the only living member of that company who pioneered in water power in this area.

It was also a memorial to the name and fame of Col. Hugh L. Cooper, the dynamic financeer and builder, who at 40 overcame all handicaps and built a dam that has been copied by every water power project since --a dam that was so perfect that even if it was built today, instead of 40 years ago, the improvement would be infinitesimal.

A Dramatic Story

Mr. George P. Gamble, Vice-President of Union Electric, in charge of production and distribution, gave a wonderful address on "Keokuk Dam, a Major Addition to the Nation's Wealth." In an address that revealed the drama, the patience, the setbacks, the achievements in the face of seemingly insurmountable handicaps, the nearly two hundred auditors gave rapt attention and thrilled at the battle won against the waters of the Mississippi.

Mr. Gamble said, in par:

"From the time that Thomas A. Edison opened the Electric Age back in 1877, it was almost inevitable that a dam would some day be built across the Mississippi River at Keokuk.

"I can say this because there had been attempts to build a dam here even before Edison. As far back as 1848, I'm told, a company who formed to dam the river in order to eliminate the dangerous Des Moines Rapids. These rapids, which extended up the river from Keokuk, effectively blocked navigation at this point. A dam would put the rapids under water and, with a set locks, would greatly enhance Keokuk's importance as a river town.

"The 1848 group never got beyond the planning stage. Perhaps engineering hadn't advanced to where the project seemed feasible.

The Old Canal

"Whatever the cause, the idea was dropped and a compromise move was made in 1868. That is when the Federal government started work on the old canal around the rapids.

"This nine mile canal, with a set of three locks, was completed in 1876.

"It was not until 1899 that the group was formed that was eventually to complete the dam.

Heroic Men

"Here was a body of men unskilled in engineering but convinced that somehow a dam could be built between these high bluffs. By this time electricity was nearly a quarter century old. Its value to industry as a labor saver and to the householder as a safe, convenient source of light and had been well proven.

"The group that put their heads together as the Keokuk and Hamilton Water Power Co. saw what tremendous benefits a dam could bring to Keokuk, to Iowa and to a major section of the Middle West.

"They started with a capitalization that today would seem minute. They had $2,500. They went to the city councils of Keokuk and Hamilton and secured appropriations totaling another $7,500.

A Wing Dam Not Feasible.

"These 25—I'll have more to say about individuals in the group later —made one false start. They secured from congress in early 1901 a franchise to build a "wing dam." Their idea was to build out only from the Illinois side of the river, extending their dam diagonally upstream and then harnessing the power of the water caught behind their enormous hook.

"When they were advised by private and federal engineers that this idea was impractical, the Keokuk and Hamilton people readjusted their sights and went out after a full dam.

Board of Engineers.

"They went to the secretary of war with their story and secured appointment of a board of engineers. This board reported, in 1903, that a dam from bluff to bluff was feasible.

"This was enough to quiet any misgivings that might have been in the minds of others essential to the project.

"Congressman B. F. Marsh introduced a bill April 24, 1904, to grant the company "rights to construct and maintain for the improvement of navigation and development of water power a dam across the Mississippi river."

Signed by Roosevelt.

This bill was passed by both houses of congress and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt February 9, 1905. It gave the K. and H. Company the exclusive right for five years to build a dam here. At the time five years seemed more than adequate.

"At this stage of the game the K. and H. Co., was about in the same position as Columbus when he arrived at the conclusion that there was a better way to get to India. These men were beter off than old Chris in that they had been assured on good authority that what they wanted to do was feasible. They were like Columbus in that they lacked funds and they were worse off than the great discoverer in that they couldn't do the job themselves.

"To secure the funds and the talent needed, a 30 page prospectus describing the potentialities of the project was printed and sent to engineers and financial people all over the country.

"Responses were discouraging. None gave any good indication that the respondents were capable of taking hold of a job of this magnitude.

Hugh Cooper Saves Day.

"It was not until September, 1905, that the gloom was lifted. A telegram arrived from a Hugh L. Cooper of Stamford, Conn. Mr. Cooper, an engineer, was then completing one of the power houses at Niaguara Falls. He requested an appointment with the K. and H. officers.

"With speed that Keokuk was to find was characteristic, Cooper arrived here two days later.

"A stocky, energetic man of 40, he immediately won respect by his vigorous approach to the problem.

"Within a week he had a K. and H. committee at Niagara so that they might see for themselves that he was capable of carrying out their plans.

Go Ahead Sign.

"Two days later, on September 15, 1905, Cooper had sold the project to insurance interests in Toronto. A contract was signed that that day giving Cooper authority to go ahead. It gave him and his backers an option to buy out the company's stock and franchise at any time within two years.

"All the next spring and summer Cooper and a group of engineers were busy surveying the proposed dam site.

"Then the bottom dropped out of everything but the river.

Financial Panic Terrible Blow.

"Heavy losses in the San Francisco earthquake and fire April 18-19, 1906, rocked the insurance companies back on their heels. Then came the financial panic of 1907. The upshot was that in June, 1907, the Toronto financial people backed out.

"This was enough to discourage almost anyone but Cooper. He bounced back. He asked for, and received, a contract giving him authority to represent the company and went seeking new money.

Stone-Webster to Rescue.

"In two years, going back to people who had helped finance some of his earlier projects, he lined up representatives of capital from all over

Get sign. page 1 (Union Elec. 40th yr.)

Oct 30, 1953 - page 2 (Union Electric 40th yr.)

the world. Then, in late 1909, he sold the management firm of Stone and Webster on the idea of directing the financial end of the enterprise.

"Meanwhile Cooper and the K. and H. Company had secured contracts to deliver 60,000 electrical horsepower to three customers in the St. Louis area. They were the Union Electric Light and Power Co., the Laclede Gas Co. and the United Railways Co., operators of the St. Louis street railway company.

Work Start on Jan. 10, 1910.

"On this basis the franchise was turned over to Cooper and Stone and Webster and work began January 10, 1910—just 30 days before the five-year franchise was to expire.

"Either way you look at it, it was a mighty wide river.

"Work started immediately from both sides of the river, the plan being to meet near the Iowa bank.

"The work force was divided into an Illinois division, to build the dam proper, and an Iowa division, to build the power house, the lock and dry dock.

"Since this challenging project was in many ways unique, it required considerable ingenuity. It was to be the longest concrete dam ever constructed. Whereas many dams go up on dry land until the final gap is plugged, 70 of the 119 arches of this one were to be in the existing stream. To overcome the difficulty thus presented in getting materials to the point of installation, the dam itself was used as a railroad bed.

"A giant cantilevered traveling crane was tailored to this particular job. Some 250 feet long, this crane was able to deposit coffer dam cribs as much as 125 feet beyond the end of the section completed. It then removed the rock blasted out of the river bed and moved in the concrete to fill the forms.

Archways Built First.

"To avoid excessive water pressure on the completed section, which would have made the job increasingly difficult as the mid-channel gap was narrowed, only the archways were built at first. As a section of the dam was completed, the coffer dam was removed and the river was allowed to flow through the arches.

"Later, when all arches and the bridgeway on top were completed, spillways were constructed one by one and each a little at a time. Working on one archway at a time, a block of spillway five feet high was built all the way across the river. Then, starting over, another five feet of height was added, opening by opening. This process equalized water pressure on the dam throughout its length. As many as six or seven pours were made in some openings before the spillway was brought to its present height of 32 feet.

Progress Rapid.

"As of November 1, 1911, less than two years after work started, the dam was nearly half way across the river, with all dry-land archways on the Illinois side completed. The power house is taking shape and the excavation for the big new lock is completed. This lock, as many of you know, is among the largest in the world—400 feet long and 110 feet wide, the same width as the Panama Canal locks. Those are inside dimensions.

Disaster Threatened.

"It was just a few months later that the whole project came within a hair of disaster. The winter of 1911-1912 was the severest in 32 years. Average temperature for January was 12 degrees, which is still a record. Ice bridged the river above the dam to a thickness of up to 2½ feet.

"Foreseeing trouble when the ice broke up, Cooper ordered the upstream coffer dam reinforced and heightened. Three steam shovels were kept in readiness to move rock and dirt where needed and tens of thousands of sandbags were prepared.

Ice Breaks Up.

"On Saturday, March 23, the ice began to break up. Large chunks lodged in the gap between coffer dam and power house. More ice floes, pushed by others behind them, were formed up the sloping face of the coffer dam and fell back in a jumbled mass. But the dam held.

"Only loss was a small empty powder house at the end of a jetty. This casualty, incidentally, caused more comment than it justified—all because fo a typographical error in the press. Instead of a powder house, readers were told the power house had been swept into the water. You can imagine what a start some people got on reading that.

A Sigh of Relief.

"As the ice managed to wriggle through the gap and tumble on down the river, the construction force breathed a sigh of relief.

"Then, a few hours later, a new and unexpected threat arose. The huge chunks of ice formed a jam about five miles downstream and began to back up the water. The level soon rose against the downstream coffer dam far higher than had ever been expected. Steam shovels went to work filling cars with dirt to heighten the coffer dam. Sand bags were added in a night-and-day battle. For four days construction was delayed as the work force was kept busy plugging leaks and strengthening the lower coffer dam. On Wednesday, March 26, 1912, the ice jam broke and the downstream flood subsided.

"Again the construction crew relaxed. Their project had been assaulted from both sides and had held. Nothing more can happen, they felt. But the worst was yet to come.

"As ice in the Mississippi's tributaries melted and rain added more volume to the river, it rose again against the upstream dam. More leaks occurred and, over the next few days, earth would slide in great masses off the face of the coffer dam. Crews were kept in constant readiness and sand bags were stockpiled at strategic points.

Climax on Sunday.

"Climax of the battle came Sunday morning, April 7, about 2 a. m. Fifty men were on duty plugging leaks and patrolling the dam when a storm arose on the lake. Waves began to top the sandbags and water was pouring down into the excavation.

"An emergency call to the labor camp brought 100 more men to the dam. Working in the cold, driving rain the men managed to save the dam. In the morning the wind subsided and, in a short while, the water began to fall.

"Work was resumed and, on May 1, we see the gap nearly closed.

"In good summer weather, the job moved quickly from here on.

"On July 22 the last section of coffer dam went in.

"The last of the huge cribs weighted with rock is being put in place.

"By August 28 both upper and lower legs of the coffer dam were completed.

"Coffer construction was finished and ready to be pumped out. Here we get a good view of how the idea of letting the river through the completed archways worked out. In the background the whole river is going through the Iowa side of the dam. Notice there is no perceptible difference between the river level above and below the dam — indicating little pressure against the coffer dam.

"Once there was a continuous roadway across the river on top of the dam, work went even faster. Materials could be brought to the power house from either side of the river.

Governors See It

"On January 6, 1913 the governors of the two states visited the dam. Here is a picture taken on top the dam. At left is Chief Engineer Cooper; in center, Governor Dunne of Illinois and, at right, Governor Clarke of Iowa.

"On the last day of May the last bucket of concrete was poured, topping off the final spillway. As we see here, quite a ceremony was made of the event. This nattily dressed young lady who is in some danger of being splattered with concrete was, I presume, Miss Keokuk of 1913.

Opening of Lock

"Another gala event was the opening of the lock when on June 12, two excursion steamers passed through side by side. The lock was then turned over to the government and the old locks were abandoned. Federal authorities estimated cost of operating and maintaining the new lock at about one-fourth that for the three old ones. In addition, the new lock moved ships in one operation that took about 20 minutes. The old ones caused a delay of several hours and required careful navigation through the canal.

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Power to St. Louis

"By this time the turbines had been in operation for more than a week, supplying power to the city of Keokuk. On June 30, the 110 KV line to St. Louis was energized.

"While most of you are familiar with the dam and the powerhouse, I would like to take a few moments to emphasize the guts, clear thinking, and ingenuity that went into their design. As we think back today, it is almost inconceivable how an organization with so little outside engineering talent to draw from could have accomplished so much in so short a time.

"The structures themselves represented one of the largest masses of concrete masonry placed in this country up to that time, and the very idea of a barrier of any kind across the Mississippi River as far down as Keokuk was challenging to say the least.

"To illustrate some of the thinking in those days, we have the story of the young student civil engineer named Kiebaisch who attended Illinois University. In 1909, he wrote a thesis on a proposed dam across the Mississippi River at Keokuk. His professor accepted the thesis as an excellent piece of work, but assured him that the dam would never be built. Years later this same man's son wrote a thesis on the electrical features of Keokuk plant.

"By masterful design and the use of generous safety factors, masses of concrete took shape that were to withstand the great pressure of this river and support the tremendous weight of the powerhouse and its equipment. Steel reinforcing was used in the superstructure only — no steel columns used at all. Even though these men were faced with financial difficulties, nothing was spared in bulk or brawn to assure that the construction would be sturdy and permanent.

"In light of today's knowledge, the art of making concrete was in its infancy. Nothing was known of the importance of maintaining optimum water to cement ratio which largely determines the strength and the ability of the concrete to withstand freezing and thawing. Yet, cored specimens of the main mass which were tested in recent years have shown remarkable strength for concrete produced under the conditions this material was made. This old girl is here to stay — all she needs is a new skirt and then to restore the outer surfaces against the ravages of nature.

"It is striking to find that even today we could not improve the design features of the water course through the turbines to gain more than 1.2 per cent efficiency. Even if the turbines themselves were redesigned on the basis of current knowledge not more than a total of 3 per cent additional efficiency could be obtained.

How Cooper Did It

"It has always been of interest to us electrical boys how Cooper and his associates accomplished certain electrical features of the high voltage 110,000 volt circuits. Since Porcelain bushings were not yet fully developed to handle voltages of this magnitude, paper bushings were used. Each 110,000 volt transformer bushing was built up of many layers of paper stacked to the proper height and with the center core around the conductor filled with resin.

"But what tops them all is the arc extinguisher shown in this slide. It certainly was a unique idea. Not having circuit breakers available to interrupt faults at 110,000 volts did not daunt these fellows.

"For the benefit of those of you who are familiar with this gadget —when an arc strikes on the transmission line, a magnetic relay closes a switch which connects one of the fuses from the line to ground. The fuse blows, but during the short interval it has shorted the line, the voltage reduced sufficiently to break the arc. If the arc was not extinguished on the first fuse blowing, the weight shown here rotated this switch to a second fuse and so on until the arc was extinguished. There are a total of five fuses. This is still in operation and is doing a good job.

"Now, in closing let's go back to the men who got this project started.

Those to Whom Credit Is Due

"This picture was taken behind the home in the 200 block of Franklin St. that Cooper occupied with his family while here building the dam. On the table, center, is a trophy presented to Cooper by the surviving members of the Keokuk & Hamilton water Power Co. in their gratitude for Cooper's service to the community.

"Many of the original incorporators had passed on; a few new people had joined the company. But here, by and large, we have the men to whom credit is due for building this dam. Individually these men were not what you'd call great men. Collectively they accomplished much. Their thought, effort, foresightedness gave us this dam that has been serving man for 40 years. We have every expectation it will continue to serve us and our descendants for many more years.

"What manner of men were these?

"Let's take a closer look.

"At far left was Major William Collins, an attorney and Civil War artilleryman.

"Next was David J. Ayres, a jeweler, then, from left to right, Jim Dougherty, a whiskey distributor, Joseph Weil, clothier, and D. A. Collier, wholesale grocer.

"In the center group are, Henry Huiskamp, shoe manufacturer; an attorney named Campbell from St. Louis; William Ballinger, who ran a cannery; Judge William Logan, banker and county judge of Schuyler County, Mo. (Judge Logan spoke at the official dedication of the dam and later was a director of the Mississippi River Power Co. This company operated the dam until it was acquired by Union Electric Co. in 1925.) Next to the Judge was W. J. Roberts, an attorney; Clyde R. Joy of the Eaker Medicine Co., who died here just a year or so ago; Robert Wallace, a Hamilton banker; Lee A. Hamill, a wholesale grocer, and Mr. Cooper, the chief engineer.

"On the "right wing" of the "team" were: John Cole, then superintendent of the Keokuk - Hamilton Bridge; Frank Davis, cashier of the Savings Bank; George Cooper, Hugh Cooper's father, and Mr. William Sage, wham we have with us here tonight.

Brought Industry

"A final word:

"While Keokuk Dam has changed little in these past 40 years, it has helped bring many changes. The power it produces has brought industry to this area, making it more prosperous and making that prosperity more stable.

"The power has a remarkable record for reliability in our system. In the early days most of Keokuk's power went to St. Louis. As the load grew here, less and less had to be transmitted. Today we frequently must add power from other plants in order to satisfy the demand here.

"All of which helps explain the dam's value in our integrated power production system. It gives the Keokuk area power; at times it helps other communities over our three state service area; at other times the dam needs help itself to supply the demand.

"It's a grand old dam. The affection that Keokuk residents have for this imposing mass of concrete is illustrated by the fellow who appeared on a recent Chicago radio show.

"Asked to give the name of his home town, he replied: "I'm from the best town in the Middle West by a dam site."

"He explained immediately that he was from Keokuk."

Honor for 40-Year Service.

A feature of last evening's dinner and observing the 40th anniversary of the Keokuk dam was the recognition of eight faithful and efficient employes of Union Electric Power company.

Ralph Moody, executive vice-president and general manager of Union Electric, presented beautiful watches symbolic of long service, to the following:

Clyde C. Buffum, whose 40 years service include managership of the Fort Madison company since 1928. He began his duties with the company in 1913 as head linesman and was made foreman in 1919.

George A. Burns started working as a rigger and has been maintenance foreman at the power plant since 1944.

Glenn W. Carlson started as a supervisor and has been manager of the Keokuk district for 23 years.

Eugene Ferguson began as assistant switchboard operator and has been district dispatcher in Keokuk since 1942.

Clarence Herlofsen came to the newly opened plant in 1913 as assistant engineer. He has been working on the hydraulic end of the business and is now operating engineer of the hydraulic equipment at the plant.

Oliver W. Young started as governor attendant, was superintendent of substations at Keokuk for 17 years, and is now superintendent of operations.

Fred H. Rennert rose through the ranks and is now consultant to the superintendent of the Keokuk plant.

Ralph J. Veith was originally a machinist and served in the navy for a time. On retirement he took over as mechanical maintenance director and is now maintenance foreman.

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Mr. Moody is serving his 40th year, too, in his connection utilities. He declared that the Keokuk plant and the Panama Canal had the spotlight in 1913 and that despite the advancement of atomic energy, the Keokuk plant will not be passe ever but will keep on serving this area and its people. Steam plants may have to take a backseat to atomic energy but the local plant that uses no fuel, but just water, will go on forever.

Paul Mercer Toastmaster.

After President Eber Heston of the High Tension club had opened the program for the occasion, he introduced Paul Mercer, head of the Iowa division of Union Electric as the toastmaster, a job he always does well and he was better than ever last evening.

He introduced the many guests from St. Louis and also those invited from the Tri-State area, and also introduced the speakers and W. N. Sage, the only living representative of the Keokuk & Hamilton Power company that made the dream of a power plant here come true.

Regrets were voiced for the inability of President McAfee of Union Electric to be present.

Mr. Mercer also gave praise to the High Tension club which has been in existence 40 years and is the oldest and one of the largest employe organizations in this territory.

St. Louis Guests.

Dudley Sanford, V. P. and Asst. Gen. Manager.

J. A. Woodbridge, V. P. and general counsel.

M. E. Skinner, V. P. and director of sales.

E. L. Hough, chief engineer.

C. H. Kraft, superintendent of transmission and distribution.

M. B. Covell, superintendent of supply service.

Robert Wheeler, personnel department.

J. W. Lumpp, advertising.

V. C. Brennan, V. P., personnel.

E. J. Shapiro, secretary and treasurer.

E. R. Kropp, V. P., general administrative.

H. R. Scott, regional manager.

R. E. Hillard-Fleishman, Hillard & Associates, public relation counsel.

R. E. Moody, V. P. and general manager.

G. P. Gamble, V. P., Pr. Prod., T. & D.

Invited Guests, Keokuk And Hamilton.

Hubert Schouten, mayor of Keokuk.

E. E. Leroy, mayor of Hamilton.

James Breitenstein, commissioner of public safety, Keokuk.

Ronald Bramhall, commissioner of streets and parks, Keokuk.

Robert E. Haller, publisher, Hamilton Press.

Dale E. Carrell, publisher, Keokuk Gate City.

Herbert Nelson, manager, station KOKX.

Roy Dickinson, president, Keokuk Chamber of Commerce.

Kenneth Owen, president, Kiwanis club, Keokuk.

Charles C. Dadant, president, Kiwanis club, Hamilton.

Malcolm Larson, president, Lions club, Keokuk.

Charles J. Wells, president, High Twelve club, Keokuk.

Robert Fisher, president, Rotary club, Keokuk.

EIGHT 40-YEAR EMPLOYES of the Iowa division of the Union Electric Power Company were honored last night as the highlight of an anniversary dinner in the Keokuk Club with the High Tension club host to 200 in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the completion of the Keokuk powerhouse and dam. Ralph Moody, executive vice president of Union Electric, made the awards. In the group, are: bottom row, left to right, George Burns, O. W. Young, Ralph Moody, Clyde C. Buffum, and Eugene Ferguson; top row, left to right, Glenn W. Carlson, Clarence Herlofsen, Paul Mercer, manager of the Iowa division, Fred H. Rennert, and Ralph J. Veith.

—Coffey-Higgins Photo

Oct 20, 1953 (page 4 Union Elec. 40th yr.)

page 4

National Carbide Corp., circa 1930
Commercial Alley

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Electro-Metals Flood, May 1965

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Keokuk a part of microwave telephone system over U. S.

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1965 — 5

The Pony Express of almost a century ago is a part of American legend. Working in relays, the riders and their fleet horses raced along a chain of lonely outposts to bring mail pouches through in the fastest possible time. This same relay principal of communications is applied in telephony today.

Less than 20 years ago, according to R. H. Schieffer, manager for the phone company here, the Bell System beamed its first communications through the air over a chain of seven relay towers between New York and Boston. Now, half the communication services of the Bell System utilize the radio relay method over a network that encompasses the nation.

Keokuk tower

The nearest radio relay tower in this area is located just north of Keokuk, one-quarter mile east of Highway 218. This local tower, with its dish-like antennas, stretches 740 feet into the air. Its base is encased in concrete 20 feet deep. It is built to withstand constant winds of 90 mph and gusts up to 120 mph.

Built in 1961, this single tower with its associated hut and equipment represents an investment of nearly $150,000. It is capable of relaying 1,200 telephone conversations simultaneously and can be modified to also relay data messages and television programs to the adjacent tower 16 miles north, near Ft. Madison. These messages are carried on a radio beam of super high frequency called a microwave.

Theory is simple

Microwave equipment is expensive and complicated, and requires special training for the men who work the system. Yet, the theory of microwave is fairly simple. Just as the mounts of the Pony Express tired during their spring to the next relay outpost, so the microwave signal "tires" and weakens on its way to the next relay station. And, like the Pony Expuress riders of old, the electronic signal changes to a strong, new "microwave pony" at each relay point.

Atop each microwave tower huge dish-like antennas grab these weakened microwaves, whisk them down a hollow metal tube to the microwave equipment hut located at the base of the tower Here, the faded signal is revitalized and amplified a millionfold by electron tubes and sent back into space on a different frequency via a second antenna.

Like light waves, microwaves travel in a straight line at a speed of 186,000 miles per second. They can be focused sharply and aimed from point to point. Less than one watt of power—about the amount needed by a pocket flashlight bulb—is sufficient to send them as far as 30 miles to the next tower.

Seven towers

Seven such microwave towers, including the one near Keokuk, form a patch between Davenport and Keokuk and carry a total cost figure of $2,340,000. Schieffer pointed out that microwave relay towers are never placed in a straight line. They zigzag somewhat to prevent interference which might be caused if the microwave overshot its next tower and were received by a tower farther along the route.

Schieffer said maintenance forces at locations along the relay path constantly monitor transmission quality and personally check the equipment in the seven relay stations. Periodic inspections insure that the equipment is operating at peak efficiency. However, if unexpected trouble occurs at an unattended tower, an elaborate alarm system, using tones, relays and lights, quickly relays the nature of the trouble to the central office where a staff is ready to take instant action. This may involve a fast trip to the tower hut or merely operating a switch which will handle the problem by remote control.

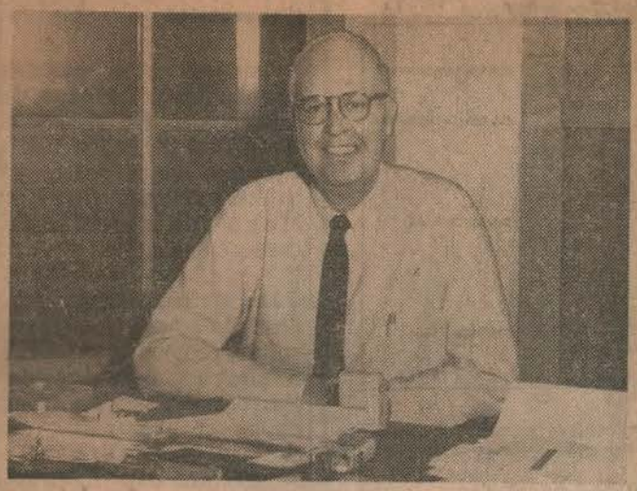
"We have come a long way from the early days of microwave to our present advanced radio relay system," Schieffer said, "and are already working on future changes. The only thing that has really remained unchanged, through all these stages of development, is our goal—better service for our customers."

December 22, 1957 DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER

Ks. R. Young

IOWA BUSINESS PERSONALITIES —

Hog Rings More Than Something for the Nose



James A. Decker of Decker Manufacturing Co.

By George Shane
(Register Staff Writer)

KEOKUK, IA.—Pigs are pigs; but a manufacturing firm here is proving that hog nose rings are more than something for a shoat's snout.

For many years the Decker Manufacturing Co. has been a leader in the manufacture of hog nose rings. The demand, of course, is greater than ever because a ring in the nose still is the way to keep a pig from rooting.

When he doesn't root, he pays more attention to the feed he is supposed to eat —and thrives heartily.

"But we have found that the hog snout ring idea could be expanded into many industrial uses," said James A. Decker, president of the company.

"We now are manufacturing many variations of the hog nose ring. Some of these are used by nurseries for tagging plants. Mink and poultry raisers use them for joining pens together. One type of ring is used to join fences. These are only a few of the industrial uses.

Finger Pressure

"Some of the rings are clamped by use of the pliers —which we also manufacture. Other rings are clamped simply by finger pressure.

"But most of these rings are basically the hog ring idea."

Decker heads a hardware specialty firm, founded in 1878 by his grandfather, Capt. A. C. Decker, pioneer steamboat operator on the Mississippi and first commander of the Keokuk Yacht Club.

The factory, now employing 35 persons, started on the riverfront in the old packet-boat days. It was moved to its present business district location more than a half-century ago.

Decker Manufacturing Co. made hog rings from the first. Captain Decker held some of the early patents on the rings and clampers.

Curry combs — in steel or brass — are manufactured, too. Surprisingly enough, this is a product that enjoys an expanding market.

"When the horse population declined our curry comb business did slacken off somewhat," Decker said. "But it returned, stronger than ever when farmers, especially dairy farmers, started using curry combs on cattle."

Animal Ear Markers

Other products manufactured and marketed by the Decker Manufacturing Co. include animal ear markers and hamburger and hot dog grills. The company sells mostly through hardware jobbers, although its mail order business extends throughout the world.

Of the many industries that sprang up along the Mississippi after the Civil War, Decker Manufacturing Co. is one of the few that have remained under one name and served consistently the same types of markets.

Some of the company's jobber customers have purchased from the Decker company since its beginning, 79 years ago.

In the early automobile days, however, the Deckers held the first auto dealer agency in Keokuk—for the Oldsmobile. Captain Decker, first with a steam launch on the Mississippi here, also was first with a horseless carriage.

Decker joined the firm in 1940. He worked through the entire plant, first as shipping clerk and eventually in the sales and administrative office.

Yale, Minnesota

He was named president in 1956. Both his father, Charles R. Decker, and uncle, DeLos Decker, deceased, served as presidents of the company.

In his undergraduate work at Yale University, James Decker majored in economics. He followed with business administration at the University of Minnesota.

After college, he worked his way around the world in the merchant marine service, then returned home to enter business.

His first business venture was operation of his own dehydrating plant at North Chicago, Ill. After a fire destroyed the plant, he joined the Decker company.

During World War II Decker served with the air force (1941-1946)—a major in air transport. He returned to active duty in 1950 for Korean War service with the military air transport. He spent one year in Korea.

Decker is a member of the national and state manufacturers associations and has served on the board of the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce.

Member of Clubs

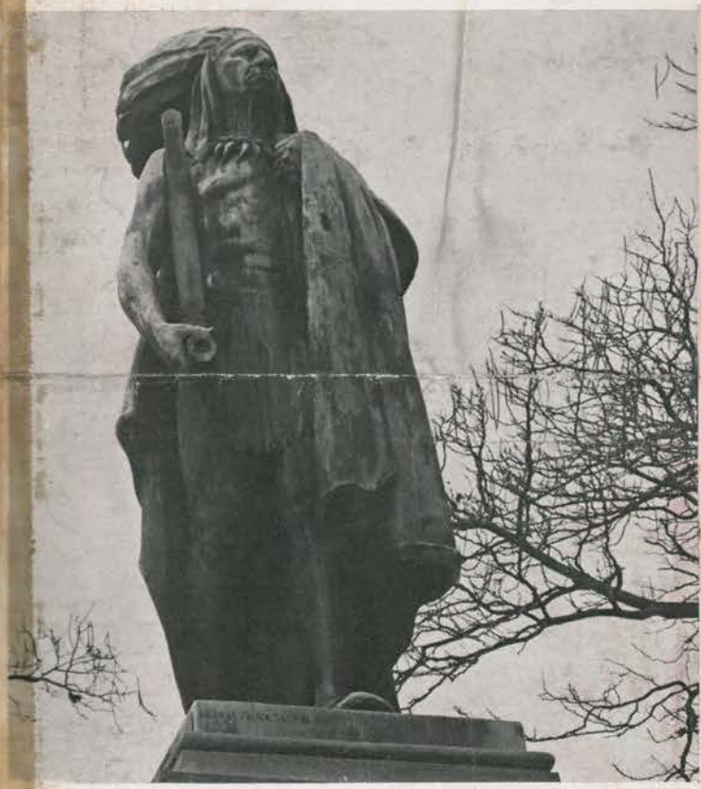
He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club, a member of Zarapath Consistory and Zaaba Shrine Temple at Davenport, the Elks, the Keokuk Country Club and the Keokuk Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Decker have three children, Susan, 15, James, jr., 13, and Kim, 6.

Decker's hobbies are golf, hunting and fishing.

UNION ELECTRIC NEWS December 5, 1967

Keokuk District Serves 3-State Area



CHIEF KEOKUK STILL WATCHES OVER THE TOWN that was founded while he was leader of the Sac and Fox Tribes. His statue stands in a city park overlooking the Mississippi.

GROUND-BREAKING SHOVEL IS KEPT HANDY in the office of Keokuk Mayor K. C. Henke, Jr., (right) ready for the next urban renewal event. Seated is City Clerk Jack Finerty, brother of Logan Finerty of Union Electric.

What city served by Union Electric Company . . .

1. Is rebuilding its central business district?

2. Is widely diversified in its industry?

3. Overlooks the Mississippi near the mouth of one of its tributaries?

4. Has a nickname stemming from its role as take-off point for the developers of the West?

5. Is the site of a major generating plant?

6. Is the home of two of the Company's top 20 customers?

There is no one correct answer to the above riddle because all six points describe two cities served by the Company: St. Louis and Keokuk.

Where St. Louis has its Missouri River, Keokuk has the Des Moines, entering the Father of Waters at the south edge of town.

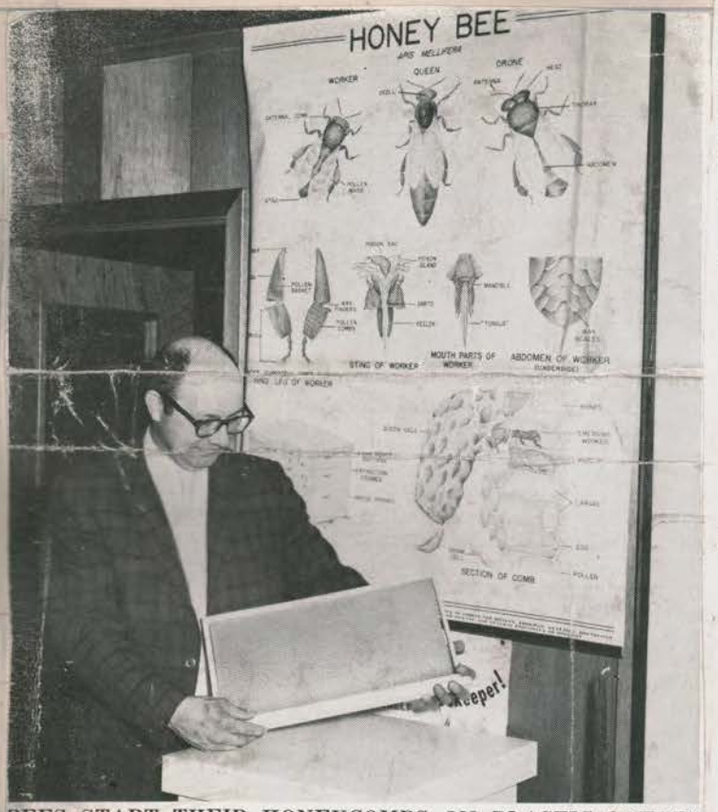
While St. Louis is the "Gateway to the West," Keokuk is the "Gate City."

St. Louis has the Ashley Plant, Keokuk has the Company's well-known hydro station.

While St. Louis has the General Motors Chevrolet Plant, ranked ninth in kilowatthour consumption last year, and Anheuser-Busch, ranked 15th, Keokuk has Midwest Carbide Corp., ranked 13th and the Kemco Plant of Foote Minerals (formerly Keokuk Electro Metals), ranked third.

Among the Company's nine Regional Districts, Keokuk is alone in having customers in all three of the states the Company serves. While this is of little consequence so far as service is concerned, it has given rise to some interesting consultations among tax experts. How much Missouri income tax, for instance, does a Keokuk UE man owe if he spends a few days with a customer in Missouri? Or just WHERE does the Iowa-Illinois line run that puts some Company property in one state, the remainder in the other? Where is the "middle" of the Mississippi?

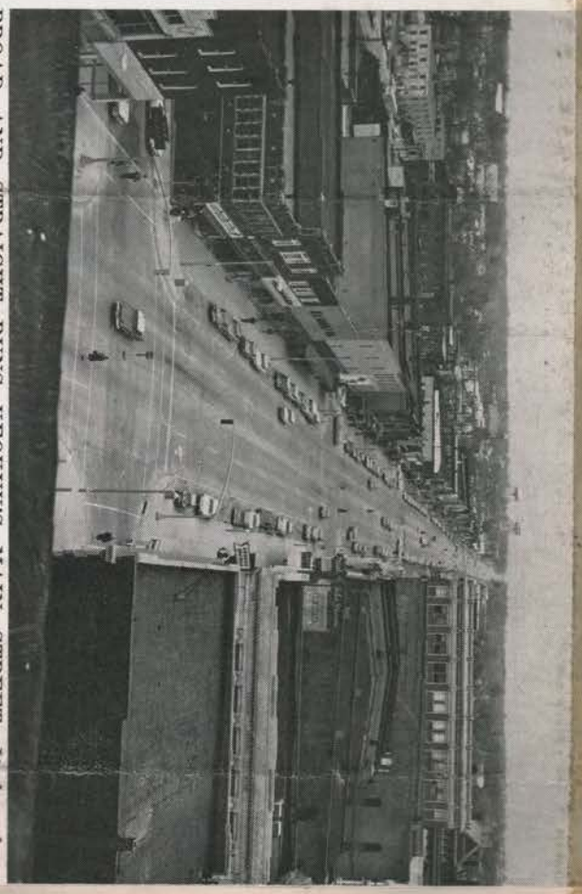
The district's headquarters city is one of the oldest cities in the state. It could rest on its laurels as a quiet community of homes, old-line retailers



BEES START THEIR HONEYCOMBS ON PLASTIC SHEETS like the one held by Dick Krekel, superintendent at Dadant Bee Keepers Supplies, Hamilton, Ill., one of UE's oldest customers.

THIS LITTLE PIGLET GOES TO FOUNDRIES all over the world from our plant in Keokuk, explains William T. McGinnis, vice president in charge of Foote Minerals' Kemco operations.

RIVERFRONT RENEWAL AREA IN DOWNTOWN KEOKUK is called the Keosippi Plaza. Structures at far end are new or extensively done over. A five-story motel is going up in foreground.



BROAD AND STRAIGHT RUNS KEOKUK'S MAIN STREET. It has been widened and equipped with new street lights and traffic signals as part of the downtown renewal program.

Thomas Truck and Caster is Industry of the Month

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Aug. 1, 1959

Company organized here 22 years ago

One of the youngest in Keokuk's family of industries, the Thomas Truck and Caster Company, 20 South Seventh street, has been singled out by the Chamber of Commerce for a community-wide salute as its Industry of the Month.

Twenty-two years ago last month, in June of 1937, the Thomas Truck & Caster Co. was organized in Keokuk, to manufacture material handling equipment. Today it is recognized as one of the leading makers in its industry, shipping its products to all parts of the nation, and to many foreign countries.

Here through friendship

Other cities had been considered for the proposed new business by its founder, J. Faulkner Thomas, but through the influence and cooperation of an old friend, Walter J. Miller, who had started the Keokuk Steel Casting Co. a year earlier, Mr. Thomas decided to locate in Keokuk.

He was experienced in all phases of the business, after more than eighteen years with a competitive firm. While the new business had no physical assets to start with, it grew steadily and now has a well equipped plant, skilled personnel, and sales representatives throughout the country.

Commercial street

The business was started in a building at Commercial and K streets, leased from Keokuk Steel Casting Co. Four years later, in 1941, the need for more floor space resulted in the purchase of the property where the present plant is located on the block between Seventh and Eighth streets along Johnson street. In 1955 additional floor space was provided by the erection of a modern, one-story factory building adjoining the two original four-story factory buildings.

The Thomas Company manufacturers a wide range of products for the efficient handling of materials in factories, warehouses, freight houses, institutions, stores and other users having materials that must be moved. In addition to floor trucks, casters and wheels for manual movement, their products include towline trucks for use with conveyors, industrial trailer trucks to be pulled in trains by electric or gas tractors, while steelbound skids and skid storage bins are made for moving and storage with hand and power lift trucks.

Buy other companies

Some additions have been made to the growth of the business by outright purchase of other companies. The two most important to the Thomas Company were the Buffalo Caster and Wheel Corp., of Buffalo, New York, in 1943, since operated as a subsidiary, and the Lanham Skid Company, of Louisville, Kentucky, whose machinery and equipment for manufacturing skids was moved to Keokuk in 1954, and is operated as a separate sales division of the parent company.

The principal item used in manufacturing Thomas products in order of importance are steel bars and sheets which are formed, fabricated and welded for use in the finished products; hardwood lumber which is machined for use principally as truck

Officers of Company

Walter Thomas
vice president
general manager

John Hutchison
secretary-treasurer

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JOHN PEEZLEY is shown here operating a 250 ton press.
—Daily Gate City Photo

and skid decks; rubber which is vulcanized to Thomas metal wheel centers to provide rubber-tired wheels for quietness and floor-saving use on trucks and casters; semi-steel, steel and malleable castings which are machined and processed for final use. Ball and roller bearings, bolts, nuts, paint and many other items are also required to manufacture the many finished products.

Pioneer in design

The Thomas Company pioneered in designing "Job-Suited" superstructures of standard types and sizes to fit their many standard chassis sizes and capacities of platform trucks, offering users a selection of many hundreds of combinations for handling the variety of materials used throughout industry. Other trucks of entirely special design are developed by members of the engineering department to solve more intricate handling problems for prospects and customers. An example of such engineering is the use of "Job-Suited" trailers by American Airlines in their jet plane program.

The officers

Officers of the company are J. Faulkner Thomas, president; Walter R. Thomas, vice president and general manager; John W. Hutchison, secretary - treasurer. Associated with them are a number of capable department heads whose years of service with the company have made them experts in the material handling industry. The other office and plant employees are well trained in their respective duties and have combined with management to make Thomas Truck & Caster Co. one of the well-known leaders in its field.

Aug 1, 1959 - page 2
(Thomas Truck - Industry of Inc)

THOMAS TRUCK - 1

Aug 1, 1957 - page 3
(Thomas Truck - Industry of month)

THOMAS TRUCK - 2

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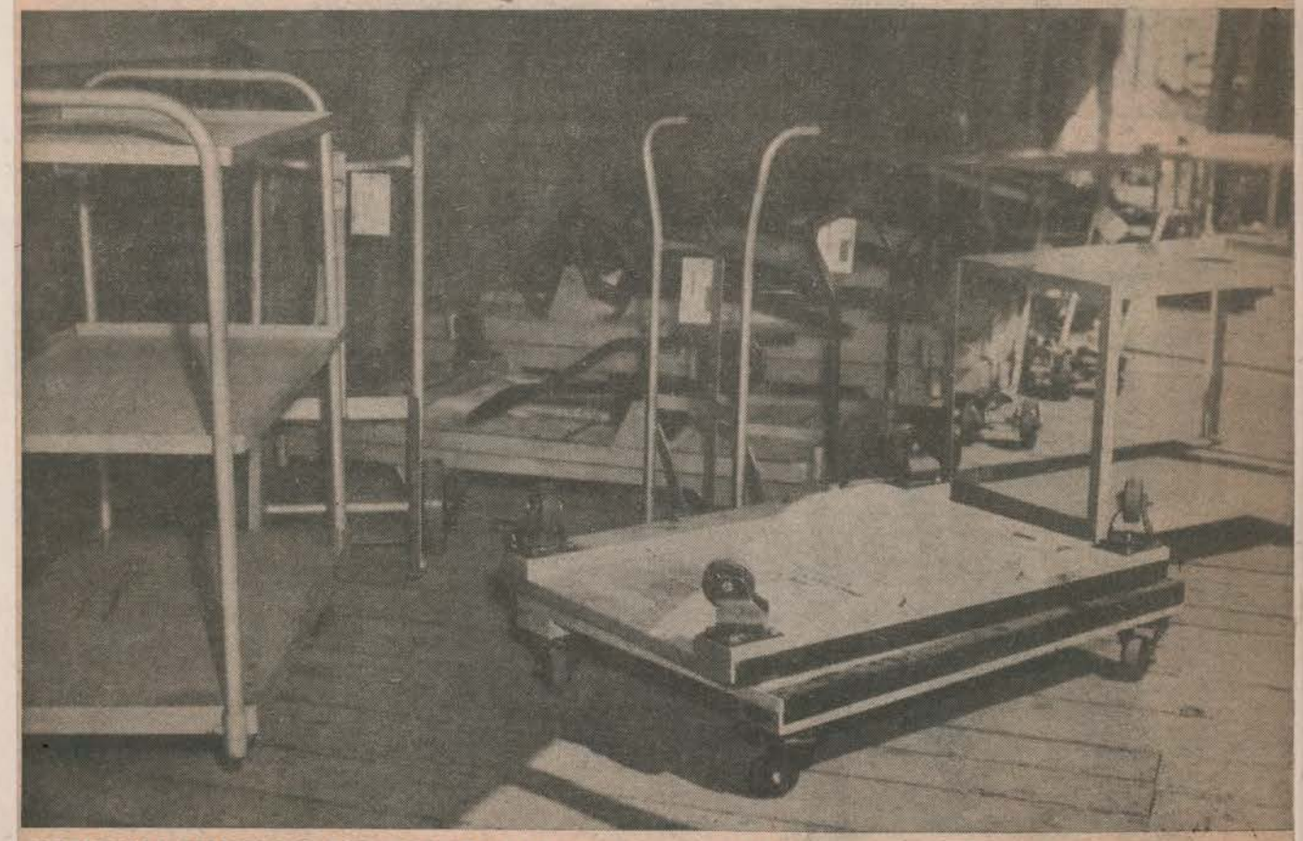
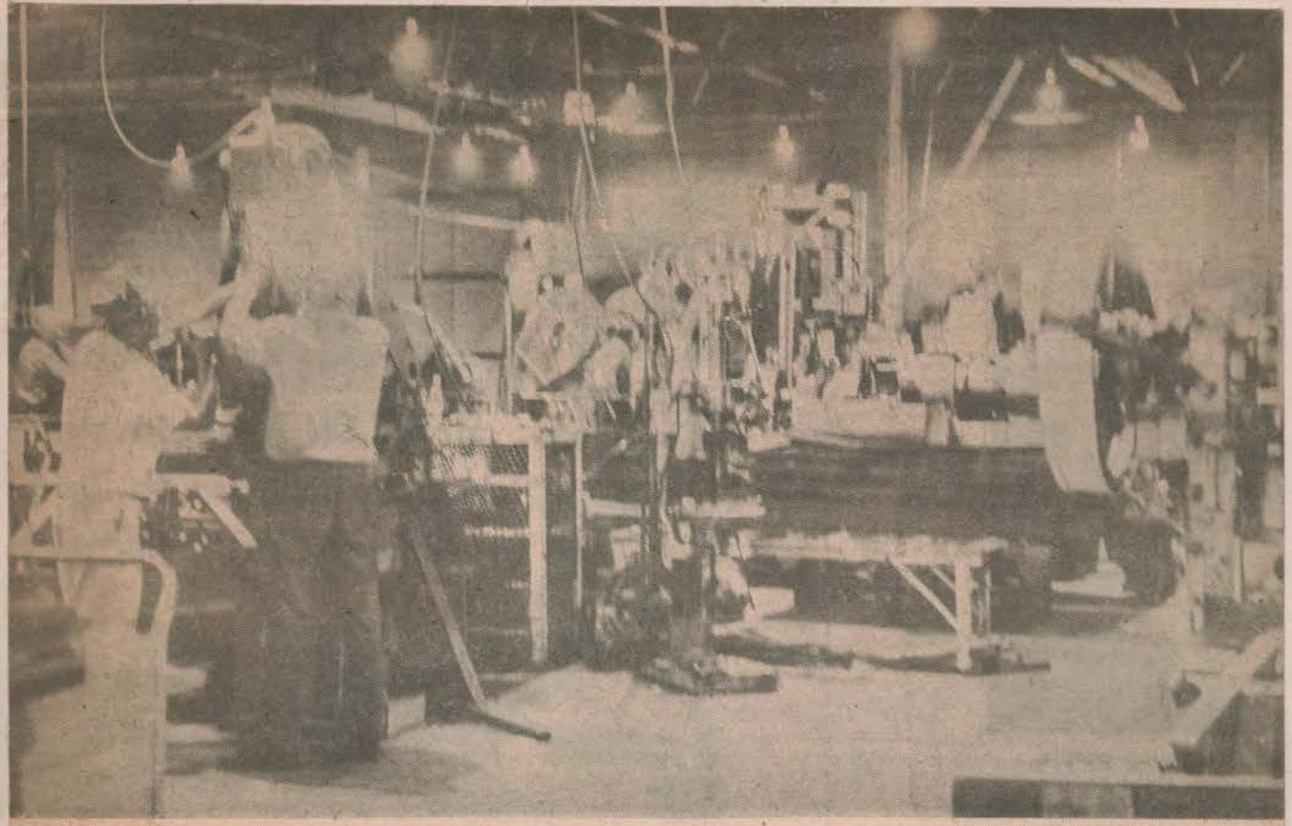
FROM ITS START on Commercial street 22 years ago, Thomas Truck and Caster Company expanded so rapidly that it soon purchased this large, four story factory building at Seventh and Johnson streets and then four years ago built another one-story factory building on Johnson to meet the demands of increased production.

Daily Gate City Photo



MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT of all varieties is manufactured in Keokuk by Thomas Truck and Caster Co.

Daily Gate City Photo



OVERALL VIEW OF MACHINERY IN THE THOMAS TRUCK AND CASTER FACTORY
—Daily Gate City Photo

DRAFTING DEPARTMENT at Thomas Truck and Caster Company is staffed and equipped to design material handling equipment to meet the most precise specifications of customers.

Daily Gate City Photo

Salute General M[redacted] as Industry of the[redacted]

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Big firm operates two Keokuk plants

General Mills, although a comparative newcomer to Keokuk, had its first beginnings in a California milling venture that got under way in 1852, hard on the heels of the gold rush. Another predecessor milling firm went into business in Minneapolis in 1866.

It was the merger of a group of such scattered but sound milling firms that formed General Mills in 1928. The new firm started out primarily as a producer of flour, with but one other product — Wheaties — to offer

Expansion minded

It was an expansion-minded concern from the first, however, and diversification came fast. By 1942, General Mills had entered many new fields, two of the most important of which are represented by properties purchased in Keokuk that year.

First acquisition was the property at 2 South Water Street, the Purity Oats plant. Under the Purity Oats label, General Mills began putting out choice quality rolled oats — as it still does. But now, employing approximately 70 persons, the Purity Oats plant turns out increasing quanitities of oat flour and related items. A large part of this output is used by the company itself in ready-to-eat cereal products, principally Cheerios.

Wheat fractions

Shortly after getting the oats plant under way in 1942, the company spotted another likely-looking property in Keokuk. Company scientists were developing ways of separating wheat flour into fractions useful in foods and industry. A pilot plant in Minneapolis was ready to expand into a full size plant, and a suitable building was needed to house this operation, together with several other technical products already in the full commercial stage.

General Miuls bought and developed the property at 410 Johnson street for the furtherance of these plans, and approximately 135 persons are now employed at that location. Products of this plant include vitamin concentrates, widely used for fortifying fluid milk, enrichment concentrates that put vital nutrients into white flour and cereals, and a wide variety of start and gluten preparations. The latter are shipped to leading manufacturers of food products (salad dressings, cereals, baby foods, and candies are examples), to textile finishers and to paper manufacturers, among others.

Three steel bins.

A recent expansion project at the Special Commodities plant provides three large new glass-lined steel bins for bulk storage of flour to be used in making starch and gluten products.

Last spring this same plant was honored by Keokuk's Junior Chamber of Commerce for increasing the volume of industry in Keokuk by taking on for General Mills, in addition to its regular processing, research pilot plant production of a number of amino acid and biochemical formulations just out of the laboratory stage.

Electronic machine

Although General Mills is still known as the world's largest flour miller, it is now recognized increasingly as a leader in such additional fields as those represented by the two Keokuk plants operated by the company. Other diversifications range from packaged cake mixes to electronic machines, from animal feeds to balloons.

Most of this diversification is accounted for by a continuing devotion to research. The theme of service runs through all General Mills operations, and the company early learned that true service must begin with research. Scientific inquiry continues to open the way to new areas of business,

Burgess M. Hagan

Hagan heads S. C. division

Burgess M. Hagan, vice president, of General Mills, Inc. is general banager of its Special Commodities Division.

This division operates plants in Keokuk and Kenedy, Tex., and also has 60 per cent ownership of a Pakistan subsidiary producing guar gums in a plan located at Karachi.

Keokuk officers

J. W. Gentzkow
plant manager
Special Commodities

S. A. Griffith
superintendent
Purity Oats

The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, AUG. 29, 1959

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with service projects keeping pace.

500 in laboratories

The centralized research approach favored by General Mills' founder, James F. Bell, has profited the company so well that the Minneapolis laboratories, started with a handful of workers, now number 500 scientists, technicians, and aides on the staff. A separate research center is scheduled to double the General Mills research program within the next few years, leading to even greater diversification that has already been achieved through industrial chemicals, farm feeds, synthetic sponges, oilseed products, plastic balloons, electronic computators and nuclear handling equipment.

These and other seemingly unrelated items nevertheless all fit into General Mills' overall pattern of logical diversification, and support the company's belief that continued growth and stability must depend upon a constant broadening of interests and activities. The research program, dedicated to improving the quality of present products and to expanding and diversifying the company's business by creating new products, nevertheless is guided by the philosophy of founder Bell, who says, "You can influence research environmentally, but you cannot lead it. You must follow where research leads."

Coast to coast

Proof of the validity of this policy is seen in the wide variety of successful General Mills installation that dot the United States from coast to coast. They include not only flour mills, but also package foods plants, chemical units, soybean processing plants, feed mills, research centers, district and regional sales offices, mechanical manufacturing plants, and specialty products plants. Foreign properties are located in Canada, Mexico, Pakistan, Venezuela, Guatamala, and England.

As research has expanded General Mills' business, its business has expanded service. Some General Mills service projects are exceedingly well known, for example Betty Crocker, the homemaking authority known to nearly 100% of the nation's homemakers. Others such as the scientific research farm maintained in Iowa to develop feeds for livestock and poultry are known to more specialized segments of the population.

Chemical seminar

Again, the special "seminars" conducted by the Chemical Division are slanted for special groups of users in the chemical industry. Through all its operations, the company considers that no sale is completed until the buyer is satisfied with the product.

General Mills has experienced steady growth throughout its 31-year history. In the fiscal year ended last May 31, all-time highs in both sales and profits mounted to $545,998,493 and $16,817,466 respectively. General Mills is one of the "Golden Nine" companies listed by the New York Stock Exchange. The name applies to firms that have earned and paid regular dividends to common stockholders, without reduction, since 1928.

Don A. Stevens

Don A. Stevens heads General Mills flours

Don A. Stevens, vice president and director of General Mills Inc. is general manager of its flour divisions which operates Purity Oats plants in Keokuk and Minneapolis.

Charles H. Bell

General Mills president is Charles Bell

Heading the far-flung General Mills, Inc. empire is Charles H. Bell, president of the company which Keokuk has honored in August as its Industry of the Month.

General Mills plants not only blanket the United States but are operating in South America and as far away as Pakistan.

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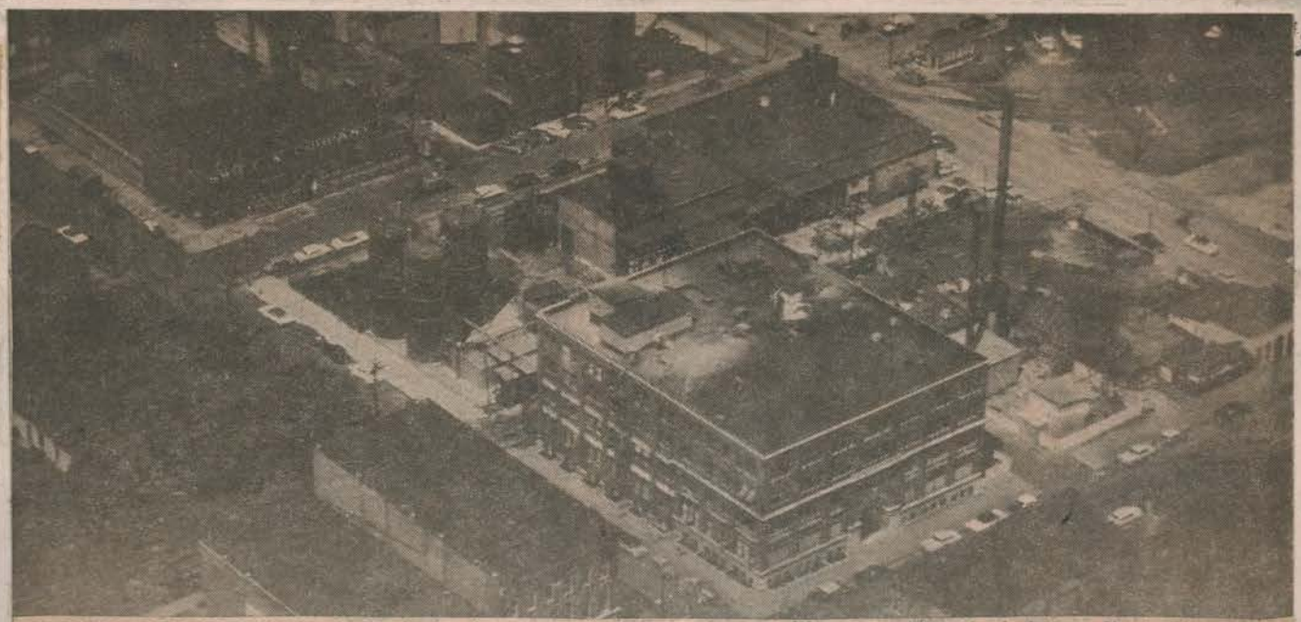
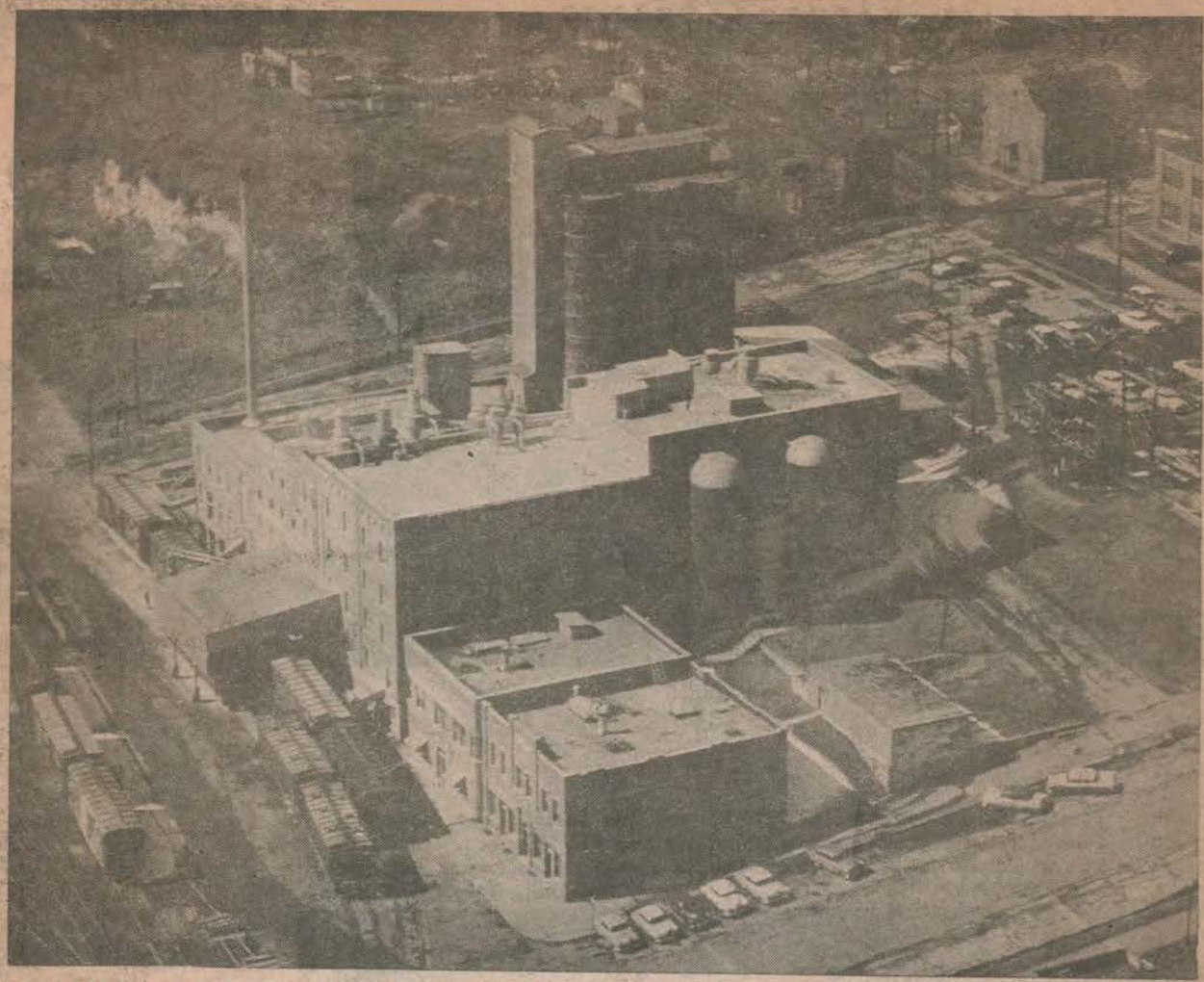
(General Mills)

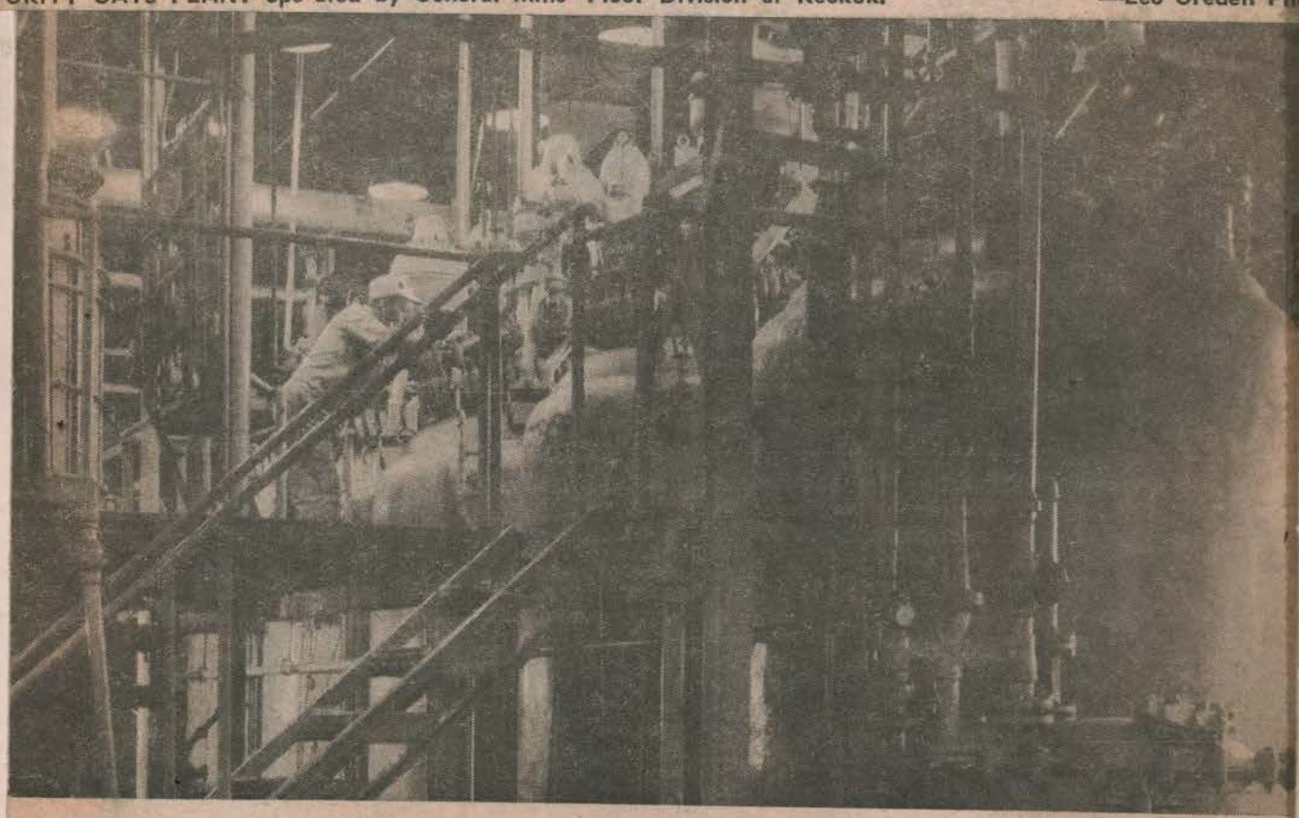


AERIAL PROTOGRAPH of Keokuk plant operated by the Special Commodities Division of General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. Principal products of the divisions are vitamin concentrates, wheat starches, and vegetable gums. The Keokuk installation has also recently begun turning out amino acid and biochemical formulations on a research pilot plant basis.
—Leo Gredell Photo

KEOKUK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and the city has been saluting General Mills, Inc. as the Industry of the Month for August and this display of the products of the company's two Keokuk divisions, Purity Oats and Special Commodities, has occupied a prominet position in the lobby of the Hotel Iowa throughout the month.



PURITY OATS PLANT operated by General Mills' Flour Division at Keokuk. —Leo Gredell Photo



HAROLD SWINDERMAN adjusts operation of hydrolyzer in General Mills' Keokuk Special Commodities plant. The unit performs the first step in separating proteins into individual purified amino acids such as lysine.

—Leo Gredell Photo


PURITY OATS CO.
MANUFACTURERS - OF
BEST-MADE - MADE BEST
PURITY ROLLED OATS
ROLLED OATS
PURITY OATS CO.

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Facts You Should Know

Remembering that the answer to unemployment is not relief, but work in industry it is significant to note that our relief rolls last year exceeded the payrolls of our five largest industries: The textile and clothing, railroads, building, machinery, iron and steel and their products.

These industries employed 4,737,000 (average) in 1935, while the relief rolls averaged 4,798,000 cases. These employed workers earned $23.00 a week and created by the work a total buying power of $5,600,000,000, while those on relief were maintained on the poverty income of less than $6.50 a week, at a cost of $1,978,000,000 from government borrowing and taxes.

Unless a determined effort is made to create work, we may expect that for many years millions will be denied the chance to produce wealth and the nation will be taxed to maintain them in poverty.

(The above statistics were taken from the American Federationist, April 1936, issue.)

The Hubinger Company since March have started the practice of working their employees overtime. Since this practice started there has been worked in the Hubinger Co., plant approximately 700 hours over time through the practice of allowing men to work 16 hours out of twenty-four.

Is the Hubinger Company upholding the AMERICAN PRINCIPAL by allowing this practice?

Is the Plant Council upholding the principals of the AMERICAN WORKING MAN by sanctioning such a practice?

Signed,

CORN PRODUCTS WORKERS UNION, NO. 19931

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

JAN. 17, 1933

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Merrimac Shoe Company Expects To Increase Employees To At Least 150 People Shortly After February 1

Factory Started Operation in Keokuk First of the Year—Entirely New Plant Modern in Every Way with Ideal Working Conditions.

FANCY DRESS SHOES FOR WOMEN MADE

Orders Now on Hand to Keep in Capacity Operation for More Than Two Months—Employing Only Local People Teaching Them the Business —Gives Impetus to Better Conditions.

By R. KENNETH EVANS.

The greatest impetus that has been given to Keokuk industrial activity during the last year and which bids fair to strengthen economic conditions has been the establishment here of the Merrimac Shoe company's factory by Kane, Dunham and Kraus, experienced manufacturers of shoes.

The new building to house the factory with 30,000 square feet of floor space of modern construction has been completed and occupied since January 1, this year. Fifty people, all Keokuk residents, are now employed in the plant and it is announced by E. R. Kull, superintendent, that within four weeks the company expects to have 150 people working.

Indicative of the reception that has been given this new factory in the buying field is the fact that the company now has orders for spring and summer shoes, sufficient to keep the plant in operation for more than two months, if working to full capacity. These orders are from all sections of the United States showing that spring buying is taking a lead.

Aggressive Business Men.

Keokuk has attained to her enviable position in the industrial and manufacturing world not alone from the fact that here is to be found ample electric power through one of the two largest water power dams in the world, but through the aggressiveness of her business men. The raising of the necessary funds to insure the construction of a new building for this shoe factory was done in the face of economic stress, which has been experienced in the four corners of the world. Keokuk believe in doing things and this going shoe factory is ample evidence of this fact.

Kane, Dunham and Kraus, operators of the factory are well known in the shoe manufacturing world. They are now operating a shoe factory in Washington, Missouri which has been one of the pillars of business in that city. Approximately 400 people are employed in the Washington factory and it is announced by officials of the company that they expect to make the Keokuk plants a replica, so far as employment is concerned, of the Washington operation.

The Merrimac Shoe Company's factory is the outgrowth of the realization of need for a factory of this kind. For many years the Huiskamp shoe factory was operated here. The equipment of the Larson Shoe Mfg. company and its business was purchased by the present firm and all shoe making activities are now centered in this new factory.

An Ideal Location.

The new plant is located in an ideal place, close to the business section of the city. It is of brick construction and special attention was given, in its designing, to lighting, heating and provision for pleasant working conditions. Eight hot air overhead heaters are installed on each of the two floors, which gives an even and comfortable heat. During the summer months the ventilation system will make for pleasant surroundings. It is located close to the banks of the Mississippi river.

The plant, with its present equipment, has a capacity for 700 pairs of shoes daily. New machinery is being added and the equipment will be expanded until within two years, according to Superintendent Kull, the company will have this plant operating on a basis of 1,800 pairs of shoes every working day.

The company manufactures in the Keokuk plant only, women's dress shoes and novelty shoes. This is a type of manufacture that requires the frequent changing of lasts and the changing of styles every season. Affiliated with designers and pattern makers in the style centers of the nation the company is in position to keep abreast of the latest styles to meet the demands of the season.

It is interesting to know how intricate is the work of manufacturing a pair of ladies novelty or dress shoes. It is not uncommon for the patterns to have as many as 17 pieces for each shoe of a pair, and in some cases these patterns call for as many as 50 pieces to each shoe. It is not hard for one to realize the importance of the proper cutting of leathers and other materials that go into the manufacture of these shoes.

Employing Local People.

"We are employing Keokuk boys and girls," pointed out Mr. Kull in discussing the operations of the factory. "We are taking them into the plant and teaching them the various phases of the shoe manufacturing business. We will continue to do this until our working staff is filled with local people." Mr. Kull pointed out that it costs the company approximately $150.00 to teach the average employee the work in the various departments. Hence, the developmnt of adequate people for work in the factory requires time and care.

The shoes manufactured by the Merrimac Shoe company are in the medium priced class. During the course of operation it is an average to have approximately 15,000 pairs of shoes in process of completion. This requires approximately $20,000.00 worth of materials in the factory at all times. These materials include a variety of leathers for the tops of the shoes. As a rule more than 150 different kinds of leathers are kept on hand according to the style demands including kid, sheep, calf, pig, snake and reptile and specially manufactured leathers for novelty shoes.

Mr. Kull, superintendent of the plant, has been identified with the industrial life of Keokuk for approximately fifteen years. For eight years he was employed in the Huiskamp shoe factory and the balance of the time with the Larson Shoe Mfg. company which was purchased by the present firm in 1931.

Local Interest Manifest.

"We are anxious to make this factory an addition to the city of Keokuk that will not only lend strength to its industrial resources but which will be an added improvement in supplying work," said Mr. Kull. "All members of the firm are interested in Keokuk and the future success of the city and this concern will be behind every meritorious move started here for the future development of resources and stabalization of conditions."

While the new building is occupied and the machinery partially in operation the work of completing the interior is not finished. It is the plan to petition off a part of the front of the first floor for the business offices of the company. New machinery is being placed in various departments. The arrangements are being made

It is the consensus of opinion of the men at the head of the concern that Keokuk is ideally situated for a factory of this type and that the future success of the enterprise is beyond any question of doubt.

from the standpoint of giving the greatest efficiency in operation. The entire structure has been built substantial to answer the demands for room for expansion for many years to come, regardless of the rapid growth that the factory may experience.

GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 1952

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Special Commodities 3 In One

Chemistry is Industry Base

Few persons in Keokuk know that the Special Commodities Division Plant of General Mills here is actually three plants in one. The three plants are (1) a plant manufacturing starch and gluten, (2) a plant manufacturing vitamin products and, (3) a plant making mono sodium glutamate and other glutamate products. Each of these plants is called a processing department and each manufactures entirely different types of products.

Few also know that there is a large number of products manufactured in the Special Commodities Division plant. These include wheat starch, wheat gluten, modified starches, vitamin D in oil for food and pharmaceutical use, vitamin D and vitamin A and D concentrates in evaporated milk for use by dairies to fortify milk with these vitamins.

Flavor Enhancer Made Here.

It is also not generally known that mono sodium glutamate, the top "flavor enhancer" known to science today, is also manufactured in Keokuk. A little of this substance, generally called M. S. G. for shorter and easier saying, sprinkled on meats, in gravies, in soups or used on many foods, brings out the natural flavors of the foods.

Other products include Glutamic Acid Hydrochloride, Refined Glumatic Acid, Mono Ammonium Glutamate, Vitamin Components for flour enrichment, Mineral Enriching Compounds for animal feeds, and Vitamin Enriching Compounds for the well-known General Mills cereals, Wheaties, Kix and Cheerios.

"Chemical Paradise."

In terms the average layman can understand, the Special Commodities plant here is a virtual paradise for the chemical engineer. However, when the average reporter is shown through the plant, he meets such a maze of cylinders, pumps, tanks, valves, machines and hydraulic contraptions he simply runs out of words how to describe them. He sees something (and so much of it) that he is not able to put it into words. However, one thing is evident — the cleanliness within such a huge place is amazing.

Because so many of its products depend upon chemistry, this plant probably has one of the best laboratories within the Tri-State area. It occupies one whole section of the building.

160 Are Employed.

Approximately 160 persons are employed by the Special Commodities Division in Keokuk. While there are other plants with more persons employed, the Special Commodities payroll compares quite favorably with the others. The General Mills payroll both at the Special Commodities Division and Purity Oats Division on the waterfront are vitally important to Keokuk.

The story of General Mills' Special Commodities Division plant in Keokuk is a story of nutritional, chemical, engineering and commercial research, bent on utilizing the entire wheat kernel and improving General Mills' products.

Back in the late 1920's and early 30's, scientists were making startling nutritional discoveries; General Mills therefore, became interested in producing vitamins for use in its flour and breakfast cereals.

Rich Source of Vitamin.

Facts then available made it clear that a rich source of B vitamins was needed. General Mills researchers knew that wheat germ was a rich, natural source of Vitamin B1, but they faced a two-fold problem: how to separate the germ from the wheat berry in an uncrushed state, and how to treat this germ to protect its freshness—to retain its vitamin values for long periods. Eventually, they whipped this problem to develop Embo, a special wheat germ sold to the pharmaceutical trade. This product served the early day needs well and ultimately gave way to the present economic process of vitamin synthesis.

Thus began the march of vitamins through General Mills Research laboratories in Minneapolis. Focusing its attention next on Vitamin D the company acquired patents and processes for the activation of provitamin substances to form this vitamin.

Developed Vitamin Products.

In 1933, General Mills formed Sun-A-Sured, Inc., for the research development and sale of Vitamin D and the processing of a product called Cal-Asparin. The name of this subsidiary was changed to American Research Products Incorporated in 1934. Later, it became known as the company's American Research Products Division, and the "American" was dropped from its title in 1939. Finally, on December 31, 1941, it became the Special Commodities Division of General Mills, Inc.

Meanwhile, General Mills became interested in wheat starch. From commercial studies, both wheat starch and wheat protein seemed to have a promising future, so the company decided to set up a limited research program on these wheat products. At the time, however, there was no space available for the project, so it was set up in the basement of a vice-president's home in Minneapolis. There, amid washing machines and laundry tubs, General Mills' starch-protein research program was born.

Two company engineers installed a few pieces of equipment, added some odd jugs and bottles and set to work. Although one day a week they had to put aside their equipment while a laundress did the family wahsing, they were able to lay a firm basis for future research.

During the following years, the program moved into full-fledged laboratory and pilot plant quarters, and General Mills scientists worked out new methods of separating starch and protein from wheat flour; they also developed methods for manufacturing monosodium glutamate, a flavor intensifier widely used in soups, sauces, and other foods.

To Keokuk in 1943.

In 1943, the Special Commodities Division bought the S. F. Baker building in Keokuk, where it established its new starch-protein as well as its vitamin operations. In the years since, those operations have grown steadily—more than doubling in volume since 1943. The physical facilities of the plant have also expanded until they now occupy most of a city block.

At the same time, new products of science have been added to the plant's line. Today, for example, General Mills purified wheat starches flow from Keokuk to the textile and paper industries, where they serve as coating adhesives and surface sizing and to the food industry for use in ice cream cones, candy, baby foods, and salad dressings. They also go to manufacturers of laundry starches.

From gluten, the sticky, tough mixture of proteins left behind when starch is washed from flour, the plant turns out a series of valuable derivatives. In addition to monosodium glutamate, there are glutamic acid and glutamic acid hydrochloride; both are used widely in pharmaceuticals. Another product, a relative newcomer, is monoammonium glutamate, developed for people on low-salt or salt-free diets.

Top Vitamin Producer.

Meanwhile, the plant continues as one of the nation's top producers of Vitamin D. It turns out vitamin concentrates for the dairy, food, and pharmaceutical industries and enrichment concentrates for General Mills' foods and feeds.

Operating the plant is a staff of 160 men and women. C. F. Livermore, plant manager, and J. W. Gentzkow, production superintendent, have both served with the Special Commodities plant since its establishment in Keokuk. V. E. Varhus, who is chief engineer, was a pioneer in the company's starch-protein research program.

E. J. Curfman, office manager, is a local man. He joined General Mills in 1943. K. S. Rohrbough, laboratory director, is in charge of a staff of highly trained chemists and technicians who handle both the products and process control work for the many varied activities in the plant.

Under this management and through the office of Personnel Director G. R. Stanton, the plant has consistently maintained an equitable labor policy. In its nine-year life at Keokuk, it has not had a work stoppage. Today, its payroll brings approximately $600,000 a year into the Keokuk community. (N)

Sethness Products,

Firm manufactures single product, Caramel coloring

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OCT. 13, 1959

Founded in Chicago 79 years ago, Sethness Products Company, Keokuk Chamber of Commerce Industry of the month, manufactures a single product—Caramel Coloring Syrup.

It is the only company in the United States which devotes its entire efforts to the production of this single product, thus making Keokuk unique in this respect.

Burns corn sugar

Caramel Coloring Syrup is made by burning liquid corn sugar in steam-jacketed, stainless steel cookers with small amounts of chemicals used to speed the burning reaction and to obtain a product with the desired properties.

Although the Keokuk plant produces only one product, it makes approximately 20 different types of that product. Many are tailor-made to the specifications of Sethness customers.

Most in soft drinks

Approximately 80 per cent of the production goes into the soft drink industry for coloring colas, root beer and ginger ale. The remainder is used to color many different products, including bakery goods, blended whiskeys, soy sauces, meat sauces, candy and many other food products.

It is also used by pharmaceutical manufacturers and in the small quantities in which Caramel Coloring is used it imparts no taste to the material it is coloring but does give a rich, reddish-brown color.

Came here in 1939

Sethness Products Co. moved to Keokuk in 1939 to occupy space in the end building, on Commercial Alley, of The Hubinger Company plant and has remained there since.

Although it leases space from The Hubinger Company and buys liquid corn sugar from it for a raw material, there is no other connection between the two companies. Hubinger, however, was instrumental in getting Sethness to locate in Keokuk and during the 30's The Hubinger Company gave wel-

Plant manager

RAY NORTH, is vice president and manager of the Sethness Products Company, designated by the Chamber of Commerce as Industry of the Month for October.

come financial assistance to Sethness Products in the form of a loan.

Today, Sethness Products can easily manufacture ten to fifteen thousand gallons per day of Caramel Color in its stainless steel cooking vessels. This is a far cry from the humble beginnings of the company back in 1880 in Chicago.

Founded in 1880

The company was founded in 1880 by C. O. Sethness, grandfather of the present owner and president of the company, Charles H. Sethness, Jr. In the early days of the company, Caramel Coloring was manufactured in an iron kettle over a coal fire. The solid corn sugar was melted in the kettle and stirred by hand with a wooden paddle.

A good day's production at that time was about fifty gallons per day. The Caramel Coloring business was not very large for the company until 1924 when the company began selling to the Coca-Cola Company.

2 million gallons a year

Since that date the volume of the Keokuk plant is approximately two million gallons per year. Today, Sethness Products sells practically every major manufacturer of soft drinks in the United States. The Coloring is sold in all parts of the United States, including Hawaii, and is exported to Canada, the Philippines, and parts of South America

A product developed several years ago is an exception to the company's single-product line. The Sethness laboratory developed, and the plant now manufactures the Burnt Sugar Flavor used in the Duncan Hines Burnt Sugar Cake Mix. This product both flavors and colors the cake.

Parts to tank cars

Caramel Coloring is packaged in containers ranging from five gallon pails to eight thousand gallon tank cars. By far the largest percentage of the volume is packed in fifty-five gallon drums and tank cars. The company leases a fleet of eight tank cars to ship bulk loads to large quantity users, mainly the soft drink manufacturers.

The officers

C. H. Sethness, Jr., president and owner of Sethness Products Company, resides in Chicago, where the main office of the company is located. The company has only one manufacturing plant, the one located here in Keokuk. Ray North is the plant manager and vice president in charge of production. Ted Linner is research director and chief chemist. Another vice president of the company, Fred W. Peck, is located in the company's New York office.

An important part of the plant is the well-equipped laboratory where new products are developed, and the constant testing of current production is done to insure high quality of product. Four men, of the fourteen men employed at the plant, work in the laboratory.

Praises Cooperation

Keokuk has proved to be a fine location for Sethness Products Company. The success and growth of the company can be attributed to many factors, but certainly among them is the fine cooperation and aid given to the company by the Hubinger Company, a long-time friend of Sethness Products. The cooperation also of the railroads, the truck lines, and the fine employes of the company has also been an important afctor in the growth of the company.

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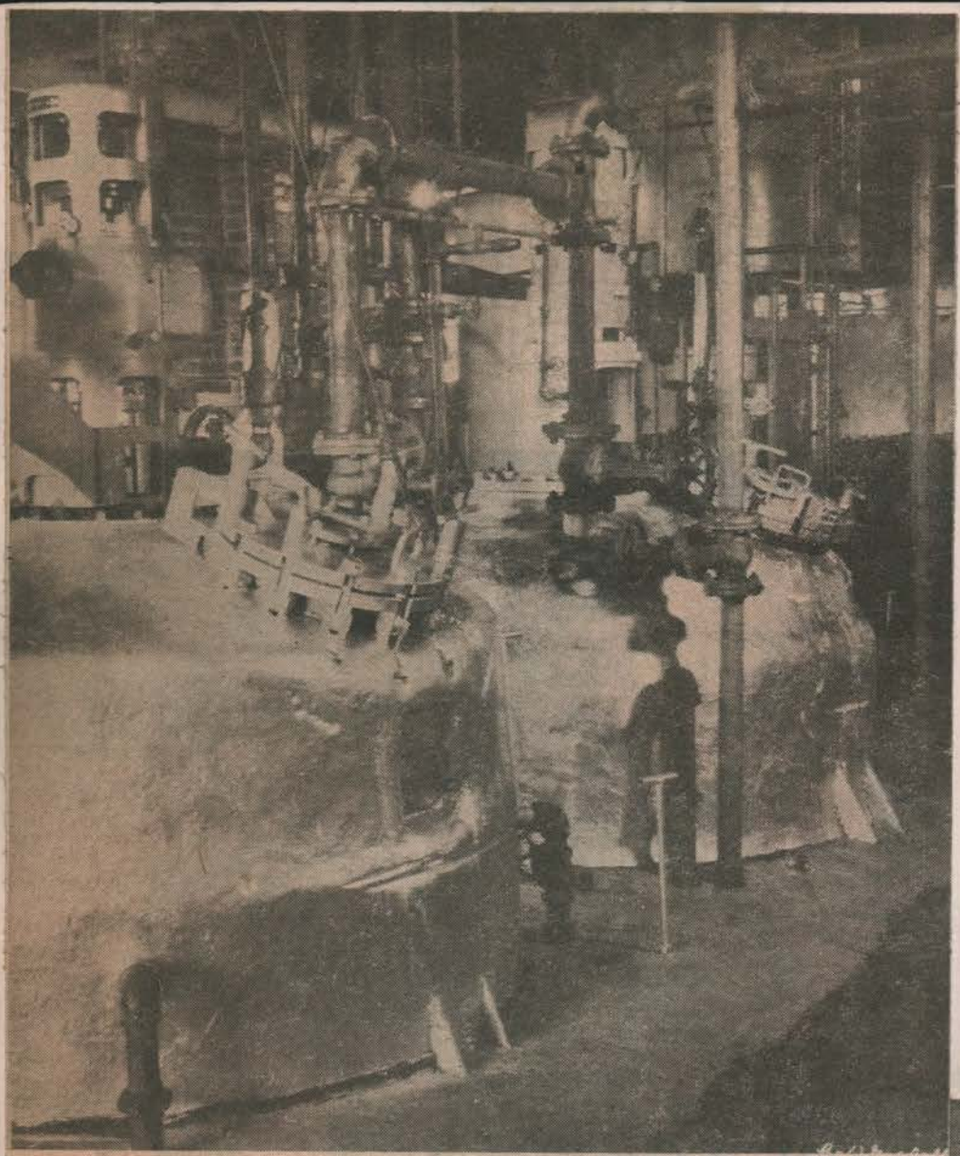
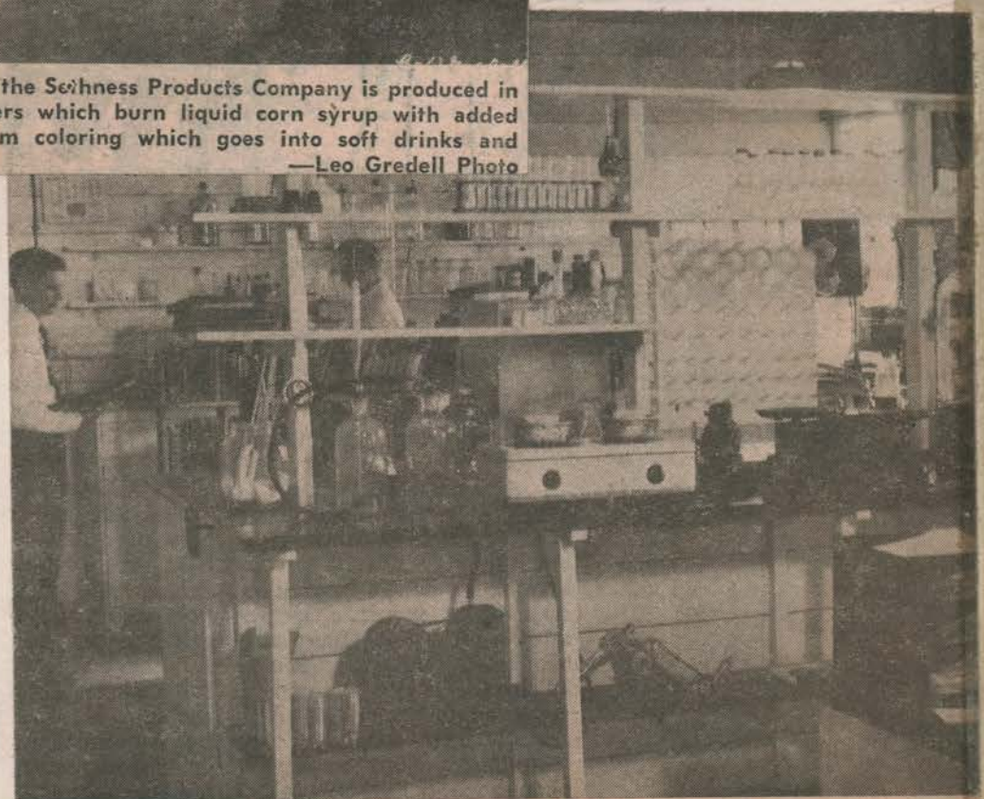
(Sethness Products)

SETHNESS PROD-1



CARAMEL COLORING SYRUP at the Sethness Products Company is produced in these large pressure kettle cookers which burn liquid corn syrup with added chemicals to produce the uniform coloring which goes into soft drinks and hundreds of other products. —Leo Gredell Photo



GLISTENING GLASSWEAR in all shapes and sizes is evident in this picture of the complete and fully equipped laboratory at Sethness Products Co. in Keokuk where Caramel Coloring Syrup must meet the most rigid standards before it is shipped out bearing a company name dating back to 1880. —Leo Gredell Photo

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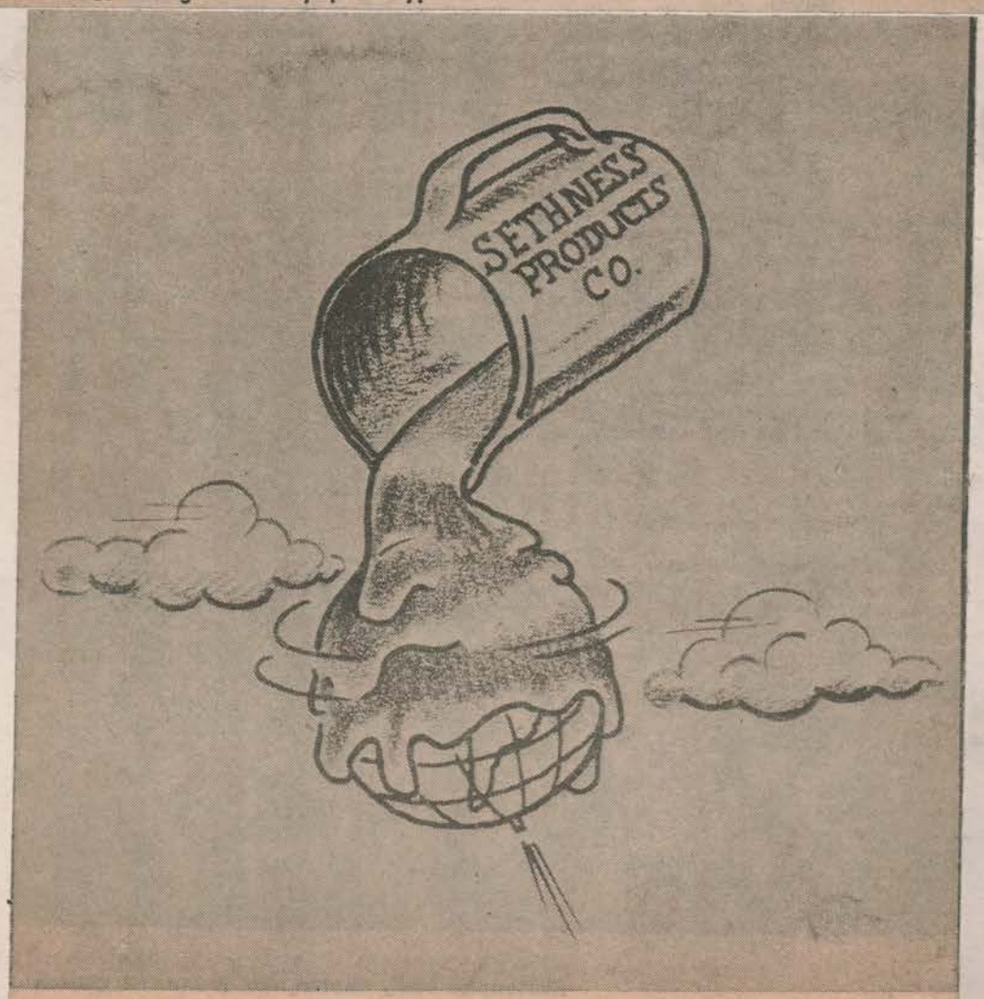
(Sethness Products)

A STAINLESS STEEL FILTER in the Sethness Products plant on Commercial alley is being examined here by Ray North, manager and vice president in charge of production. —Leo Gredell Photo

CHIEF CHEMIST at Sethness Products Co. is Ted Linner shown here in the laboratory examining samples of the Caramel Color. —Daily Gate City Photo

SETHNESS PRODUCTS COMPANY ships its Caramel Coloring Syrup in many different ways — from pails to large tank cars — but among the most popular type of container are these large drums which are being filled and weighed at the same time.

—Leo Gredell Photo



LIKE A CANDY APPLE — Sethness covers the world with caramel.

GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29, 1943

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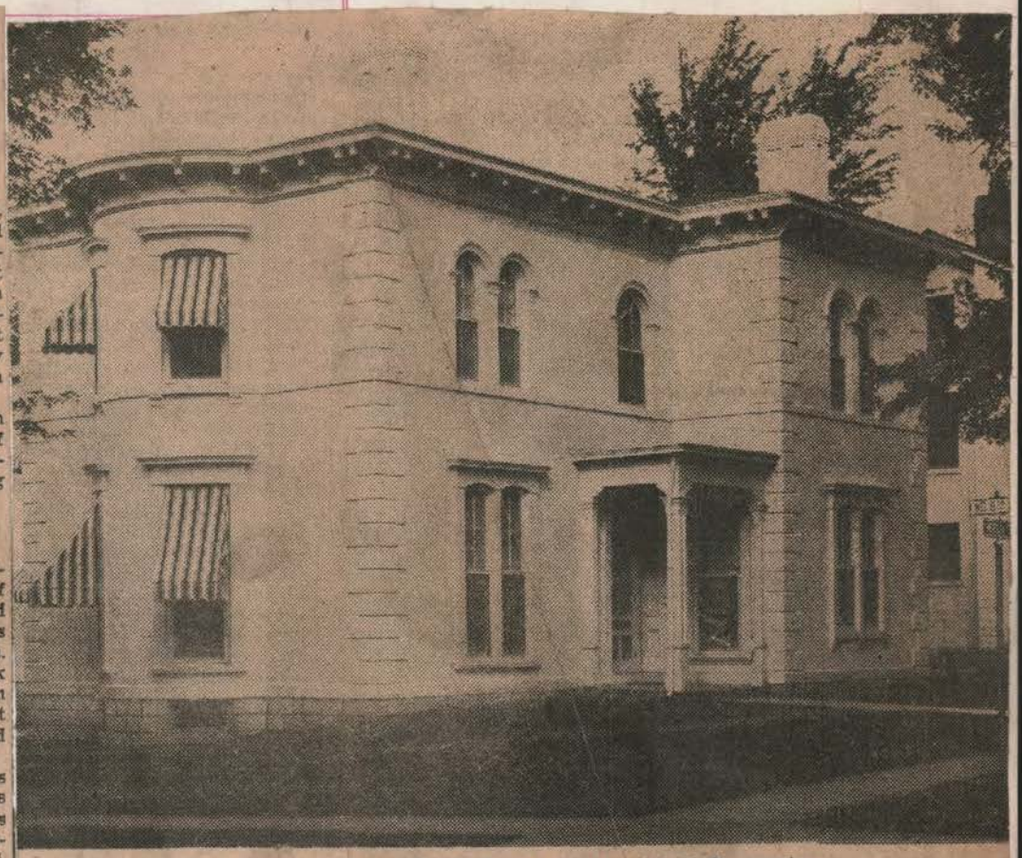
Iowa Fiber Turns Old Home Into Office

Executive Affairs Of Six Companies Are Handled Here



New Home of Iowa Fibre Box and Associated Companies.

Interviewed today, R. N. Hoerner, president of the Iowa Fiber and Associated Box companies, expressed his appreciation of the interest shown by Keokuk last week when so many persons accepted his invitation to an open house and inspect the executive offices of the company in its new home at 600 Morgan street.

The beautiful old mansion which retains the homey graciousness of other days despite its modernization is shown in the adjoining picture.

Home Office Here.

In that the Iowa Fiber Box company was the first of the group of firms which are now consolidated into a chain, the executive offices have always been maintained here. At the present time there are six companies in the organization which is divided into what might be termed the northern and southern groups.

The Iowa Fiber in Keokuk thus has two subsidiaries, the Des Moines Container company at Des Moines with M. F. Beatty as temporary manager; and the A. B. C. Corrugated Box company at St. Paul, Minn., with G. C. Hughes as sales manager. M. R. Shofer of Keokuk is vice-president and sales manager of the Iowa Fiber and its two affiliates and his office is in the plant located at 1200 Commercial Alley.

Members of the southern branch are the parent South West Box company at Sand Springs, Okla., with Wayne W. Jackson as vice-president and sales manager; and its two subsidiaries, the Arkansas Box company at Fort Smith, Ark., where M. F. Beatty is sales manager, and the Southwest Corrugated Box company at Fort Worth, Texas, where J. V. Wilson is sales manager.

Ideal for Purpose.

The building at 600 Morgan lends itself splendidly for the executive offices of the entire chain. On the first floor, as one enters, the reception room is at the left where Mary Conn and Edith Meister handle the visitors, telephone switchboard, teletype and do the secretarial work for M. G. Sterne, secretary and treasurer of all the companies, and B. H. Tomlinson, assistant purchasing agent for all of the companies. Immediately adjoining the reception room are the private offices of Sterne and Tomlinson.

At the right of the entrance is the office of Ella Stafford who is the cashier for the three northern companies and is assisted by Jane Zimmerschied. Adjoining this is the office of Georgia Schouten, cashier for the three southern companies, who has Mildred Foglesong and Gloria Wallgren as assistants.

Second Floor.

On the second floor, at the head of the stairs and to the left of the hallway where the old wall clock of Judge Felix T. Hughes is hung, is the office of Karl Kiedaisch, a director of the company and safety engineer, and that of L. C. Wightman, technical adviser for all of the companies. Next on the second floor is the sales promotion and direct-by-mail room with Harriet Collier in charge. Adjoining this is the office of Karl E. Madden, assistant to the president.

At the end of the hall, in front of the beautiful circle-top windows is the desk of Dorothy Wright, private secretary to R. N. Hoerner, president of the companies, whose office occupies the large room on the corner of the second floor. It has been tastefully decorated to suit the needs of such an office, with light on three sides and a beautiful white marble, coal burning fireplace on the fourth.

Henry Martin is the custodian of the building and grounds.

The Iowa Fiber Box company has been very successful and an active concern for more than 20 years and has given employment to approximately 100 people in Keokuk and the entire organization in all its combined units gives employment to approximately 400. All the modern improvements in machinery have been adopted readily by this organization at all plants and the entire middle west from St. Paul, Minn., to Galveston, Texas, covering a strip about 500 miles wide, is adequately served by this organization.

UNITED STATES vs. No.

Business flying becomes a big business in Keokuk

The Daily Gate City
14 KEOKUK, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 1959

By Phil Reynolds

Although not known as an aviation center throughout the midwest, Keokuk has gained somewhat of a reputation in the business world. It is one of the most active business aviation towns for its size in the middle west.

Representative of the flying business concerns in Keokuk are Hoerner Boxes Inc., The Hubinger Company, Keokuk Electro-Metals Co., and Keokuk Steel Castings Co.

Hoerner flies three

Hoerner Boxes, located at 600 Morgan street, now flies three planes, and vies with Hubingers as the chief user fo the Keokuk municipal airport. The Hoerner planes include a four-passenger Beechcraft Bononza, a single engine plane with a speed of 200 miles an hour; a double-engined Cessna 310 B, carrying five passengers and cruising at 200 miles an hour; and a Cessna 310 C, the modified, 1959 model of the 310 B with increased performance.

The Hoerner aviation department has been in operation since 1946, when it started with D. C. Ward as pilot and several of the company executives would fly. At the time it had one plane, a single-engined Ercoupe. The company now has two full-time pilots in Roy W. Timm, who joined the company in 1956, and James P. Thompson, who came to Hoerners in 1958. D. C. Ward is now the traffic manager for the company.

Hubinger Airmotive

The Hubinger company has two Aero Commander 680's, planes which seat seven passengers and have a top cruising speed of 230 miles an hour. Both are twin engined planes and have an accumulated total of 715 flying hours since January 1, 1959.

Chief pilot for Hubingers is John P. Meyers, and, and the company's other pilot is Thomas M. Bante. Meyers is also the general manager of Hubinger Airmotive Sales, which is a division of the Hubinger company based at Municipal field in Keokuk. This company handles the latest in lightweight radio equipment for airplanes and features full service and installation facilities at the field. Hubinger Airmotive is also the franchised dealer for the Aero Commander airplane in the Tri-state area.

The company also owns one other plane, a Beechcraft Bonanza, which is used for demonstration purposes for the Airmotive division and does utility flying for the parent company.

A CESSNA 310C like Hoerner Boxes and Keokuk Electro-Metals fly is shown taxiing onto the apron from the concrete, 3800-foot runway. This type airplane carries five passengers and will fly over 200 miles an hour.
—Daily Gate City Photo

ONE OF THE HUBINGER planes, an Aero Commander 680, rests in one of the hangars during an off-period. This type airplane, for which Hubinger Airmotive is the dealer, was the prototype for one of the newer, larger turboprop passenger jets.
—Daily Gate City Photo

Others fly too

Keokuk Electro-Metals began its flying with a Cessna 190, a single-engined plane with performance figures somewhat similar to the Bonanza, and then switched in 1955 to the Cessna 310 B, the popular airplane in the

area. Since January of 1959 the plane has flown some 180 hours under the company's pilot, M. Duane Francies.

Keokuk Steel Castings has been flying almost as long as Hoerner Boxes. It started looking to the air in 1947, and liked what it saw. Since '47 the company has owned and flown 12 planes, including a Cessna 310 C, the 1959 model which was purchased just a few weeks ago, and a Cessna Skylane.

Since January of this year the 310 C has logged about 350 hours, while the Skylane has picked up about 275. Flying for the company is done by company president Walter Miller, Sales Manager Forst Robertson, and company pilot Johnny Strohmeier, who is on call at the airport.

Lindner pioneers field

In speaking of business flying in Keokuk, the story would certainly not be complete without mention of Irv Lindner. Lindner came to Keokuk shortly after World War II with a lot of ideas, chief of which was that of starting a flight service. Now, after several setbacks, he has installations at several fields in the Tri-state area, with headquarters in Keokuk.

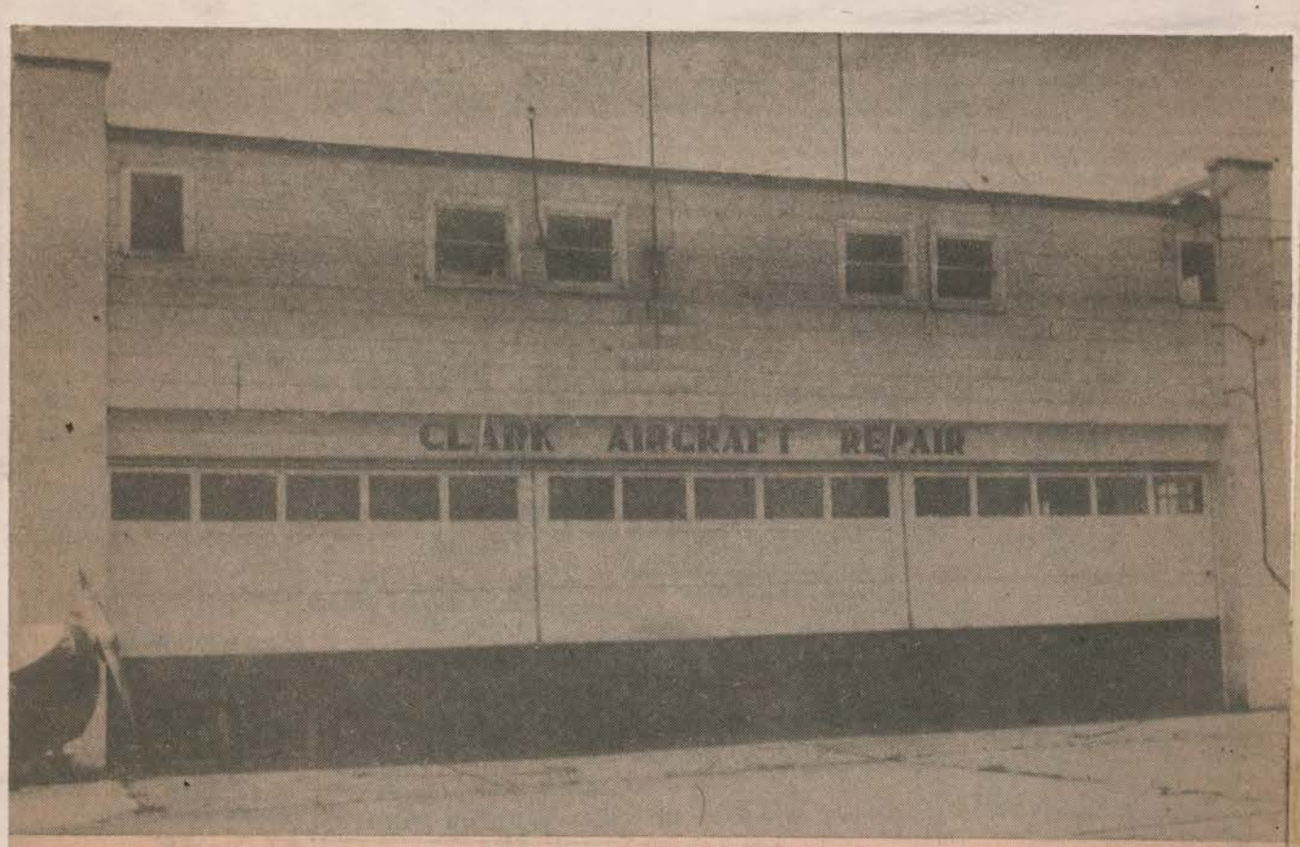
He also supplies a good deal of pilot hours for the smaller companies in Keokuk who do not do enough flying to hire their own full-time pilots. Early in 1956, Lindner was furnishing the only pilots available to the Hoerner company, keeping one man on a full-time duty and one as a fill-in pilot.

Lindner also operates a flight school from the airport at Keokuk, plus line service on all the planes flying in and out of the field.

Clark Repair

Another company closely connected with aviation in Keokuk is, of course, the Clark Aircraft Repair. Clark's handles a good deal of the private aircraft repair for the planes based at the field, and has the facilities to repair many different types of aircraft.

Keokuk has grown up in the aviation field since 1946, when Irv Lindner had a dream of a flight service and D. C. Ward was flying a little Ercoupe. It has grown so much that the town was featured as a business aviation center in a 1958 issue of Flying, the most widely read magazine in the aviation field. As the author of the story commented, does this sound like a small town? END



MUNICIPAL AIRPORT TOWER and the building part of Clark Aircraft Repair is shown in this picture. The airport tower, along with the offices of Lindner Aviation, is on the second story of the building. The hangar below is only one of Clark's buildings on the field. —Daily Gate City Photo

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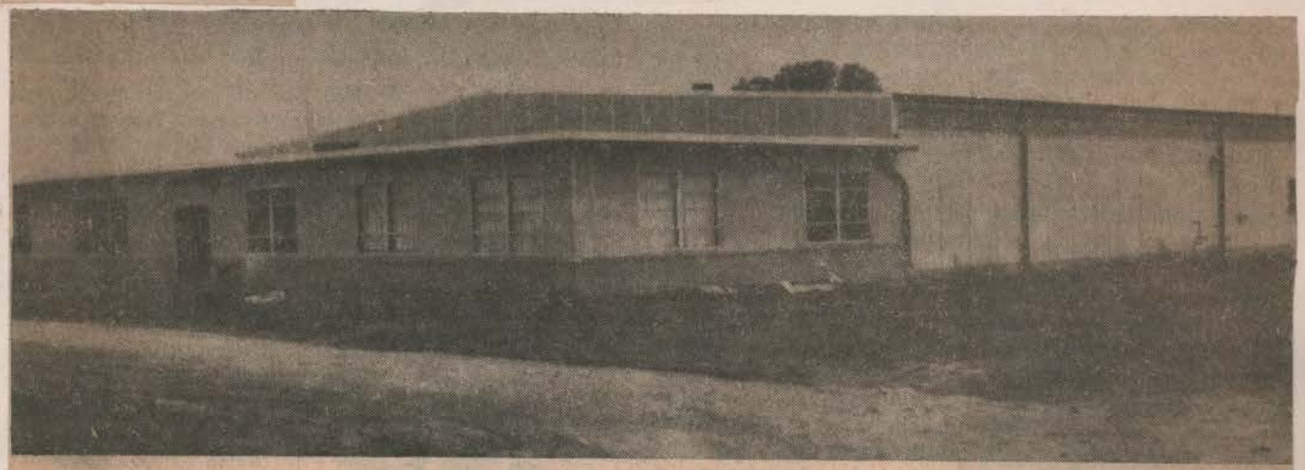
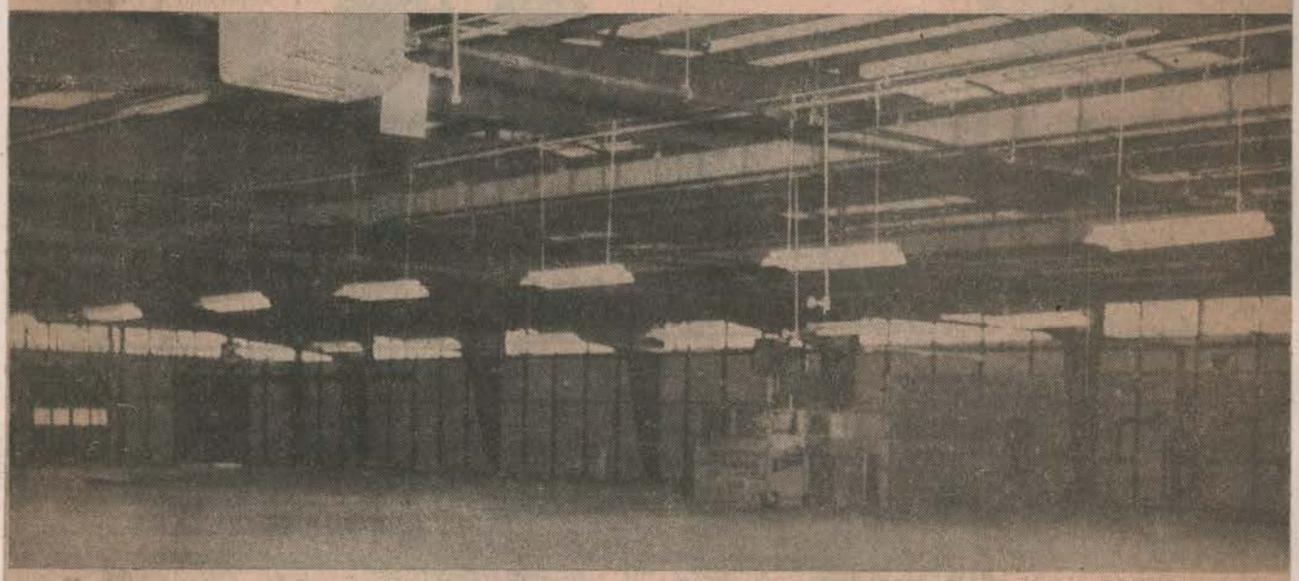
St. Louis Gear Co. ready to open Keokuk plant

The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA 11
FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 1959





ST. LOUIS GEAR COMPANY'S new plant located north of town on 61-218 is ready to be occupied and equipment will be moved in from St. Louis next week. Exterior of the new building is shown in the top picture. Company offices and lunch room facilities are located across the front. Lower photo shows expanse of the 25,000 square foot manufacturing area.
—Daily Gate City Photo

Second in the line of march of Keokuk's 1959 parade of five new industries is about to go into production.

This announcement comes today from the newly-formed Industrial Development Division of the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce.

Peter F. Wulfing, president of the St. Louis Gear Company, Inc., meeting with representatives of the local group has revealed his organization's plan to start Monday, Oct. 5, moving equipment into the recently completed plant near the Hoerner Corporation building on route 61-218.

The Gear Company location is to the left of the previously announced St. Louis Diecasting Corporation whose building next to Hoerner's is still under construction.

Full activity soon

Production at the Gear Company's new Keokuk plant is expected to get underway during the week of October 12th with full activity scheduled by the end of the month.

President Wulfing states that 60 per cent of his company's output goes to Iowa customers. A 20 per cent figure to St. Louis, 10 per cent in the rest of Missouri, and 10 per cent in central and southern Illinois rounds out the organization's distribution picture.

Executives here

Executives of the company, Peter F. Wulfing, president, and John Wulfing, vice-president, and their families have already moved to Keokuk. Key personnel who will arrive next week from St. Louis

PETER F. WULFING, president of the St. Louis Gear Company, Inc., seated at his desk in new Keokuk plant. —Daily Gate City Photo

are Jack Hodges, chief inspector; Henry Meyer, foreman; and Don Ezard, foreman.

The Keokuk Industrial Development Division has withheld formal announcement of the St. Louis Gear Company's plans until this time in order to comply with wishes of the new plant's executives. Much speculation locally has tied this firm to the St. Louis Diecasting Corporation but such is not the case. There is no connection between the two although the executives of both firms became fast friends in St. Louis.

James Kettering, Keokuk Chamber of Commerce manager, reviews the year's industrial progress to date as follows:

Keokuk's first new industry to get into production during 1959 was the Alliance Pattern Company which moved here from Quincy into a newly-constructed building at Third and Cedar this summer.

As previously announced, The St. Louis Diecasting Corporation is constructing a 60,000 square foot plant next to the Hoerner Corp., and will go into action as soon as the building is completed.

Today's St. Louis Gear Company announcement marks Keokuk's third industrial step forward of the year.

Two other companies have selected Keokuk as their location and details will be released when plans are completed. END

Brief History of Keokuk Steel Castings

First came to Keokuk in 1915
Started out by making cannon barrels for WWI

During WWII made
castings for John Deere Company tanks

Like many businesses, it was closed during the depression era.

Opened again in 1936 and a few years later the USWA (now USW) Local 3311 evolved

Over the years there have been several facilities here: the river plant, Carbide plant, Stone plant, and the Hawkeye plant

In recent years making:

- **mining equipment**
- **oil drilling equipment (at one time we boasted to be the largest valve producer in the US)**
- **many different types of military equipment**
- **nuclear valves**
- **parts for high speed trains**

This union, along with many other unions across this great nation, have accomplished many AWESOME things for their community. I am not a member of this union but many of friends and family members are or have been. And until recently, when Gary asked me to do some research for today, I did not realize how much a union does. Not just for the members but for their families, their community and other unions.

In my research, these are just a few of the events that union members have contributed to either by volunteering, by monetary donation or general support:

- **Helping with the strikes that have been held here: with a sense of family, fellowship, and monetary help**
- **To other union strike funds**
- **Easter Egg Hunts**
- **After Prom Events**
- **Flowers for lost loved ones**
- **Christmas parties for member families which included food, gifts, decorations and of course a visit from Santa**
- **Filling sandbags and then leaving their families to work at other plants because of the floods. Going to Cicero and the Canadian plant.**
- **Paying for other members to go to conferences and to share their experience and knowledge with others**
- **And who can forget the Labor Day events. The parade, the events here at the Labor Hall after the parade, the food, the games and the music. All of the volunteer hours that have been put in to make this event so very successful. And that starts way before Labor Day by many many people.**

I want to say thank you to Steel Castings, all of the workers and especially the union for everything that you have done for Keokuk.

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