

Republican Progress.

Bloomington, Indiana.

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Letter from Philadelphia.

Mr. Editor:—You often publish letters from the West but seldom from the East. It would do the average reader of the Progress good to visit the Eastern cities in winter.

It would do much to make him contented with the quiet home like ways of our Hoosier towns. The streets here are very narrow as compared with those of Bloomington. They have about 12 feet pavements on each side and about 30 feet of roadway.

When the people shovel the snow off those wide pavements, as they are compelled to do, and then shovel it off the street car track in the middle, it makes two wind-rows of snow on each side. Two weeks ago, after the big storm, these wind-rows were about three feet deep all along the squares, and at the street crossings about as high as a man's head. This snow, sheltered by the three-story houses, thawed very slowly in the day time and freezes at night into the form of mush ice in the gutters. Such has been the delightful condition of the streets for the past two weeks.

In the vestibule of a church a few days ago I heard a lady say, "Take care of my sore arm," and another, "Oh, my sore arm," and on inquiry I learned that all the school children who did not have good marks were required to be vaccinated, on account of the smallpox being in the city. The papers last week reported thirteen cases, which appeared to be something of a decrease. It occurred to me that it would be a good thing for the Bloomington School Board to require all the children to be vaccinated, because if a case of smallpox was to occur in town it would almost break up the school. Perhaps a suggestion to the parents will make the action of the Board unnecessary. It is distressing to see children raised as they are compelled to raise them here—on the streets.

The city was originally laid out in squares, checker-board fashion, with alleys running each way through the squares, as in Bloomington. When the fine houses were built out to the pavements, long, roomy back yards were left, running back to the alleys. But as the city became compact and ground became valuable, capitalists found it profitable to buy about 30 feet on each side of an alley, widen it into a narrow street, and build a row of houses on each side, to rent to the poor laboring classes. The consequence is that these tenements, which are usually full of children, have no back yards, and the residences of the rich, which face the main streets have such small ones and they are completely shaded by buildings, that they are not fit for play grounds. The consequence is that rich men's children play on the main streets and the poor men's children are crowded into these narrow, dirty streets, or courts, as they are generally called. As might be supposed the children spend a large part of the time in the houses. It made me sad to see a good, kind mother a few days ago, seeing her little girls growing pale and puny for want of fresh air, wrap them up and say to them, "Run out now, and take a play." When the little things could not go off a 12 foot pavement without getting into some up to their necks, while the hired girl had to sit on the door step and watch them to keep them from getting on the street car track. These city children would regard the clean, grassy yard of the average Bloomington house as paradise, besides their palatial, richly furnished residences.

This is a strong Republican city, but it had quite a revolution last week in the election of a Democratic Mayor. It appears as if the opportunity for jobbery is so great in these cities that the formation of rings to corrupt the government is a natural tendency—no matter which side is on top. But a Republican is sure to come to grief because the average Republican voter will not sustain his party when it forsakes the interests of the people. A Presbyterian Elder said to me on the day of election: "I am a Republican to the backbone, but I will vote against Stokesley. We have a Republican Presbyterian government in the city, but I believe the leaders are corrupt and I will vote against them." So the new Democratic Mayor,

King, who is reported to be an honorable, trustworthy man, was elected by Republican votes. The moral of this story for Republicans is not hard to see. W. P. M.

The Constitutional Amendments.

Indianapolis Journal:

The proclamation of Governor Porter relative to the new election on the constitutional amendments appears this morning. It is in accordance with the action of the Legislature on the subject, which, in turn, is in strict accord with the popular will. It is unnecessary to enter into a detailed history of the proposed amendments to the organic instrument of the State, which are thus, for a second time, submitted to a popular vote. They have been once thwarted by the decision of a partisan court; let us hope that the voice of the people will be loud enough in the next election to make itself heard throughout the length and breadth of the State.

Without entering into any argument on the subject, it is enough now to recall the number and nature of the amendments. The people are pretty well informed as to their importance. They are, first, an amendment prescribing the qualifications and residence of voters, as follows:

"Amend section 2 of article 2 so as to read as follows: Section 2. In all elections, not otherwise provided for by this constitution, every male citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years, and who has been a citizen of the United States for one year, and shall have resided in this State during the six months, and in the township sixty days, and in the ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding such election, and shall have declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, for the subject of naturalization, shall be entitled to vote in the township or precinct where he may reside, if he shall have been duly registered according to law."

This amendment is intended to protect the purity of the ballot-box, and its effect is so plain as to need no interpretation. Amendment No. 2 is verbal in its character, conforming the constitution of the State to that of the United States on the color question. Amendment No. 3 changes the time for holding general elections from October to November. The importance of this change needs no argument. It has been demonstrated time and again. It would save the people of Indiana an immense amount of worry and money every year.

Amendment No. 4 strikes out the word "white" where it occurs and thus conforms the State constitution to the United States constitution.

The fifth amendment relates to fees and salaries; the sixth to the reconstruction of the judicial system, and the ninth to the restriction of the indebtedness of counties, cities and towns.

These proposed amendments to the constitution are enumerated for the purpose of argument but simply to recall them to the popular mind. The people have passed upon them once, and by every fair construction adopted them. The chicanery of a partisan court, acting in co-operation with partisan politics, has made it necessary to resubmit them to the people. After considerable discussion and vigorous opposition on the part of leading Democrats this result is reached. The proclamation of Governor Porter is the culminating act on the part of the executive department. It remains for the people to turn out on the 14th of March and give the final seal of their second endorsement to the amendments now resubmitted to their judgment.

The grand jury found the following indictment against the county jail:

"We have visited the jail of Monroe county, and report that the same is in the following condition: That the drainage of the cellar or basement of prison is in bad condition; that the sewer from prison is in a very bad condition, and the general drainage is also bad; there is much accumulation of excrement and other offensive and refuse matter now in the prison basement that cannot fail to vitiate the air and render the prison unhealthy. For severe weather the stove now used is not sufficient to warm the prison. There should be a large stove, or another in addition to the one in the cell for severe weather. The prisoners have been well fed and kindly treated. There are some panes of glass out of the windows. The beds and bedding are old, and in our opinion, new ones, with more blankets, should be supplied. JOHN HOLASPLINE, Foreman."

N. A. Ledger: There is a shrewd woman in this city of a financial turn of mind. She has been married four times and always does her part by her better halves. In fact she makes better men of her husbands than she found them. The first thing after marriage, or rather about the first thing she does, is to have them well insured in benevolent associations. Three of her husbands have died within the past ten years and she generally takes in about \$2,000 at a death. As fast as the Lord calls for one husband she takes another, together with the \$2,000 insurance.

Mark Twain says that he has made out of his books about \$125,000 clear, and out of his last book, "A Tramp Abroad," \$40,000, and out of his lectures and plays, in addition to his books, enough to bring the whole aggregate up to \$250,000. He says that the sum ought to have been over \$400,000, and that he had just now discovered that he had printed his books on a false basis; that he ought to have

published the book himself, and paid his publishers a percentage for selling them, instead of letting them pay him a percentage for writing them. He said he had written a novel, and was preparing the plates himself, and meant to put it out by hiring the publishers, instead of being hired; and that all writers ought to take that position—that the book publisher was the hiring, and not the author—and thus many of our young men, who have written well and hard, would have been in independent circumstances long ago. He said the American copyright laws were of very little good to authors.

Robins are so plentiful in Burke county, Georgia, that on Sundays a man of Waynesboro amuses himself by catching them with fishinghooks. He baits the hook, and throws his line over the limb of the tree on which the birds most do congregate, and waits for them to be hit. He caught twenty-five in this way last Sunday a week.

A New Orleans man lately cabled to a friend in Cuba, "Send me one or two monkeys." The reply came back: "Shipped you 75; will send rest as soon as can be found." The telegram had gone: "Send me 102 monkeys." The balance of 27 have been countermanded.

Beware of the potato bug. Richard Jackson, of Richmond, last summer mashed one between his fingers, and afterward touched the inside of one of his ears with his finger. His ear happened to be sore, and the sore took up the poise of the bug. His head gathered and he had it operated upon in New York and Cincinnati, and had it removed upon his return to the United States one year, and shall have resided in this State during the six months, and in the township sixty days, and in the ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding such election, and shall have declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States for the subject of naturalization, shall be entitled to vote in the township or precinct where he may reside, if he shall have been duly registered according to law."

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Amendment No. 3 changes the time for holding general elections from October to November. The writer makes no attempt to show why the Normal school should be consolidated with the others, but will probably bring his gigantic intellect to bear on that subject at some future time. The State University aimed at in this particular occasion. Purdue believes its standard is too low and desires to raise it by absorbing the State University. Unlike Mohammed it wants the mountain to come to it because it cannot go to the mountain. The State University has an attendance of about 350 in the various departments. This is a much larger number than attends Purdue. Nowadays the larger institution absorbs the smaller, but Purdue seeks to reverse this well established rule. If the standard of education does not suit the students who attend Purdue, why don't they change and go to Bloomington? It is open to all comers. Another reason given by this correspondent is that "the consolidation of the State University with Purdue would bring" to Purdue, "a higher grade of students, who would require the raising of the standard a little above that of a country high school, greatly strengthen the faculty of the combined institutions (for there are men of exceptional merit in each faculty), and create museum and library almost without an equal in the country. Indeed the natural history cabinet at Bloomington is believed to be the best in the United States, and all such properties could be removed from Bloomington and united with those at Purdue, not only without loss, but with positive gain to the State and the cause of education." If, as this correspondent says, the standard of Purdue is no higher than that of a country high school a union would cause confusion rather than be a benefit to either. The standard of a mechanical and agricultural sheep farm would hardly carry its students through an examination which would entitle them to admission to the State University, and if the union would require an elevation of the standard of admission, how could that be accomplished without confusion at Purdue? The State University is now property valued at \$140,000 and an endowment of \$120,000 and has \$30,000 per annum to carry it on. It seems as though it can comfortably survive on this, without languishing. Purdue has an endowment of \$380,000 from which it has an income of \$20,000, which the State appropriation should carry through. The interests of the two institutions are not identical. Purdue may turn out good farmers, but when literature, science, law or medicine are to be learned pupils do not go there to find either or all of them. Another objection to consolidating the State University with Purdue is that the latter is situated too far from Lafayette to be convenient for students. Two miles is a little too far to walk to and from school. Purdue is amply provided for. If its standard is too low the managers should proceed to raise it; no one will object, except probably the students. If it will just attend strictly to business and allow the other institutions to do the same the world will move just the same as at present, and the educational interests of the State will not suffer materially.

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