

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Makes His Annual Recommendations to Congress

BOOSTS HIMSELF

Thinks His Administration the Greatest in Country's History

THE FINANCES

Discusses Most Everything and Makes Some Recommendations

Washington, Dec. 8.—In his message to congress, read to the two houses, the president said:

The financial standing of the nation at the present time is excellent, and the financial management of the nation's interests by the government during the last seven years has shown the most satisfactory results. But our currency system is imperfect, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the currency commission will be able to propose a thoroughly good system which will do away with the existing defects. During the period from July 1, 1901, to Sept. 30, 1908, there has been a net surplus of nearly one hundred millions of receipts over expenditures, a reduction of the interest bearing debt by ninety millions, in spite of the extraordinary expense of the Panama canal and a saving of nearly nine millions on the annual interest charge. This is an exceedingly satisfactory showing. There has been a reduction of taxation.

Corporations. As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate business, and especially the railroads, I can only repeat what I have already said and again said in my messages to the congress. I believe that under the interstate clause of the constitution the United States has complete and paramount right to control all agencies of interstate commerce, and I believe that the national government alone can exercise this right with wisdom and effectiveness so as both to secure justice from and to do justice to the great corporations which are the most important factors in modern business. I believe that it is worse than folly to attempt to prohibit all combinations, as is done by the Sherman anti-trust law, because such a law can be enforced only imperfectly and unequally, and its enforcement works almost as much hardship as good. I strongly advocate that instead of an unwise effort to prohibit all combinations there shall be substituted a law which shall expressly permit combinations which are in the interest of the public, but shall at the same time give to some agency of the national government full power of control and supervision over them. One of the chief features of this control should be securing entire publicity in all matters which the public has a right to know and, furthermore, the power, not by judicial, but by executive, action to prevent or put a stop to every form of improper favoritism or other wrongdoing.

The railways of the country should be put completely under the interstate commerce commission and removed from the domain of the anti-trust law. The power of the commission should be made thoroughgoing, so that it could exercise complete supervision and control over the issue of securities as well as over the raising and lowering of rates. As regards rates, at least this power should be summary. Power to make combinations and traffic agreements should be explicitly conferred upon the railroads, the permission of the commission being first gained and the combination or agreement being published in all its details. The interests of the shareholders, of the employees and of the shippers should all be guarded as against one another. To give any one of them undue and improper consideration is to do injustice to the others. Rates must be made as low as is compatible with giving proper returns to all the employees of the railroad, from the highest to the lowest, and proper returns to the shareholders, but they must not, for instance, be reduced in such fashion as to necessitate a cut in the wages of the employees or the abolition of the proper and legitimate profits of honest shareholders.

Telegraph and telephone companies engaged in interstate business should be put under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission.

Ample Rewards For Intelligence.

It is to the interest of all of us that there should be a premium put upon individual initiative and individual capacity and an ample reward for the great directing intelligences alone competent to manage the great business operations of today. It is well to keep in mind that exactly as the anarchist is the worst enemy of liberty and the reactionary the worst enemy of order so the men who defend the rights of property have most to fear from the wrongdoers of great wealth, and the men who are championing popular rights have most to fear from the demagogues who in the name of popular rights would do wrong to and oppress honest business men, honest men of wealth, for the success of either type of wrongdoer necessarily invites a violent reaction against the cause the wrongdoer nominally upholds.

The opposition to government control of these great corporations makes (Continued on page 6.)

THE SECOND DAY

The Board of Commissioners Are Still in Session

BONDS ACCEPTED

New County Officers File Bonds—Other Business

Several macadam roads were accepted and are now a part of the macadam road system of the county. The commissioners accepted the Reynolds No. 4, Monroe Central No. 2, Lachot, Bucher, Ahr, West Pleasant Mills No. 1, J. A. Cline and the Washington-Kirkland roads.

The official bonds of Surveyor-elect Ernst, Coroner Grandstaff, Auditor-elect Michaud and Sheriff Meyer were accepted, and the bonds placed in the custody of Clerk Haefling for safe keeping.

In the petitions for the Buick highway the costs and damages have been assessed against the petitioners and others interested. When this cost and damage is adjusted the highway will be opened.

The viewers report upon the Decatur & Monroe No. 6 road was approved, and the road ordered constructed.

The board goes to Bluffton Friday, where they will take part in a joint session with the Wells county board, the matter under consideration being a joint county line road.

Appointment of superintendents on macadam roads was considered and several appointments were made. Conrad Doehmer, Sr., was appointed on the Gallmeyer road; Samuel Jaeger on the Preble-Kirkland and Henry Wafel on the Wafel road.

The board will likely wind up the business of the session tomorrow. They will meet on December 28 to finish the business of the year.

DIES IN SEARCH FOR ROBBER

Physician Accidentally Shoots Himself in Hunting Burglar.

Springfield, Mo., Dec. 7.—While searching early this morning for a burglar he believed was in his cellar Dr. Charles E. Brown Jr., a prominent physician of Springfield, accidentally killed himself. Mr. Brown had been aroused from sleep by a noise in the basement of his house. Revolver in hand, he went in search of the intruder. When he reached the cellar he became excited and dropped the weapon which was discharged. The bullet penetrated the lower part of his body, death resulting within a few hours.

IT'S DAN TO JAIL

Daniel Straub Draws Jail Sentence from the Mayor for Wife Beating

WAS GIVEN HEARING

Last Evening Where He Pleaded Not Guilty—\$5 and Costs

Daniel Straub, a familiar police court character, known to be the most abusive man to his family residing in or about Decatur, was remanded to jail last night by Mayor C. O. France, after the pleadings of the wife, charging most inhuman treatment, were heard by the court. Severely injured as a result of a blow dealt out by the husband, Mrs. Straub appeared before the mayor where an affidavit charging that on the seventh day of December, he struck her in a rude and insolent manner, was prepared. The accused was soon captured by Marshal Bohnke and was taken to the mayor's office, where, although the temperature was at an almost freezing point, the trial ensued amid chattering of teeth and trembling of muscles. Mrs. Straub submitted her story of the grave affair conveying the idea that she was half frozen to death, both of which statements seemed indeed plausible. Mrs. Straub also volunteered that her "hubby" struck her with a high chair. During the questioning Dan smiled vigorously venturing a word occasionally, but when his honor removed the pencil from his ear and entered something on the docket which looked something like \$5 and costs and ten days in jail, the smile disappeared as though magic and a protest was forthcoming, but of no avail, as every one knows that when Mayor France says jail it's jail. Let us hope that Mr. and Mrs. Straub have this as the closing chapter of their much annoying episodes.

TRACTION AFFAIRS

Facts About the Ft. Wayne and Springfield Interurban Affairs

MAPLE GROVE PARK

Association Has No President—November Business Very Good

Interurban car number two presents a modified appearance as a result of a coat of varnish, some people really thinking it to be a new one when they saw it on the track yesterday. The promoters of the Fort Wayne & Springfield have arranged to re-varnish every car and at the present time men are engaged in varnishing car number one. The freight business on this interurban is greatly increasing, and the report for November, which is now being compiled, will show a big increase in business over that of the preceding month. The passenger traffic, of course, greatly decreased during the winter months, and will in all probability be very small for two months following the holidays.

No definite action has been taken by the stockholders of the Maple Grove Park association in regard to the pleasure resort for the summer of 1909. As yet no successor has been chosen for T. W. Shelton, who fulfilled the capacity of president. It is hinted, however, that the park will be more attractive next year by reason of the proposed establishment of high class amusements than it was the past summer.

Work will be resumed on the extension of the interurban next spring and it is not improbable that cars will be operated to Berne before the fall of 1909.

The restaurant proprietors are advertising their nuts, candies, etc. They offer special prices to school teachers, churches and other organizations.

DROWNS IN ENGLISH CHANNEL

Alfred Dobson, General Agent for Tasmania in London, Loses Life.

London, Dec. 7.—Alfred Dobson, general agent for Tasmania in London, while crossing the channel from Foulgong to Folkestone was drowned. He was sitting in the stern of the vessel. One of the officers warned him he could not be allowed to remain there, whereupon Dobson threw up his hands and fell overboard. Mr. Dobson was born in 1848. He had been speaker of the Tasmanian assembly, attorney general and solicitor general.

OPTION ELECTION

Wabash and Lawrence Counties to Vote December 29

GETTING ACTIVE

They Are Talking Serious in Other Counties in the State

Wabash, Ind., Dec. 8.—Five minutes too late a restraining order was served upon the county commissioners yesterday afternoon to prevent them ordering an election under the county local option law. A restraining order had been asked and the commissioners cited to appear before Judge Plummer at 3 o'clock this afternoon. They appeared and an error in the papers was found, and the restraining order could not be issued. The commissioners returned to their chambers and the attorneys for the saloon men hastened to their offices to prepare new papers. In their absence Representative Fred I. King demanded and obtained action on the petition. Five minutes later a new restraining order was issued, but it came too late. Tuesday, Dec. 29, was the date selected for the election. This will make Wabash county the first in Indiana to vote. The injunction was demanded on the grounds of unconstitutionality and because the county council had granted no appropriation for the election. The county council will be convened to make the appropriation. The saloon men promise further moves, but they met with signal defeat today.

Bedford, Ind., Dec. 8.—There was

fled with the county commissioners yesterday a petition asking for a special election giving the people an opportunity to express through the ballot as to whether the sale of liquor shall continue in Lawrence county. The petition contained over double the number of signatures necessary. The commissioners have set Dec. 29 as the day on which the election shall take place. Immediately following the announcement of the date a representative of the brewery interests said an injunction would be secured to prevent the holding of the election. It has developed today that there will be a hot fight in every township on the part of both sides.

Columbia City, Ind., Dec. 8.—The Whitley county board of county commissioners deferred action on the petition filed Saturday asking for a special wet or dry election until 10 o'clock Thursday forenoon. The petition was signed by 1,229 voters. The petitioners for Benjamin Raupfer, proprietor of the local brewery, and saloon keepers have learned some sign-natures were secured on Sunday and will use every means possible to prevent calling of special election.

Huntington, Ind., Dec. 8.—Every minister in the county was made a member of the County Ministerial Association today at a banquet and meeting held behind closed doors in the Presbyterian church. It is said the new members were taken in order that the Ministers' Association may have a thorough county organization in the local option election fight.

Decatur people are shopping early this year to avoid the Christmas rush. This is a good idea.

Ice skating is the popular pastime for the boys and girls at the present time. It is reported that the ice is fine.

SERIOUS QUESTION

What It Means to Deplete the Purse of Our Home Manufacturers

CITY MEN THRIVE

At the Expense of People in Cities Our Size—Let's Get Away from It

The cigar question is a serious one, and it should be regarded as such. Propositions which have to do with the welfare of our city call for profound consideration from the people, and why not the cigar question? The amount of money which is drawn from the purses of Decatur people and sent to wholesale cigar manufacturers in large cities is almost unfathomable. It is no trivial affair as regarded by many, and while a five cent purchase may seem meager within itself, the multiplicity of similar purchases figures into more than four figures within twelve months. Is it not then time for some remedial action at the hands of the consumer? The depletion of the purses of home men, means, relegation to the rear of home enterprise. It has a definition which should be abhorred by all right thinking people, should be resented by patriots. If it is proper that we shall sit idly by and with no murmur or protest permit men in cities to grow rich at our expenses or partially so, then be it so, but such is brazen inconsistency. We as residents of Decatur are pledged, not in writing, nor orally, but by reason of our fidelity (if we have such a quality), to home industry to give our unwavering support to local cigar manufacturers. It is high time we begin now lest we soon forget our obligations as Decatur citizens. Such brands as Standard, 252, N. H. C., Royal Ribbon and Lone Star are beyond criticism.

ORGANIZE TEAM

Local Elks Organize Bowling Team to Play Elks at Fort Wayne

EXCITING CONTEST

Was Pulled Off at Palace Alleys Last Night—The Ladies Like to Bowl

A bowling club was organized by the local order of Elks last night and the team will have the honor of playing the opening game on the alleys in the new Elk building under construction at Fort Wayne, the contest to come off some time during the holidays. Those selected for the local team are: C. O. France, Tom Peterson, Maynard Frisinger, Fred Vaughn, Fred Bell, and D. E. Studabaker. These gentlemen are all clever bowlers and will make their opponents go some to beat them. They consider it quite an honor to be given the opportunity of participating in the initial game to be played on the Fort Wayne alleys, and in token of their appreciation they will endeavor to administer a bitter defeat to the hosts.

C. O. France and Tom Peterson in a two man contest, defeated Maynard Frisinger and Guy Dorwin last evening the former getting the larger number of pins in three games. The contest was close and spirited.

Decatur ladies find amusement in bowling and Manager Peterson of the alleys has arranged special times when the fairer sex can indulge in the popular pastime without expense.

New York, Dec. 7.—The wanderlust has again taken possession of George Ade, the well known politician of the middle west and Holland House. On Dec. 16 he and his intimate friend, Ort Wells, will set sail aboard the Lusitania on a trip that is to take them around the world. The two globetrotters expect to be away for nearly six months. Ade will devote a part of his time to writing a new comedy.

KILLS HIS BOY PLAYMATE.

Children Fight Fatal Duel, Believing Guns Unloaded.

Marquette, Mich., Dec. 7.—As the result of a childish duel, Robert Warren, a 14-year-old boy, lies dead at his home with a bullet hole through his neck. Robert Miller, a playmate, is said to have fired the fatal shot. The two children played at hunting deer. They stalked up the South Shore tracks in quest of their fancied game. When some distance from home, in a playful mood, one suggested a duel, and they pointed their shot-guns at each other, neither knowing that either was loaded. Miller took deliberate aim, it is said, and pulled the trigger. His face blanched as he saw the gun go off. His little friend fell to the ground, and as Miller came up to him and, with terror in his voice inquired into his condition, he found Warren dead. The bullet had passed clean through the neck. Horrified, the child ran back to town and told of the tragedy. Friends went out to secure the body, which was lying between the railroad tracks.

The public schools are to close December 24 and convene January 4th. Two weeks holiday vacation is one of the many things welcomed by the students.

FOXY UNCLE JOE

He is Now One of the Rank-est Revisionists in Washington

A CONFERENCE

Today He Will Land the President-Elect on His Little Red Wagon

Washington, Dec. 8.—There will be a conference in Washington today which probably will decide whether Speaker Cannon is to have any serious opposition for re-election as the presiding officer of the house. It also is expected to shape the trend of tariff legislation. Speaker Cannon through intermediaries, asked for the conference. The principals at the conference will be President-elect Taft and Mr. Cannon. Some of Mr. Cannon's friends would like to be present, but whether they will be admitted remains to be seen. Mr. Cannon is no longer riding a high horse. Apparently he has decided that tariff revision is something that cannot be avoided, and just now he is one of the most ardent revisionists in Washington. There is some speculation as to how much of his conversion is due to a change of heart and how much to the fact that he has his ear to the ground, but at any rate he is now the boss tariff revisionist. It was learned that Mr. Cannon is spurring the ways and means committee on to a revision of the Dingley schedules, and that the recent great activity of that committee is due to the prodding it is receiving from the speaker. It was the speaker who was back of the resolution adopted today giving the ways and means committee the power to summon witnesses and to go about the duties before it in a businesslike way. There is every reason to believe that the conference will result in clearing the atmosphere. Cannon has convinced President Roosevelt of his sincerity as a revisionist and it is reasonable to suppose he can also convince President-elect Taft.

ESCAPE FROM STATE PRISON

Three Convicts Use Rope to Scale Walls at Jeffersonville.

Jeffersonville, Ind., Dec. 7.—Three convicts escaped from the Indiana Reformatory today and are still at large. The men are Martin Whalen, convicted of grand larceny; John Whalen, assault, and Charles Russell, grand larceny. All were serving indeterminate sentences with maximum penalties ranging from fourteen to twenty-one years. The escape was effected while the men were doing special Sunday work in the power house, a coil of rope enabling them to scale a secluded part of the wall.

SCHOOLS PROSPER

Bi-annual Report of County Superintendent Shows Excellence

OF OUR SCHOOLS

Increase in Attendance and in Interest of Teachers and Pupils

County Superintendent Opliger recently sent the following report to the state superintendent showing the splendid condition of the Adams county schools: State Supt. F. A. Cotton, Indianapolis, Indiana: Dear Sir—The schools of Adams county are in a very progressive condition, as shown by visitation and the reports of teachers and patrons. The educational spirit is good and seems to be growing with each year's work. While the total enumeration has been gradually decreasing the total enrollment and the average attendance have been increasing gradually. If the first month of the present school year is indicative of the close of the term will eclipse all previous years in the history of the county.

The high schools have been improved very much during the past two years. Their courses have been strengthened, laboratory equipment added, and the length of term made more uniform. Every township high school in the county, with but one exception, is maintaining a minimum term of eight months. Their course of study is arranged so that it conforms with that of the certified and commissioned schools. As a result of which, students completing their course in the township high school are privileged to continue their work in the town and city schools, with full credit, without a break or loss of time in their educational career. The Geneva school is now commissioned. The Berne school has strengthened its course and laboratory so as to be certified and will soon ask for a commission, making then, a total of three commissioned schools in the county. There has not only been growth in the material development and organization of the high schools, but also a marked growth in numbers, in the spiritual development. The [report] for the current year show an approximate enrollment of 253 students, which is a large increase over previous years. Last year we enrolled 202 students and the year previous 183, a gain in two years of more than 25 per cent.

Our teachers, on the average, are well trained, enthusiastic and interested in their school work. They have been encouraged to seek special training in their profession by the school patrons, the school officials, and, especially, by the enactment of the new law favoring those who possess such training. At the beginning of this year, we enlisted about twelve first term teachers, who are graduates of high school and have had, in some cases, more than the minimum professional training. These teachers, on the average, are more mature, more reliable, dignified, command greater respect, show greater intellectual strength, are more thorough in their work and utilize better methods of presentation than the beginner of former years. As a result of their high school and professional training, these teachers are able to take a very active and intelligent part in the township institutes and thus enhance their interest and usefulness. One condition, brought about by the effects of the new law, which I consider unfortunate for the public schools, is the fact that we are obliged to accept and fill our district schools largely with lady teachers. Young men consider the investment too great for them to enter the teaching profession. However, I trust that the immediate effect may not be permanent. That young men in the future, may be attracted by the greatest of all professions, "Not so much for myself as for others." Educational sentiment has been strengthened, in part, by the annual county commencement, which was inaugurated last year. These are held in different parts of the county for the convenience and enthusiasm of both pupils and patrons. The graduating class of 1906 had 104 members. (Continued on page 8.)