

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT.

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GETTING READY

Eighteen Counties in Indiana Are Preparing for an Election

ON LOCAL OPTION

Including Jay and Huntington, Also Wabash, Noble and Delaware

The Fort Wayne News of last evening had the following to say regarding the probabilities of local option elections in this district:

Five counties in the Fort Wayne district of the Anti-Saloon league and thirteen other counties in other districts over the state, are now making preparations to hold elections under the recently passed county local option law, according to Rev. N. C. Shirey, of this district. In the Fort Wayne district the counties in which preparations are being made are Jay, Whitley, Wabash, Huntington, and Noble. The other counties over the state are Marshall, Laporte, Polk, Lawrence, Switzerland, Wayne, Randolph, Fayette, Putnam, Jackson, Howard, Hamilton and Delaware. "I'm afraid," said Rev. Mr. Shirey, in speaking of the matter, "that affairs in Indiana are being rushed too fast. I fear that the elections may turn out here as they did in Ohio. There the matters were pressed too speedily and as a consequence the league workers lost seven counties. There was no need for them losing at least five of this number. I don't want any more counties in my district to have elections right off." It is understood that St. Joseph county, in which South Bend is located, is preparing for an election. The election will not be held immediately, however. Superintendent Hicks, of that district, is quite sanguine of the result. Practically all the candidates favorable to the league were elected at the last election.

THE HUSBAND WON

Sensational Divorce Case at Bluffton Closed Yesterday

WIFE BEGAN SUIT

Charles Cotton Gets Children But Must Pay Alimony

Charles Cotton gets divorce and the custody of the two children. Mrs. Etta V. Cotton receives \$1,800 alimony and is allowed \$400 attorney fees. This is the result of the Cotton divorce suit which came to a close this morning after the Wells circuit court had entertained one of the largest crowds for years. The crowd in the court room this morning was not as large as it had been heretofore. The decision was not expected so soon, but it was thought that their would be several inconsequential witnesses to be placed on the stand in rebuttal. When the defense suddenly got to the end of the string of witnesses, Judge Sturgis immediately announced that he was ready to give his decision. He said that the plaintiff had failed to prove her charges of cruel and inhuman treatment. The principal proof by the defense in his charge of cruel and inhuman treatment, he said, was the acknowledgement of the plaintiff that she had told the defendant that she did not love him, never had loved him and married him for his money. The judge held that the defendant was a fit person to take care of the children and owing to the fact that he can furnish them a home he gave them to his custody. The judge, however, held that the plaintiff should receive alimony, stating that in order to keep her from resorting to any unlawful means of making a living the law provided for this. He found that the property of the defendant was worth about \$11,000, with \$2,000 debt

on it. The costs were taxed to Cotton. Judge Sturgis said before giving the verdict that he felt as able to give it then as he would after an argument. As soon as the decision was announced Mrs. Cotton, in company with Mrs. Fritz, started down the stairway. She maintained her composure during the rendering of the verdict and until after she started to leave. As she passed her husband she broke down and was weeping when she went down the stairs. The defendant was well pleased with the verdict and although he appeared touched when he saw his wife leaving the room, he said that the judge could not have given a better decision. The money feature, he said was not such an item to him as the custody of the children. He wanted the custody of them. —Bluffton Banner.

HUNTING A MOSES

Democrats Are Looking Over the Ground for a New Leader

THREE MENTIONED

Governors Marshall, Johnson and Harmon Are Discussed

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Democratic senators and representatives are looking toward a new line-up of their party in 1912 and out of the cloakroom discussions and interchanges of views that have followed the opening of congress there has developed an earnest desire to co-operate in finding a new Moses—a man who possesses all of the essential qualities necessary to lead the party out of the wilderness four years hence. The Democratic party, in the sentiment reflected by its leaders in Washington, has no intention of tying itself to the tail of Mr. Bryan's kite again. The Nebraska has lost none of his personal admirers, but he has lost hosts of supporters who formerly pinned their faith to his political judgment, but who have come to regard him as an impractical idealist who can never lead the party except in one direction, and that is toward defeat. Of the high ideals and pure motives of Mr. Bryan no senator or representative raises a question but that Mr. Bryan as a candidate for president the fourth time is not to be thought of. His very staunchest champions, in former campaigns are saying that the time has come for a new deal and a new leader. In this situation three names are mentioned and three only, for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1912. There is a surprising unanimity of belief among the party leaders in congress that the next Democratic candidate for president will be one of three men—Judson Harmon, governor-elect of Ohio, Thomas R. Marshall, governor-elect of Indiana, or John A. Johnson, governor of Minnesota. There are more inquiries about Mr. Marshall than about either of the other presidential potentialities. This arises, in part, from the fact that he has not been as prominent a performer on the political stage as either Harmon or Johnson—a fact which is not at all likely to redound to his advantage. The Indiana Democratic congressmen are called upon nearly every day to tell what manner of man Mr. Marshall is, and they are giving him some top-notch advertising.

DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION MET.
Interesting Meeting Held This Morning.

The Adams county Horse Thief Detective Association held their regular quarterly meeting in the G. A. R. hall this morning and much enthusiasm was manifest among the hundred and fifty members who were present. The officers who were elected at the last meeting assumed their respective positions today for the first time and discharged the duties efficiently. A number of new members were voted in at the session and the members were banqueted at the various restaurants for dinner. The state association will petition the next legislature to repeal the pardon and parole clause in the law put into effect some time ago and will ask that criminals be sentenced from ten to twenty years.

A PLEASANT TIME

Post X Entertained State Officers and Members Last Evening

SEVERAL TALKS

A Buffet Luncheon Served in Elegance and Good Taste

The social stunt played by Post X last evening was the best and most enjoyable ever held at the Commercial Club, and that is going some. A social time was enjoyed until 9:30, when luncheon was served in the parlors of the club. Sandwiches, salad, oyster patties, wafers and coffee composed the delicious menu. The service was par excellence, being under the skilled management of Mrs. Frank Crawford. Following the luncheon, W. H. Wiley, as president of Post X, introduced the speakers of the evening, and short talks followed, much of which was of interest to the local membership. The state and district officers spoke at length about the work and good accomplished, accident insurance being the sober and principal side of the organization. Indiana division stands second in membership. The financial reports of the national association show large and healthy reserve funds, thus making safe the insurance feature. Rev. Spetnagle, chaplain of the local post, made a pleasing address, supplemented with several stories, thus adding to the gaiety of a most delightful session. The state officials are today on a scouting tour for new members, and it is thought the campaign will bear the fruit of success.

Many family dinners have been planned for Christmas and seasons of good cheer bid fair to be plentiful. Everybody should join in making it the most memorable of all former similar events.

DENIES THE STORY

Taggart and Marshall Never Conversed on Senatorial Race

NOT WORKING

Senatorial Candidates To Lay Up Until After the Holidays

Indianapolis, Dec. 19.—National Committeeman Taggart denied a story that he quit the race for the United States senate at the urgent request of Governor-elect Marshall. It was said that Marshall wanted Taggart to withdraw for the good of the party, believing that his candidacy would stir up the now almost dormant feud between the Taggart and anti-Taggart factions. He is said to have consulted with members of the organization and that they joined with him in requesting Taggart to retire. Taggart did not discuss the story at length. At the time of his withdrawal he said that he could not afford time from his business to run for senator. The chances are that the Democratic candidates on the state ticket will not file contests against the republicans. Burt New, who ran for reporter of the supreme and appellate courts, and was defeated by 171 votes, said tonight that he has abandoned the contest. Other men on the ticket are said to have dropped the matter quietly.

Indianapolis, Dec. 19.—All of the United States senatorial candidates have ducked away from Indianapolis and are not expected to return until after Christmas. Most of the politicians are "laying off" until the close of the holidays, when the real fight will begin. Very little can be accomplished while the Christmas spirit is in rife, and the politicians know it and are not wasting their energy. There were rumors here that many of the party leaders who came here for the meeting of the democratic legislators have agreed on Rep. Thos.

Honan, of Seymour, for speaker. Predictions were made that he will be elected on the first ballot and that the only opponent he will have on the show down will be Rep. James Garrard, of Vincennes.

Indianapolis, Dec. 19.—Efforts are being made by the anti-saloon forces to make an organization within the ranks of the democratic members of the legislature for the purpose of blocking the movement to repeal the county local option law by substituting the township and ward unit. It has been known for some time that there were several democratic representatives and two or three senators of the same party who are against tampering with county local option, but it was not learned until today that they have held a meeting here at which they considered plans for making an alliance with the republicans.

TO THE CABINET

Senator Knox Appointed Secretary of State

POSTAL SERVICE

No Deficit if the Government Pays for Its Own Mail

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 19.—William H. Taft, president-elect of the United States, announced the appointment of United States Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, as secretary of state in his cabinet. The announcement followed the receipt by Mr. Taft of a telegram which came late this afternoon, conveying the information from Mr. Knox that he would accept the premiership of the Taft cabinet. "I feel that I am to be congratulated in securing the services of Senator Knox in my cabinet," said Judge Taft in making the announcement, and making the same with the understanding that he was to be quoted. "In selecting a secretary of state, I wanted first a great lawyer and second, a man who would fill the public eye, not only here but abroad, as a man who stands out pre-eminently as a great American. Mr. Knox was a great attorney general; he was a prominent candidate for the presidency, and is recognized in the senate and elsewhere as one of the great lawyers of that body."

Washington, Dec. 19.—The free service performed by the postoffice department may receive a good deal of attention before this session of congress ends. Many persons, including (Continued from page 3.)

WARE HOUSE FIRE

Decatur Egg Case Company Loses Another of Its Buildings

BOYS WERE SMOKING

And Dropped a Match—Loss is Estimated at \$1,300

Two young lads, hidden away from the sight of parents and others who might not have liked it, quietly smoking corn cob pipes, caused a rather bad fire at noon today, when the warehouse owned by the Decatur Egg Case company and located on west Adams street was completely destroyed. It is supposed the boys dropped a match on the floor and the blaze resulted. The room was filled with about 300 bales of excelsior and it made an ugly fire. A stiff wind was blowing and the fire company did good work in saving the surrounding buildings and sheds. The loss to the stock is estimated at about \$300 and to the building at \$1,000, both insured. Had the fire spread east to the stove pipes as was feared at first the blaze might have been one of the worst in the history of the city, as the strong southwest wind would have swept it on into the heart of the city.

XMAS SERVICES

Will Be Observed at the Presbyterian Church Tomorrow

SPECIAL MUSIC

Services for the Occasion, Both Morning and Evening

In order not to conflict with the services of the various other churches, the First Presbyterian will hold their Christmas church service tomorrow. Rev. Richard Spetnagle, the pastor, has prepared a splendid and special program for the day, and the public is most cordially invited to each and all of the days hours of worship. One feature of the day will be the music, which is to be especially fine, and which has been prepared for by the choir. The program for the day includes:

9:15 a. m., Bible school.
10:30 a. m., Christmas service and Christmas music.
2:00 p. m., Junior C. E.
6:00 p. m., Senior C. E.
7:00 p. m., popular service. The pastor concludes his service of Bible characters.

You are most cordially invited to all of the services. Come and catch the Christmas spirit which ought to possess your life during the coming days.

Arthur Strouse, 30 years of age, committed suicide Thursday at the home of his mother in Avilla by swallowing carbolic acid. Strouse was unmarried. He was a laborer and is said to have been somewhat addicted to drink, but the cause of his suicide is unknown. He procured the drug, went to his room, removed his shoes and swallowed the poison. His dead body was discovered by his mother an hour later.

TO PANAMA CANAL

President-Elect Taft With Civil Engineers Will Examine It

MUCH CONTROVERSY

The President-Elect Realizes Where Responsibility Now Lies

Washington, Dec. 19.—The general comment here is that President-elect Taft is starting in a business-like way the inquiry to determine whether the Panama canal is being properly constructed. He feels that if a mistake should be made in the engineering work on the canal he would be held responsible, and so it is that he proposes to take down to the isthmus a corps of the best civil engineers he can get together to examine the site of the Gatun dam. There have been many disquieting reports concerning the Gatun dam scheme and the entire lock canal plan, including the constantly mounting figures of total probable cost. Not the least disquieting of these things have been interviews with such engineers as M. Bunau Varilla, Lindon W. Bates and members of the consulting board who still insist that the lock plan is doomed to failure. But the time has come when ex parte administration statements in favor of the locks and dams must end, and when a final decision must be made on which may depend the expenditure of perhaps a half billion of dollars. The president-elect realizes that the bulk of the work is to be done under his administration. Expert advice is not lacking to show that the present system of a lock canal is preferable to the sea level system, and Colonel Goethals, from the isthmus, reports satisfactory progress in making the dirt fly. But this is not enough to satisfy Judge Taft. Many of the deductions of engineers who advised the lock canal have not proved correct since work was begun, and this, cou-

pled with the increasing expense and the recent accident near the Gatun dam, has caused Judge Taft to review in his mind some of the proceedings when the board of consulting engineers and the isthmian canal commission rejected the sea level system and adopted, after much discussion, the present lock system. When the present system was adopted not one of the engineers, either from the international board of consulting engineers or the isthmian canal commission had a word to say against the safety of the sea level system. The entire delegation of five foreign experts, together with three American engineers, all on the consulting board, seriously questioned the safety of the present system. They favored the sea level canal. Judge Taft has given these facts serious consideration.

TAKE THE CASH

County Treasurer Lachot Will Pay Adams County Share to State

AMOUNT IS LARGE

Sum of Nearly \$28,000 for Fall Installment of State Taxes

County Treasurer John F. Lachot will go to Indianapolis Monday morning and will carry with him the very handsome sum of \$27,554.66 which he will turn over to the state treasurer, this being the Adams county portion of the state tax for the fall installment for this year. According to this basis, our county pays each year nearly sixty thousand dollars as her share of the expenses of Indiana, and from this estimate it would seem that the state should be able to pay as she goes, but it is said that there has been for several years a state of affairs rather indicating that the state treasury is hardup, and it is but little wonder that the voters said at the recent election that it was time for a change in the management. This should be another proof that the best way for the democrats to make friends is to follow a course of retrenchment in expenses in the state. Mr. Lachot it will be remembered took a similar sum to Indianapolis last July.

THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL LAW
Protects Children and Gives Indiana Good Citizens.

The total number of children brought into the schools of Indiana as a result of the activity of the run-off officers is given as 26,181. These figures indicate simply those brought into the schools by the officers, and not children who attended because the law required them to do so. Of the number reported, 24,673 were placed in public schools and 1,508 in private schools. The salaries of the run-off officers amounted to \$32,502.50. Aid was given to 7,506 of the children at a cost of \$21,968.01. The aggregate expense of the officers' salaries and for aid given the children is given as \$54,470.51. At this rate the cost for each child was \$2.08. Out of this total number of truants there were only 289 prosecutions. Of the number 266 were successful, twenty-two were lost and one was pending at the close of the school year.

LOOKING AFTER PROPERTY
R. M. Link and J. H. Browning Were Here Today.

R. M. Link, of Paris, Illinois, and J. H. Browning, of Indianapolis, Indiana, were in Decatur today, looking after their real estate holdings. These two gentlemen are the owners of the old Burt House property, and are very anxious to do something with same. They would like very much to sell the lot, which as is well known is one of the best vacant lots in the city for business blocks, and as they have several inquiries their trip here may result in closing a deal. If they do not sell it it is possible they may decide to put up a block next year.

Three prominent Wells county men—William Gordon, a stockbuyer, Clinton Hart, merchant at Liberty Center, and Thomas Turpin, a contractor—paid fines aggregating more than \$100 for hunting upon a farm without the owner's permission.

IN CIRCUIT COURT

Three Marriage Licenses—Mr. and Mrs. Fronefield Will Wed

THE OTHER ITEMS

Real Estate Transfers—A Five Million Dollar Mortgage Refiled

Real estate transfer: Joseph Stuckey to Noah Luginbill, lot 191 Berne, \$2,900; Alexander Bolds et al to Rufina W. Lindsey, 35 acres in Wabash township, \$2,800.

The Indiana Lighting Company has given a mortgage on their various properties in this state for \$5,000,000 and same was recorded today. This is practically the same mortgage filed a few months ago, this one showing some changes in property.

A marriage license has been issued to William Fronefield, 53, and Malinda Fronefield, 58. They will be married this evening, it being their marriage.

Samuel D. Johnson, 22, a telegraph operator of this city and Edna Engle, 21, of Washington township.

Anson B. Cunningham vs. Chicago & Erie Ry. Co., damages \$500, separate and several demurrer filed to each paragraph of complaint.

Martin W. Walbert vs. Levi Kohler, note \$200, appearance for defendants withdrawn, default of defendants.

A marriage license was issued to Quincy R. Winans, a teamster, of this city, 24 years old, and Iva Alice Miller, aged 18.

SUFFRINGS OVER

Mrs. Annie, Wife of Late Jacob Good, Has Passed Into Eternity

WAS BURIED HERE

In Adams County—Lived in This County for Sixty Years

Senility and its attendant complications has ushered into eternity Mrs. Annie, wife of the late Jacob Good, although the memory of this highly respected woman will remain fresh in the minds of Adams county pioneers as long as they shall live. Her death occurred at the home of Solomon Good, her son, at Dayton, Ohio. Born in Fairfield county, Ohio, she in early womanhood was united in marriage to Mr. Good, accompanying him to Adams county in 1849, where, in Washington township, they engaged in farming. A thrifty farmer was Mr. Good and with the aid of his noble wife, he soon acquired a neat fortune. In 1882 he was taken to the great beyond and soon afterward Mrs. Good purchased a space of ground in Root township, where she built a home, disposing of the former to Arthur Fisher. Her health became so feeble that four years ago she abandoned housekeeping and went to the home of her son in Dayton, where the closing chapter of her long life was spent. She has been ailing for years, but her condition assumed dangerous proportions of late months, death coming as sweet release from the pangs of intense sufferings, her demise being recorded yesterday morning. The remains were shipped to this city today and lay at the Yager Brothers and Reinking mortuary until the cortege left for the Beery church. The funeral services were held at one o'clock, Rev. Abraham Stalter officiating. Interment took place at the Beery cemetery. Surviving to mourn the loss of a devoted mother are four daughters: Mrs. (Continued on page 2.)