

## TO TALL TIMBER

James Harmon and Asa Blount Have Mysterious Disappeared

## BLOUNT CAPTURED

His Wife is Here Destitute and Appealing for Aid—It is Pitiful

The troubles of the Blounts and Harmons are still in their infancy, as indicated by recent developments which resulted in the disappearance of both men from their homes, the former, however, is accounted for, his lodgment in the Lima jail being reported. The recent episode of Asa Blount of Portland, and James Harmon, of Rivar, is still fresh in the minds of our readers, but there is another chapter, even more sensational, to be added, which is equally as pathetic. Minus his smelling member as a consequence of an encounter with Mr. Harmon, of Rivar, Blount returned to Portland, where it was whispered a girl was preparing to file paternity charges against him. The seriousness of the proposed charge stimulated his navigating qualities, and but a little time elapsed until he divorced himself from his home town, that he may escape the humiliation and a possible jail sentence. The authorities had but little difficulty in ascertaining the whereabouts of the man, and a telephone message to Lima signaled his arrest and confinement in the jail, where he now languishes awaiting a disposition of his case. While he is pacing between the cold and corpulent walls of the prison his wife and babe are in Decatur without food or shelter, absolutely destitute of the necessities of life, and in a state of pitiful melancholy. How a man can thus abandon ones who should be near and dear to him is more than human mind can fathom, but Blount for many months has criminally neglected his family. Mrs. Blount appealed for aid today and sought advice from a Decatur attorney as to what procedure she should pursue to relieve the trying situation she has been subjected to.

As queer as it may seem James Harmon, of Rivar, a participant in the altercation in which Blount lost his nose, has mysteriously disappeared from his home. Mrs. Willard McConnehey, his housekeeper arose Sunday morning to find that her employer had made his get away, leaving no traces as to his whereabouts. It is a well known fact that Harmon has anticipated his arrest upon the charge of biting off the nose of Blount (a penitentiary offense) but he has so vigorously protested innocence that no one fostered the idea that he would leave his old haunts. On several occasions, Harmon appeared in the office of his attorney here and cried like a child, stating that he was afraid of being arrested. However, nothing whatever has been done by the authorities and no intimation has been evident of an action, although Harmon's mysterious disappearance may signal a prosecution which otherwise may not have been anticipated.

## TO GIVE FIFTY THOUSAND

American Red Cross to Aid in Earthquake Relief.

(Special to Daily Democrat.)

Washington, D. C., December 30.—At a meeting of the American Red Cross directors today, it was decided to send fifty thousand dollars to the Italian Red Cross for relief fund to aid them in giving relief to the many sufferers from the terrific earthquake, from which more than one hundred thousand lives were lost. The American society reports the receipt of ten thousand dollars from J. Pierpont Morgan as his contribution.

## OLD ADAGE IS DENIED.

Dr. Hurty Doesn't Believe in One at Any Rate.

According to Dr. J. N. Hurty, secretary of the state board of health, there is no need of worrying about the death rate for the ensuing year because of the sort of weather Christmas. The old time saying that a "green Christmas means a fat graveyard, and a white Christmas a lean one," doesn't mean anything to a physician. "It's all bosh, as are many of those old sayings," declared Dr. Hurty. "I never noticed, and I don't think any one else ever did, that the assertion is true in the least. It's another of those striking sayings which grasp one's attention merely because they are striking, and endure because they are unusual. Some one may have noticed that some time an unusual high death rate followed a Christmas without snow, and happened to think to say that which has now in many households, especially in the country home, become a half-accepted truth."

## SECOND MUSICAL

By Pupils of Sisters of St. Agnes Was Cleverly Executed

## A LARGE AUDIENCE

Was Present Regardless of the Inclement Weather—36 Diplomas

The second annual musicale under the direction of the Sisters of St. Agnes was given at the Bosse opera house last evening and despite the inclement weather, a large audience gathered to hear the rendition of one of the best musical programs ever given in the city. The pupils were so cleverly trained that each instrumental selection was played on three pianos by three or more persons simultaneously and the time was perfect. During the course of the program three beautiful quartettes were rendered by Miss Clara Terveer, Mrs. J. Q. Neptune, Dr. J. Q. Neptune and Messrs. H. J. Yager and L. A. Holt-house, which greatly enthused the audience as did the remainder of the program which was rendered as follows:

1. Christmas Bells March..... Piano Solo
2. Evening Chimes.....Duet
3. Military March.....Trio
4. Friendship, Love and Song.....Vocal Quartette
5. Congenial Hearts.....Duet
6. The Dying Poet.....Duet
7. Shooting Stars.....Trio
8. Silver Trumpets.....Quartette
9. Charge of The Hussars.....Duet and Trio
10. Jolly Brothers.....Duet
11. Come and Join the Merry Dance.....Vocal Quartette
12. Ventre Terre Speed Galop.....Quartette
13. Race for Life Galop.....Duet
14. Midnight Fire Alarm.....Vocal Quartette

## DIPLOMA PARTS.

1. Morning Prayer, by J. Wiegand.....Piano Solo
  2. Music on the Water.....Piano Solo
  3. Little Postillion.....Piano Solo
  4. Light Cavalry March.....Quartette
- Distribution of Diplomas by Rev. Father Wilken.
- Each participant in the musical did exceptionally well. Rev. Father Wilken distributed thirty-seven diplomas at the close of the musical numbers.

## S. S. OFFICERS ELECTED.

At a recent meeting of the Sunday school board of the M. E. church the following officers were elected: Superintendent, Jno. W. Vall; asst. supt., Lee Walters; 2nd asst. supt., Nellie Blackburn; secy., A. Kaerheine; asst. secy., Frank Mills; treas., J. D. Hale; librarian, J. N. Parrish; asst. librarian, Joe McFarland; pianist, Florine Edwards; asst. pianist, Josephine Krick; chorister, Mrs. Jno. W. Vall; asst. chorister, Ella Rice.

## SUBSIDY ELECTION

Will Probably Be Petitioned for in this County Next Week

## ASKS FOR \$30,000

Berne Wants the Bluffton to Celina Road and is Working Hard

It now looks that Adams county will soon have another subsidy election in the near future. It is known that for several months there has been a fierce conflict on in a quiet way for an east and west traction line through this county. The line is to start from Bluffton and run east through Adams county to Celina, O. Both Berne and Geneva want the line. A few weeks ago an election was held in Wabash and Hartford townships and \$24,000 was voted the road which was to be known as the Bluffton, Geneva and Celina. Now a petition is being circulated and receiving a goodly number of signatures for an election in French, Monroe and Blue Creek townships, for a subsidy of \$30,000, the money to be used to aid in the building of the line. It is said this petition will be presented to the county commissioners at the January session next week and if successful, a petition will be filed in Wells county asking for \$10,000 each in Harrison township and the city of Bluffton. It's a pretty fight between the two Adams county districts, each of which is rich in fertile lands and a traction line through either would prove a ten-time winner.

## VICKSBURG MISS.

The Dedication of the Indiana Monuments a Success

## A LARGE CROWD

The Program was Carried Out and a Good Time Had

Vicksburg, Miss., Dec. 30.—Gen. George F. McGinnis, of Indianapolis, surrendered unconditionally today almost on the exact spot where forty-five years ago he commanded a brigade during the final days of the long siege which resulted in the capture of Vicksburg by Gen. Grant's army. It was in the midst of the ceremonies accompanying the dedication of the Indiana monuments in the National Park, just outside this city, that the general was taken unawares by a daughter of the confederacy. Mrs. Edwin Favor Noel, wife of Mississippi's governor, armed only with a bouquet of bright carnations, advanced to Gen. McGinnis' position on the special guests' stand, and in a brief address presented the flowers in the name of Mississippi to the general as a representative of the living veterans of the Vicksburg campaign. The dead had been appropriately honored, she said, and it was her wish to pay homage to the heroes yet alive. This incident was the feature of the dedication. The program was carried out as announced. The governors of Indiana and Mississippi had extolled the virtues of the northern and southern armies, each executive expressing gratification in the universal patriotism of a united nation. There had been songs of the north and songs of the south. The granite monuments marking the location of the twenty-eight Indiana commands in the Vicksburg siege had been transferred formally from the state of Indiana to the nation and had been accepted.

There are but few unoccupied houses in Decatur at present, and from indications there will be few if any hereafter. It would indeed be profitable for men with capital to construct new homes in Decatur next summer. There will be a demand for them.

## MAY GO TO OKLAHOMA SOON

Rev. McCarty is Slated for Lawton Church.

Rev. W. E. McCarty, one of the oldest ministers of the Methodist Episcopal church, who has been serving supernumary relations for the past two years in the North Indiana Methodist conference has received a telegram from Bishop Quayle of Oklahoma City, informing him of his appointment to a work in Lawton, Oklahoma, a city of 15,000. Rev. McCarty when seen by a representative of the Commercial-Review, said he was thinking favorably of accepting the appointment and as soon as he can arrange matters will leave for his new work. This work was reserved for Rev. McCarty through district superintendent Wade of Fort Wayne. Rev. McCarty is to be congratulated on receiving this appointment and his departure from Portland to his new work will be followed by the best wishes of his many personal friends.—Portland Commercial-Review.

## IN CIRCUIT COURT

Action Taken in Telephone Company's and Gallmeyer Cases

## CASES DISMISSED

The Scott vs. Graham Case Goes to Wells County for Trial

Attorney A. P. Beatty has entered appearance for the defendants in the case of James M. Rice et al vs. Chicago & Erie Railroad Co., a \$2,000 damage suit.

Sarah J. Straub vs. Daniel A. Straub divorce, rule to answer.

Citizens' Telephone Co. vs. Fort Wayne & Springfield Railway Co., \$8,000 damages. Judge Macy assumes jurisdiction. Motion filed by defendants to require plaintiff to separate his complaint into paragraphs, overruled; motion by defendants to strike out parts of each paragraph of complaint overruled. Motion filed by defendants to require plaintiff to make each paragraph of complaint more specific.

Lulu Johnson vs. Pleasant Johnson, divorce, default of defendant, answer filed by prosecuting attorney.

Continental Insurance Co. vs. Isaac L. Summers et al, note \$150, rule to answer made absolute within five days.

Fulton Hardware Co. vs. M. O. Kramor et al, to foreclose mortgage, dismissed and costs paid.

The cause of David E. Scott vs. L. A. Graham, for an accounting, demand \$2,025, was sent to the Wells circuit court on change of venue.

Conrag Gallmeyer vs. Edward Gallmeyer, demurrer of plaintiff to second paragraph of joint answer of Wilhelm and Dora Gallmeyer filed and overruled. Reply and answer filed.

William Geake vs. Fred Hoffman, suit on account, dismissed and costs paid.

A. P. Beatty filed a new case entitled John S. Bowers vs. Fred Hoffman, complaint on note, demand \$350.

A marriage license has been issued to Palma A. Baker, 22, a farmer from Georgetown, Indiana, and Sarah Anna Scheery, 24, daughter of Daniel Scheery of Preble. They were married at three o'clock this afternoon at the clerk's office, Squire J. H. Stone officiating, and the court house force being the witnesses.

It's an exceedingly good time to pay your bills and start the new year with a clean and good credit. The business men are getting ready to do their collecting work and if you owe you should not be offended if you receive a statement, in fact the man who doesn't receive from one to a hundred statements at this time of year, either does not do much business or is most fortunate in being so situated that he can pay as he goes. The latter variety are scarce.

## BONDS ARRIVED

Bonds for the L. O. Bears Road Are Sold

## NOT MADE GOOD

Wheat and Sisk Have Failed to Sign Contracts—County Council

The bonds for the L. O. Bears No. 1 macadam road which have been hanging fire for some time have been sold, the transfer of the money for the bonds taking place this morning. The road is one interesting many in the southern part of the county and will now be built during the early part of the coming year.

Wheat & Sisk, the Jay county contractors, who knocked the persimmon for five macadam road contracts at the December session of the commissioners court, have as yet failed to sign their contracts. The board made the contractors agree to take the bonds, thus assuring the building of the roads, and to this agreement Wheat & Sisk assented. They were to be here yesterday and make good their part of the contract, but up to this time they have failed to appear.

Auditor Lewton has issued a call for the county council to meet at ten o'clock on Tuesday, January 5. The business of the council at that time is to reappropriate all funds to the general fund and then the money left over can be used to pay any indebtedness of the county.

## THE FIRST TEST

Wabash and Lawrence Counties Decisively Favor the Dry

## LARGE MAJORITIES

Wabash Carried by 897 and Lawrence by 1,508

Two counties in Indiana—Wabash and Lawrence—for the first time there has been a test on the question in the state voted yesterday for county option and against the saloon. The majority in Wabash county was 897, while that in Lawrence county swelled to a grand total of 1,508. Last night there was rejoicing on the part of the temperance forces not only in the counties affected, but also throughout the entire state. Parades were the order in both Wabash and Bedford. In both counties the vote cast yesterday was a heavy one. In the city of Wabash Sunday school children paraded the streets during the voting and, headed by members of the W. C. T. U., visited the polling places. The elation on the part of the temperance element in Lawrence county is particularly enthusiastic because the fight between the anti-saloon people and the adverse element has been going on for the last two years. Lawrence county's majority was 1,508. There was about a two-thirds vote cast, and twenty-nine out of thirty-four precincts voted dry. Seventeen saloons in Bedford and four in Oolitic will close their doors by or before April next.

## EVANSVILLE REPUBLICAN WINS

Evansville, Ind., Dec. 30.—Edgar Durre, Republican candidate, carried the special election for state senator today over Jesse Bertelson, Democratic nominee, by 1,118 majority. Fifty per cent of the vote was polled. Durre is a strong Beveridge supporter. Durre carried precincts which Taft and Watson lost in the election on November 3 last. Durre's platform included his promise to vote for the repeal of the county unit local option law, 60-cent gas for Evansville, the introduction of a law to create a school teachers' pension fund and support of reform insurance and commercial commission measure.

## REV. SEMMONS TO RETIRE

He Has Been in the Pastorate for Thirty-Nine Years.

At the close of this conference year, which will be in the spring, Rev. E. L. Semans, pastor of the M. E. church of this city, will retire from the ministry, after thirty-nine long years of active service. Rev. Semans has been pastor of the local church for the last two years, and during that time he has made many devoted friends who regret that he has decided to quit the ministry. They fully appreciate, however, Mr. Seman's long service as a pastor, during which time he has been a hard and faithful worker. He has been active in all the departments of the church. The friends that Rev. Semans has made during his two years' stay in this city are not confined to the membership of the Methodist church, by any means. In all the churches of the city he has many admirers.—Winchester Herald.

## POLICE NOTIFIED

Young Lady Visiting at Ossian Thought She Had Been Robbed

## OF HER DIAMONDS

Valued at Four Hundred Dollars Jewels Found in the Bed Springs

What was reported this morning as a "mysterious diamond robbery" at the little town of Ossian, ten miles north of Bluffton, proved when finally the mystery was solved, to be a good joke on Miss Cora Hood, a sister of Miss Alda Hood, a Bluffton school teacher, and her guest, Miss Etta Houk, of Noblesville, Ind. When Miss Hood and her guest retired at 10:30 last night Miss Houk, as was her custom, placed her four valuable rings, a large solitaire diamond, two smaller diamonds, and a large ruby ring, worth over \$400, in a handkerchief, in which she securely tied them and then placed rings and handkerchief in the pocket of the gown in which she retired for the night. When she awoke this morning she and Miss Hood were caused the greatest of alarm from the fact that the four rings and handkerchief had strangely disappeared. Diligent search was made of the bed and the room, but this first search failed to reveal anything of the missing jewelry and further mystery was added for the time being from the fact that, although the ladies concluded a thief had been in the house they could not account for the fact that he had not taken either of their purses or bothered jewelry or other valuables in open sight on a dresser. The window of the room was raised about a foot as they had left it and the theory adopted was that they had been chloroformed by a thief who was chock and had an eye for diamonds only. The rear door was unlocked also and the two ladies and the sister and mother of Miss Hood were not positive whether they had left it unlocked or the "thief" had done it. Being unable to explain the mystery or get any clue to the rings, the ladies telephoned to Sheriff Lipkey of this city to the Fort Wayne police and to all jewelers to be on the lookout for the jewelry and the thieves. Sheriff Lipkey went to Ossian on the 9:45 car to help in the investigation and arrived just about the time that the rings were recovered. In another and more careful search the ladies found the four rings all safely wrapped in the handkerchief, still in the bed. During the night they had slipped from Miss Houk's pocket, and worked down into the bed springs, where they were found.—Bluffton News.

## DISTRIBUTION OF LEEDS ESTATE

New York, Dec. 29.—The state tax appraisers' report filed today at Minola, L. I., shows Mrs. Nannie Stewart Leeds, widow of Wm. B. Leeds and his second wife, receives \$5,593,533 of the estate proper and a villa at Newport and other holdings to bring the total to about \$7,000,000. Wm. B. Leeds Jr., son of his second wife, receives \$1,611,059, while Rudolph Gaar Leeds of Richmond, Ind., son by his first wife receives one million outright. Leeds died in Paris in June.

## A TARIFF SESSION

Much Tariff Discussion Expected at That Time

## MANY MEETINGS

Congressman Chaney Wants Wabash River Improved

Washington, December 30.—Insurgents against the rules of the house of representatives, and especially those insurgents who are intent upon a real revision of the Dingley tariff schedules in the coming Payne tariff bill, may prolong the special tariff session indefinitely. A count of noses has revealed to the leaders of the lower house that a majority cannot be relied on to pass a rule through that body limiting debate on the Payne bill, and the indications now point to a long debate. One of the chief reasons for the attitude of the Republicans in the house who will not stand for parliamentary proceedings under which the Dingley law was passed in the Fifty-fifth congress in 1897. That bill was passed by the house with only three days of general debate and five days of debate under the five-minute rule. Most of the time was consumed by the ways and means committee under a rule giving a special privilege to amend its own bill. As a result of the parliamentary tactics, only one-fifth of the Dingley bill was ever read to the house of representatives, and there was practically no opportunity for amendment by the membership of the house. Some of the most influential members of the present house are expressing privately the opinion that no such rule can usher in the Payne bill, and they declare they will join with the Democrats to prevent the adoption of any such rule. Speaker Cannon is on record as saying that he expects the coming session to last a long time.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The work of preparing the revised tariff bill was resumed today by the subcommittee of the house ways and means committee. Two meetings were held today and there is every likelihood that the tariff framing committee, which consists of the Republican members of the full committee, will continue to hold daily meetings until the time comes to report the bill to congress at the special session in March. Hundreds of letters and briefs are being received by the committee daily and the suggestions offered and changes requested are varied. Judge E. H. Cary has returned the printed copy of his testimony with the corrections he desires made in the final report of the hearings. He does not change the substance of his testimony but has made several corrections in the figures which he gave while on the stand before the committee.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Congressman Chaney will introduce on Jan. 4, the day congress reconvenes a bill appropriating half a million dollars for the improvement of the Wabash river between Terre Haute and Vincennes. The introduction of this bill will mark the beginning of an active campaign before congress in behalf of the proposed Wabash river improvement in which commercial bodies, business men and farmers of western Indiana are very much interested.

## PUBLIC MISADDRESSES MAIL

Annual Report of Chicago Postoffice Shows Large Figures.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Out of every 146 pieces of matter mailed the public misaddresses one. At least that is the case in Chicago, as shown by the annual report of Postmaster Campbell, made public today. During the last year the local office has handled the colossal total of 2,065,328.179 pieces of mail, including an income of \$14,948,008. Salaries and incidental expenses were \$5,268,590. The inquiry division sent to the dead letter office 1,556,723 pieces, of which \$80,295 were postal cards, mostly of the ornamental variety. The value of money orders handled was \$196,944,140, an increase of 15 per cent over the previous year.

The merchants are doing a fairly good business at present even after the big holiday rush.