

**ERIE APPOINTMENTS**  
The following are the appointments of officials of the Chicago & Erie railroad that are now in effect:  
George T. Depue, mechanical superintendent; John R. Sexton, regional engineer; William V. Kennedy, general freight and passenger agent; Albert N. Breland, freight claim adjuster; John W. Cofer, auditor; James E. Leverton, chief of police; Harry W. Trumpler, assistant treasurer; Forest W. Rosser, superintendent, Chicago & Hammond terminals; Edmund L. Bowen, superintendent of Marion division.  
A. F. WALLACE, Manager.

**WORK IN RANK OF PAGE**

The Knights of Pythias lodge will have work in the rank of page at the regular meeting on Thursday evening. All members of the lodge, and especially the degree team, are urged to be present.  
J. H. STEWART,  
Acting C. C.

**CARD OF THANKS**

The ladies of the Union Chapel wish to thank the people who were so liberal in helping them at the Bell and Gander sale; also Mr. Bell and Mr. Gander. The ladies cleared over \$60.

**WANTED: A MOTHER!**

One day recently an agent of the Board of State Charities, whose duty it is to find homes for homeless children, visited one of the larger orphanages of Indiana. On reaching the institution he received a friendly greeting from the superintendent, a pathetically eager one from the children. They all knew him and they knew why he came. With the superintendent he entered the boys' division. Eager, expectant faces looked into his and there was a rapid fire of questions. "Say, Mister, ain't you going to take me?" "I've been here a long time; don't nobody want me." "If I'll try, will you get me a home?" "One unimproving lad said: "Shucks! 'Tain't no use, Mister, but won't you just take my name for luck?" And thus the questions continued. Bright, active, eager little fellows, sixty of them, all hungry for love and individuality of home life!

In the girls' division the agent heard the same questions and wishes more quietly expressed. Here were forty girls, wanting and needing home care, training and individual consideration. Some of them were very bright and attractive and all of them capable of development. They are happy and well cared for in this institution, but they want real homes like other children. One of the brightest girls, but not at all prepossessing, sidled up to the matron and gave expression to what was in every hungry little heart when she whispered, "Will he get me a mama?" Here, then, in this one institution were a hundred children wanting and needing homes and mother love. The agent had several applications in his pocket, but not one of them could be filled. What was the trouble? Simply a matter of age. The applications called for blue-eyed, curly-haired baby girls, or fine, sturdy baby boys, or for either boys or girls over twelve years old, and in all this group there wasn't a single child ready to be placed who was under five or over twelve years old. There was nothing for the agent to do but to carry his applications back to his office and place them on file.

**DECATUR WANT ADS PAY BIG!**

**THANKFUL FOR HER HEALTH**

Before Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Mrs. Penkey was Miserably Ill.

Ottawa, Ohio.—"After the birth of my baby I was troubled with serious female trouble. At times I was so weak and nervous I could not stand it to hear my baby cry. I tried doctor's medicine with no results. At last a friend advised me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound which I did and am completely cured. I am thankful for your wonderful medicine and you can use my testimonial as you think best."  
—Mrs. JOHN PENKEY, R. 3, Box 6, Ottawa, Ohio.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from native roots and herbs, contains no narcotics or harmful drugs, and today holds the record of being the most successful remedy we know for women's ills. If you need such a medicine why don't you try it? If you have the slightest doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (Confidential) Lynn, Mass., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman, and held in strict confidence.

**It Doesn't Take A**

**Sherlock Holmes**

To determine the many advantages and saving in money in buying

**Second Hand Auto Parts?**

We are buying old cars every day. The part you were looking for yesterday may be here today.

**Top Cash Price**

**FOR JUNK**

**Maier Hide & Fur Co.**  
"30 years in Decatur."  
Phone 442.

**GROWING LESS**

**Little Red School Houses are Being Consolidated Into Districts**

**RESULTS OVER STATE**

**Nearly Half of One Room School Houses Have Been Consolidated**

The Indianapolis Star in telling of the progress made in the consolidation of the rural schools says:

A thirty years' campaign for the consolidation of rural schools in Indiana by state educational leaders has resulted in the reduction of the number of one-room schools in the state from 8,553 in 1890 to 4,889 in 1920. The total number of one-room schools abandoned in favor of consolidated schools is 3,664, or 43 per cent.

Randolph county leads the state, with 92.1 per cent of the one-room schools in operation in 1890 abandoned this year. There were 115 one-room schools in the county thirty years ago and only nine remain. The number of abandoned schools being 106. Montgomery county is second in the state in consolidation, with 91.1 per cent of the one-room schools of 1890 now abandoned. Marion county is third on the list, with 90.3 per cent of its one-room schools abandoned, but nine remaining in the county. There were ninety-eight school houses in Marion county in 1890 and the number of abandoned schools for the thirty-year period is eighty-one. Other leading counties of the state in consolidation work are Rush, with 88.2 per cent of its 1890 one-room schools abandoned; Delaware, 87.8 per cent, and Wabash 85.5. The six most backward counties in Indiana in consolidation work, according to available reports, are Harrison, Orange, Monroe, Crawford, Martin, Pike. Harrison county had 135 one-room schools in 1890 and now has 123 such schools. Orange county has abandoned only two of its one-room schools since 1890, a reduction of 2.1 per cent. In Monroe county only one district school has been closed during the thirty years of the consolidation campaign in Indiana. The county now has ninety-two one-room schools.

No Change in Thirty Years  
Crawford county, the reports indicate, has seventy-five one-room schools, the same number as thirty years ago. Available records indicate that Martin and Pike counties have not only not accomplished anything toward consolidation, but actually have more one-room schools now than in 1890. Martin county thirty years ago had eighty-eight one-room schools and now has ninety-six. Pike county had seventy-six such schools in 1890 and now has eighty-five.

The largest number of one-room schools at the present time are in Washington county, 117; Greene county, 110; Allen county, 109. The smallest number of one-room schools in 1920 are in Randolph, Marion, Montgomery and Rush counties. Randolph and Marion counties have but nine schools remaining and Montgomery and Rush counties now have eleven one-room schools each.

The consolidation movement means the passing of the "little schoolhouse on the hill" with one teacher, and the substitution of a modern school building with a corps of trained teachers and adequate equipment, to which pupils living at a distance are transported at public expense. There are now 1,002 consolidated schools in Indiana, taking the place of the 3,990 one-room schools abandoned since 1890, according to recent reports. Three hundred of the consolidated schools are located in the country, 528 in villages and 135 in larger towns.

Average Cost  
The average cost of the buildings and equipment of the consolidated schools of the state is \$20,287, according to official reports. Manual shop work is provided in 234 of the buildings, 331 have home economics laboratories and forty-nine have a separate auditorium for community gatherings. According to official reports 57,059 pupils are being transported to the consolidated schools at annual cost of \$1,250,460. There are now 4,193 school wagons in use in Indiana. County school superintendents report that the pupils are entirely satisfied with transportation and that 90 per cent of the parents are satisfied. The pupils ride an average of four and one-half miles to school and are on the way an average of one hour a day.

The average number of teachers for the consolidated schools is four and one-half. The consolidation of rural schools in Indiana began actively about 1890, according to school officials. Only

three counties of the state reported movements for consolidation prior to 1897. Frank L. Jones, former state superintendent of public instruction of Indiana, in a report published in 1900 gives the credit to William S. Hall, of Washington township, Rush county, for being the original promoter of consolidation in Indiana. In 1876 Mr. Hall closed five schools and erected a grade school in the center of the township.

Wayne county, Clay township, is given credit for establishing the first complete consolidated school with one central building, having abandoned five district schools and transported the children to the building in four hacks.

**Consolidation Law**

A law was passed in 1907 that gave ample opportunity for consolidation to communities where the people desired to benefit by the provisions of the law. This law is the one under which school trustees act in the abandonment and consolidation of schools. Since 1900 the movement toward complete consolidation has grown rapidly in many counties of the state.

Much of the consolidation work which has been done in Indiana is the result of the efforts of pioneer leaders in this work who have been in charge of the schools in various counties, according to educational leaders. In Randolph county, which leads the state in consolidation, according to the 1920 reports, Lee L. Driver, formerly county superintendent of schools, worked for many years with complete consolidation of the county in view. Lee Swails, Marion county school superintendent, has had a large part in the work in Marion county, according to state school officials. In Tippecanoe county, Brainard Hooker, formerly superintendent of the county schools, was active for consolidation. Robert K. Devricks, head of the manuscript department in the office of the state superintendent of public instruction, as county school superintendent for Wabash county, was one of the early leaders in consolidation work and is actively identified with the movement at this time.

L. N. Hines, state superintendent of public instruction, some time ago appointed a committee to make a rural school survey of Indiana with B. J. Burris, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, as chairman. This committee is expected to make recommendations for the betterment of the one-room schools remaining in Indiana and to urge further consolidation wherever possible. Mr. Hines has been holding a series of rural school meetings throughout the state and has urged consolidation in every county.

Just received a fresh supply of our famous 30c lb. coffee. Try it.—Steele's Grocery. 11

The order of the Eastern Star is believed to have originated in the United States in 1778, but made little progress until 1850.

Owing to the scarcity of steel, Canada will not be in a position to build steel ships for at least two or three years.

**PLUCK**

(By Edward A. Guest)

When things are running crosswise and the engine's out of gear,  
When the road is rough and rocky and the sky is far from clear,  
When you're plainly up against it and you're surely out of luck,  
That's the time to use your courage and to show your stock of pluck.

Most anyone can travel on a road that's smooth and clear  
And anyone can get there if he only has to steer,  
But when the motor's balky and you're running in the muck,  
If you're ever going to get there you must call upon your pluck.

There's no thrill in easy sailing when the skies are clear and blue,  
There's no joy in merely doing things which anyone can do,  
But there is some satisfaction that is mighty sweet to take  
When you reach a destination that you thought you'd never make.

So when everything's against you and your plans are going wrong,  
Just face the situation and keep moving right along—  
Don't sit down and wall and whimper, even though you may be stuck,  
You're not absolutely helpless if you still possess your pluck.

**INTRODUCING SAHLUKENE, QUEEN OF WITCH DOCTORS**

Sahlukene Cele, once queen of the Zulu witch doctors, has abandoned her practice and is studying Christianity. Cele was known as premier "caster out" of "malden spirits" in Africa. The Zulus believe these spirits have power to keep eligible young men from proposing. At least, the Zulu debauche thinks this true and when a proposal does not come quickly she seeks the witch doctor. Tribal wars in recent years have made men scarce in Zululand, so Cele was doing a tremendous business when a field worker for the religious, social and economic world survey of the Interchurch World Movement met her. He saw Cele banish spirits with incantation and the smoke from a fire consisting of herbs, leaves, cuttlefish powder, elephant's flesh and a live python. Cele explained that the python's ability to hold tightly was passed on to the maiden that she might keep her husband in an everlasting grip. It was through the efforts of Dr. James B. McCord, a Congregational medical missionary, that Cele became interested in Christianity. Dr. McCord is now in the United States in the interest of a medical institute to be started in Durban. Here the Zulu witch doctors will be taught medicine and surgery.



**SURVEY SHOWS HOW SLUM LIFE STIFLES LAUGHTER AND SMILES**



Laughter, a priceless gift to humanity, is today lost to thousands and thousands of men, women and children. Facing the grim, unsmiling and unlaughing faces the Interchurch World Movement is recording the causes, incidents and incidents; the first step of the survey that must be taken by the church, before these laughter-less any learn to laugh.

In every large American city are thousands of people who do not laugh. They have forgotten how. They have almost forgotten how to smile.

To find them, one must go to the slums. There, in ugly, narrow streets, in littered courts and alleys and in the shadowed windows of tenement houses, are faces that are seldom lightened with laughter and rarely with smiling.

Why? There is an answer in the faces. They are marked with deep, hard lines. And the lines are stamped by care. It is a look that has come so often and has remained so long that the imprint is there forever.

Even the faces of the little children are set, stolid, old. The answer of the faces is a surface answer. It is an effect. And behind every effect is a cause.

Seeing these laughter-less faces, the Protestant Churches of America want to know what it is that creates people who do not laugh. Through the Interchurch World Movement, which seeks to make possible closer co-operation of these churches in the achievement of their work, they are going behind the faces—behind the effect to the cause. For the Interchurch World Movement is making a study which will show, specifically, what conditions in any

Interchurch World Movement field worker questioning East Slavic woman in survey to determine causes that make slum life so sordid.

given place are responsible for the people who do not laugh.

Already the study has seen behind the faces the influence of the slum itself, squalid and filthy. It has seen the tenement house, cut off from the light, dirty and drab, without a provision for the health and comfort of human beings who crowd themselves into it and call it "home." It has seen the insupportable factory, the long, deadening hours of toil, the wage that barely suffices to keep life in the body and give it shelter.

It has seen the disastrous emergency of sickness, with no money to pay for medical care. It has seen the food, insufficient and of inferior quality—all that can be bought with what money there is. And it has seen years of labor drag on without an hour of leisure. And it has seen the too swift coming of age.

These are the general forces that slay laughter; these and the hopeless vision of the future, the animal submission to what seems inevitable, the belief that even death is preferable to such a life. But the Interchurch World Movement study is seeking more than this. It is obtaining facts, details, records of actual conditions, wherever these conditions exist, that it may set the situation fully before the Church as a problem with every factor clear, the solution of which would mean laughter for the people who do not laugh.

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Large Resources  
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