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The farmers are all at present remarking at the present condition of the roads, stating that they are in the best shape this spring than ever before, which is the result of a very cold winter.

Dr. J. C. Grandstaff and wife of Preble were Sunday visitors with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Grandstaff at Monmouth. It was the latter's fifty sixth birthday, an event that was duly celebrated and remembered.

The order of Knights of Pythias are strong in Wells county having a membership in Bluffton of 256, Ossian 111, Uniondale 69, and Tocsin 73. All the lodges are reported to be in excellent financial condition and expect soon to own their own Castle halls.

Linnie Heubner, seven year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heubner, who live one mile south of Honduras died Wednesday morning after an illness of about ten days. She was first taken with measles which developed into lung fever and her death resulted. The funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock from the German Reformed church north of Honduras. Interment at Zion cemetery.

On last Tuesday February 16 at Decatur occurred the marriage of W. F. Gettinger and Miss Gladys Butcher. The bride is a daughter of Jacob Butcher, an attorney of this place and she is also teaching school in this township having just recently graduated from the Valparaiso Normal school. Mr. Gettinger has been manager of various oil company's interests with headquarters in Geneva for the past few years.—Geneva Herald.

James Wright of Berne was celebrating Thursday and was picked up last evening by Marshal Cordua. This morning he appeared before Squire Smith, plead guilty and was fined one dollar and costs, amounting to \$9.80. He plead to be released, said he left home yesterday with fifteen dollars in cash and expected to buy some clothes. He had \$9.93 left and Squire Smith informed him he should have thought of the clothes before he bought six dollars worth of whiskey. He decided to go to jail which he did.

Word was received in this city Sunday announcing the fact that Jacob Ornt a wealthy widower who lived near Logan, Ohio was foully murdered last week at his home. The cause of the murder is supposed to have been robbery, and from the position that the body lay in, the murderer undoubtedly called him to the door and then shot him. A relative of his wife is now held under arrest to answer the charge of murder. He was an intimate friend of Mr. and Mrs. Crist Beery and Uncle Dan Weldy of this city. We will endeavor to give a full history of the same in tomorrow's issue.

Julius Brunner and Mattie Uriek of Berne were married at the county clerks office in this city Friday by Squire Smith, the officials being the only witnesses to the occasion. The bride wore a snow white dress and the couple attracted some attention on the streets, it being generally surmised that they were newly wedded.

The appellate court has decided that the owner of land abutting on a public highway owns to the center of the road, and when a person stops in front of his premises and undertakes to use the land on his side of the road for some purpose other than traveling he can be warned off by the owner and is liable to a fine if he refuses to go.

Under the leadership of John D. Volz, state deputy head consul of the Modern Woodmen of America for the state of Indiana, the Hoosier state leads all others for the month of January in securing new members. The financial showing is considered the best, and new camps are being added at an average rate of one each week throughout the state.

The Decatur "news bureau" sends out a "special" today denouncing the report issued yesterday relative to the departure of three Decatur young men for the City of Mexico. The boys have concluded, so it is stated that Indiana "looks good" to them. The Democrat is proud to chronicle the fact, and hope the trio will be with us when the new cornet band plays in the bandstand next summer.

At the republican city primary at Marion the following were nominated for the various city offices: For Mayor, Field W. Sweezy; clerk, John O. Willson; treasurer, John W. Ryeman; for councilmen of First ward, William Paulus, Sr., and Joel Messic; Second ward, John P. Campbell and John H. Robison; Third ward, Milton J. Porter and Augustin Kem; Fourth ward, J. B. McClain and H. B. Crumrine; Fifth ward, Dr. M. F. Baldwin and Dr. V. V. Cameron.

Miss Katherine Watts entertained a number of her friends on last Friday evening in honor of Miss Clarice Gorden who leaves tomorrow for California. The evening was wiled away by playing pit. No prizes were offered but this however did not detract from the interest of the game and play was fast and furious. During the evening Miss Katherine served a fine three course lunch to which all present did justice to, and at a late hour all departed for their respective homes and all voting Miss Katherine as a fine entertainer.

A. R. Bell arrived from Denver, Colorado Sunday morning where he spent two weeks with his wife and daughter and states that he did not find Irene as well as he had hoped to, but that she was much better than when she left, and he is under the impression that as soon as it warms up completely there that her recovery will be swift and sure. He says that the folks have a very beautiful place to stay and that he himself found the climate very fine, but a little sharp and of a very high latitude. This will certainly be encouraging news to Irene's many friends here who are wishing her a very quick recovery.

A dispatch from Anderson says: The first colored man to announce himself a candidate for office, subject to popular vote in a primary election in this city for several years, is Dr. C. R. Atkins. Today he declared himself a candidate for the republican nomination for councilman in the Third ward of this city, and he will go into the primaries with his name lined up with other candidates.

Dr. Winchester occupied the pulpit at the Methodist church, where Sunday he preached two very able and scholarly sermons. He is the president of the Taylor University at Upland, a Methodist institution, and one too, that is rapidly climbing the ladder of fame. As an institution for classical learning as well as one that preaches and practices the righteousness of a clean and christian life. The course of study is up to the standard of any college course in the country and its other advantages are fast becoming what they should be. The future of the Taylor University is bright and those connected with it have high hopes.

The circuit court room was lonesome Thursday, Judge Erwin, most of the lawyers and other people who make that place a popular one for the news gatherer, having joined the Tyndall crowd to Fort Wayne. It has been two weeks since a new case has been filed. The case of Michael Smith vs Appleman a damage suit in which \$200 is demanded is set for trial tomorrow. Next week promises to be rather busy. On Tuesday comes Abraham Boegley vs John Weger et al, a suit to recover \$250 on mechanics lien. Wednesday is the day set for hearing evidence on the plea in abatement to the grand jury indictments, in which plea Fred Rohrer is charged with causing certain men to get a place on the jury. On Friday comes the divorce suit of Fannie Smith vs Barclay Smith. Saturday is the day set for hearing evidence in the Wagers guardianship case, in which a petition has been filed to remove the guardian Amos W. Gulick.

The first arrest in the state under the law passed by the last legislature requiring the boards of county commissioners, township trustees and road supervisors to keep in passable condition all roads in their respective districts along which rural mail routes have been established was made Thursday when Dr. J. M. Reynolds, trustee of Union township, Clark county, was arrested on complaint of George School, a rural mail carrier. Dr. Reynolds was immediately released under bond and the case will be given a speedy hearing. The law specifies that if any of the officers named above fail to have such repairs made on the road complained of for a period of five days after receiving notice of the defective condition of the highway he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than \$1 nor more than \$25, for each day such highway is allowed to remain in an impassable condition.

Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock at his home in Curryville, occurred the death of Reuben Pierce, one of the characteristic figures in the early history of Adams and Wells counties. Mr. Pierce at the time of his death was 84 years of age and had been sick but a short time Tuesday night about 8 o'clock it was noticed that he was not enjoying the best of health and from that time on he sank rapidly. Mr. Pierce leaves a large family of children to mourn his demise. At the time of his death he was living at the home of one of his sons. Concerning his life there were many interesting features. He came to this county originally from Decatur county. In his early life he lived near Greensburg with his brother, who was a sailor. The old gentleman in his latter years claimed that his brother, on his death bed had endeavored to tell him of buried treasures. This was one of his hobbies and he has made numerous trips to that part of the country presumably in search of the hidden gold. As far as any one knows he never found anything but his faith remained unshaken. He was perhaps as well versed in biblical lore as any one in the county. It was his boast that he was able to quote whole passages from the Bible without error and he was able to make his boast good on any occasion.—Bluffton Banner.

Mike Touhey caused a little excitement Saturday morning at John Meyer's saloon. He was intoxicated and was making a disturbance in the saloon and the bartender ejected him. Mike was so angry after being thrown out that he turned around, he walked up to the door and broke the glass in with his bare fists, then proceeded up street seemingly satisfied but nursing a badly lacerated right hand. No arrest was made.

A number of the little friends of Dorsie Statler assembled at his home in North Eight street last Saturday afternoon to celebrate his ninth birthday and as a result all are very loud in praise of their good time. The afternoon was spent in playing games and delicious refreshments were served. Those present were David Erwin, Lee Burk, John and Paul Hay, Fred Chronister, Body Rex and Ralph Buhler, Vera Hunsicker, Julia Gillig, Flossie Lord, Besse and Mary Teeple and Maureen Mercer.

Dr. A. A. Willits will lecture erhe Friday March 4th, this being an attraction of the Christian Endeavor course. In consequence of his appearance, Rev. Jamison's lecture has again been postponed. Dr. Willits subject here is "The Model Wife," and is assured that the event will be a worthy one. Dr. Willits stands as the successful lecturer of two generations. When Beecher, Phillips and Gough were on the platform the name of Dr. Willits was common in the same connection, and no list of the successful lecturers of this day is complete without this advocate of good cheer. Although the doctor has been lecturing for nearly forty years, he is still in full strength. He is as young in spirit and as vigorous in thought and action as he has ever been. He travels extensively. Lecturers nearly every night, and frequently preaches on Sunday. The doctor has never missed a date through physical weakness.

It is said the coldest year ever known through this country and Europe was 1816. January and February were so mild that fires were not needed to keep warm, and March though a little cold and blustering at the beginning "went out like a lamb." April began warm, but ended with snow and ice. In May buds and fruits were frozen, and ice froze an inch thick. June saw the thermometer still lower, snow fell to a depth of ten inches in several states, and almost everything was killed. July and August showed no improvement in the weather and people began to think that the end of the world was near. The September gave two weeks of the warmest weather of the season, but relapsed again into the temperature of frost and ice. October and November were colder than those months usually were but December was mild and comfortable. Frost and ice were common in every month of the year, and very little vegetation survived in the eastern and middle states. The average wholesale price of flour during this strange arctic year was in the Philadelphia market, thirteen dollars a barrel.

All arrangements have been completed and dates set for the proposed trip of the Indiana Allied Editorial associations into Canada under the auspices of the Canadian government. The editors, as arranged, now will leave Indianapolis July 13 and will be gone two weeks. The special train will make its first stop at Chicago, where the party will rendezvous until the following day. A t each of the stops entertainment has been planned for the association. The party will arrive at Winnipeg, Canada on Saturday and will begin at once a view of the country, which will consume almost every minutes of time allotted. Fort Garry and St. Boniface, made famous by Whittier in his poems, will be seen, from whence the party will be taken to Silver Heights, another historical point. July 1 the excursion will start on a trip up the grand Valley of the Assiniboine, which will make one of the most beautiful trips on the tour. From here party trips will be taken out into the new country, where new settlements are being made. Over 600 invitations have been sent out by the association and there is expected to be on the trip Governor Durbin, Senator Fairbanks, and Beveridge, Republican State Chairmen James P. Goodrich, Charles L. Henry, Maryor Holtzman; two democratic congressmen, Democratic State Chairman W. H. O'Brien and the Hon. Thomas Taggart.

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Phone No. 230.

J. F. SNOW,

Decatur, Indiana.

The main officials of both the Chicago and Erie railroad and the Clover Leaf were here Thursday looking the ground over carefully to decide where they will place the "Y" concerning which we published an article a few evenings ago. It is now an assured fact that the transfer of this "Y" will be made from Ohio City and soon at that. We were unable to get an interview with either of the road officials but are in a position to state that this project will be moved here. The exact location of the "Y" has not yet been decided upon, as it takes some space to put yards of this kind in and lots of track room to handle cars readily but as both roads have a large amount of right of way adjoining each other it is possible that no trouble will originate over this proposition. We will keep our readers posted as to the progress of this work. The movement leads to the belief that the Erie will use the Clover Leaf for an entrance to the World Fair City. St. Louis and will transfer the passengers here.

Charles Cook and Erastus Fritzing had a very serious experience Saturday evening while driving home, and the result of which Mr. Fritzing is nursing a very sore leg, where he was kicked by the horse. The accident happened north of the city just across the Grand Rapids tracks. The burr came off the front wheel and allowing the front of the buggy down. This frightened the horse which commenced to kick and the result was that one of his hind feet came in contact with Mr. Fritzing's leg, bruising it very badly. Cook was more fortunate and escaped without a scratch. The boys at last succeeded in getting out and soon had the horse under control. The only other damage done than above stated was a few straps on the harness broken and the front axle on the buggy badly bent. The boys are unable to account for the accident and are under the impression that some one had prior meddled with the buggy, and if such should prove the case and the guilty party found he should receive the full benefit of the law.

Squire James Knavel, living two and one half miles east of this city, and one of the best known men of Union township is lying at his home in a very serious condition the result of an accident which occurred at ten o'clock Friday morning. He and a young man named Pierce Worthington were out rabbit hunting, the Squire using a long barreled revolver, the shells being loaded with shot. They were about a half mile from the Knavel home when the Squire tried to put the revolver in his vest pocket. As he did so the trigger caught on his vest, the gun was discharged and Mr. Knavel received the load in the left side of his neck. The shot passed upward and inward plowing an ugly looking hole nearly four inches long. The wounded man was taken home and Drs. J. M. Miller and D. D. Clark of this city summoned. They cleaned the wound and took out thirty eight shot and two wads. Mr. Knavel is about sixty years old and the physicians consider the wound a very serious one, owing to the danger of blood poison. At last reports today he was resting well and the outcome will not be known for a day or two. The revolver which caused the trouble is a peculiar looking one, being a Stevens & Company make and designed especially for shooting mark. It was displayed in the Democrat Bulletin window today and was the object of much comment. Squire Knavel has many friends here who hope the injuries will not result as seriously as now feared.

E. Burt Lenhart was in Hunting-ton county yesterday where he went to see a sister of Mrs. Lenhart who is seriously ill with consumption, and who is in a serious condition.

In an interview with several foreign horse buyers Monday in regard to the horse market and to the sale that was given here last Saturday of Beery & Holthouse they stated that the price of horses was the highest they had been in years, but that the price was liable to slump at any time. In regard to the sale they speak in the highest manner possible concerning it, stating that they had never attended a sale where the horses offered were so clean and of such good built, and quality and state that there is no doubt but that the success of this sale resulted from the honest methods this firm proceeded under at a like sale a year ago. The people who then bought made such a neat profit from their holdings that they came again Saturday to repeat the performance. It is very seldom at a horse sale that you see every horse that is advertised sold but such was the case Saturday. Fifty five horses being advertised and fifty five being sold. The representatives from Indianapolis, Ashland, Ohio; Hicksville, Ohio, Fort Wayne and Bluffton, one and all are of the same opinion that it was the best and cleanest sale that they ever attended. The firm of Beery & Holthouse are fast becoming famous in this line and from the fact that they are thoroughly honest and treat one and all alike, which fact alone goes a good ways with horse buyers. They will hold a similar sale some time during the next month and there is no doubt but that it will be a success.

A smooth forgery was committed in this city on February 2 and has just been discovered. As a consequence the First National Bank is loser seventy-five dollars and Martin Gerke, a well known farmer is out a five dollar bill. The work was done by a young man named Chauncey Miller who has been employed by Mr. Gerke for several months. As the affair happened a month ago Miller is no doubt a good ways from here, though Mr. Gerke believes he is at Plymouth, Indiana, where he formerly lived and there is a chance that he may be arrested and brought here for trial. Young Miller appeared at the Gerke farm last fall and was given employment. He was industrious, practical and apparently honest. Mr. Gerke and family learned to trust him and he was often sent to town on various errands, selling grain and hay and attending to other business of importance. On the morning mentioned Mr. Gerke gave him five dollars and sent him to Decatur to buy groceries. He never returned and it was supposed that he had wearied of his work and simply used the five to get home on. A few days ago Mr. Gerke had his bank book balanced and was surprised to find among the cancelled checks one calling for seventy-five dollars and made payable to Chauncey Miller. He denied the signature and the forgery was at once apparent as it was by no means clever. The check had been presented at a time when the bank officials were very busy, it was known that Miller was working for Gerke and nothing was thought of it. The matter was brought to light only yesterday and now it transpires that on the same day Miller tried to sell one of Gerke's horses to Elmer Johnson but the trade miscarried for some reason or other. Miller is undoubtedly a clever swindler and an effort should be made to punish him as he deserves.

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