

JUDGE ERWIN TO MAKE RACE

A Staff Correspondent Writes an Interesting Column on the Political Situation.

Indianapolis and Muncie Stars Friday publish a two-column plate of Judge Richard K. Erwin, of this city, and a column article concerning his candidacy for the governorship, written by a staff correspondent. In part the article says: Judge Richard K. Erwin, of Decatur, and Congressman John A. M. Adair, of Portland, are trying to reach an understanding, as to which one of them shall be the Eighth district's candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. One or the other of them is expected to have something to say to the public within a few days. If it is Judge Erwin, the chances are that he will announce himself a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination. Congressman Adair is already in the race, so if he says anything it will very likely take the form of a withdrawal.

Judge Erwin and Congressman Adair are old-time political friends and have been fighting Republicans from the same breastworks in the Eighth for nearly twenty-five years. Their relations are so cordial that they would not be found as opponents in a contest of such importance as a nomination for governor.

A story came from Indianapolis today and furnished gossip at Democratic state headquarters to the effect that it will be Judge Erwin who will get into the gubernatorial race, with Adair withdrawing in his favor. The fact that Adair, within the past few days has expressed his confidence in his ability to be re-elected to Congress from the Eighth, tends to substantiate the story.

Judge Erwin's term on the Adams county bench will not expire until November 23, and there is much court work to dispose of between now and then that he will do very little toward making a canvass until after he has laid aside his judicial robes. When he does start, however, it is easy to predict that he will make the fur fly. He has a reputation as a hard campaigner. Last year he was on the Democratic state ticket, as a nominee for supreme judge, and he was one of the four or five nominees who got out and hustled among the voters of the state. He is a firm believer in the personal canvass method of securing votes. His activity brought him the second highest vote received by a Democratic nominee.

A RATHER SENSATIONAL CASE.

Says His Wife Has Abandoned Him, Run Him in Debt and Threatened Him.

A rather sensational divorce case was filed Friday morning in circuit court, which, owing to the prominence of the parties will no doubt create a considerable interest before its completion. The plaintiff is ex-Circuit Clerk Elmer Johnson, and the defendant Mary E. Johnson, his wife. P. G. Hooper and David E. Smith appear as attorneys for the plaintiff. The complaint recites that Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were married twenty-five years ago in Mercer county, Ohio. Elmer accuses his wife of refusing to live or cohabit with him as his wife since October 1, 1905, when she left his farm and removed to Decatur. He says he has done his part as a husband should, but that for twelve years his wife has annoyed him, abusing, vilifying and hectoring him; that since moving to town she has contracted many debts on his credit, at one time buying \$800 worth of dry goods and at another time a piano. One paragraph of the complaint reads as follows: "That at various times within the last ten years the defendant has threatened this plaintiff with bodily harm, shook her fist at him, and close to his face, told him that he should be hung and if the rope had ever done its duty plaintiff would have been hung long ago." A plain and simple divorce is asked.

All citizens of Huntington will sincerely regret that the negotiations for the settlement of the strike of the Erie machinists have been unsuccessful. The road needs the skilled labor, and the labor needs the employment. It is reported that the question of the principle of piece work was the stumbling block. For principle the men went out. They are opposed to piece work. Whatever one may think of the merits of the controversy, he must commend the orderly conduct of the strike and the fight the men are making for what they believe is right. —Huntington Herald.

MEETINGS WERE OF INTEREST

Mrs. Estelle Huffman of Hartford City Chosen President—That City Also Gets Next Year's Meeting.

The Woman's Relief Corps of the Eighth Indiana District met at Bluffton Thursday for their tenth annual convention. About two hundred delegates and visitors were present. The meeting was a very successful one in every way. Officers for the ensuing year were chosen as follows: President, Mrs. Estelle Huffman, Hartford City; senior vice, Mrs. Emma Sturgis, Bluffton; treasurer, Mrs. Minnie Porter, Montpelier. The secretary is appointive. The next district meeting will be held at Hartford City. The district is composed of ten local corps from as many cities, and every one is represented by a good-sized delegation. The largest individual delegation came from the Fort Wayne corps, which, although fourth in membership, led in the number of visitors at the meeting, with its party of thirty-two. Reports show that the district numbers a total of 540 members, divided between the corps of Bluffton, Marion, Jonesboro, Fairmont, Hartford City, Montpelier, Portland, Geneva, Decatur and Fort Wayne. The largest corps in the district is the Jacob Stahl corps, of Hartford City, with 102 members. Montpelier is second, with ninety-seven, Fort Wayne third, with seventy-eight, and Bluffton fourth, with seventy-five members. There were a number of notable visitors present, including the department president, Mrs. Meribah Walker, of Clinton; senior vice president, Mrs. Amanda Edsel, of Fort Wayne; and past department officers Mrs. Etta Houck, of Carmel, and Mrs. Dr. Alta Bohran, of Rome City. There were also present all of the district officers, including President, Mrs. Lydia Seegar, of Marion; secretary, Mrs. Harriett Buchanan, of Marion, and treasurer, Mrs. Estelle Huffman, of Hartford City.

SAYS THE BERNE WITNESS.

A Direct Editorial upon Those Who Sent Their Father to the Poor House to Die.

The death of Fred Augsburg at the county infirmary a few days ago furnished the foundation for a scathing editorial in today's Berne Witness, which should rather make the rich children of the deceased man take notice. It reads: "The death of the aged Fred Augsburg at the poor house last Monday is an indelible stain of shame on his children, one son and one daughter living in this vicinity, and one son in Ohio; all of these being well-to-do people and amply able to take care of their helpless father in his last days. For children to keep their parent as long as he is able to be of some use to them, and then to cast him off upon the charity of the public, would be too heathenish for any offspring laying claim to even the thinnest varnish of civilization, but the fact that at least two of his sons are well-to-do members of a church that makes it a special point to take care of its own poor, is unspeakable beyond comprehension. There is no doubt whatever but that Grandpa Augsburg was as well, if not better, taken care of in our excellent county infirmary than his children could have done, and it is certainly no disgrace for any deserving poor person to be an inmate there, but it is certainly a disgrace upon his well-fixed children to leave their helpless parent to such charity."

GUIDE OF PRESIDENT'S PARTY.

Bluffton people may be interested to know that Ben Lillie, who is the chief guide with Roosevelt's party in Texas, had guided a citizen of this city in many exciting bear hunts in the swamps of Louisiana. The local nimrod is Harvey Thornburg, who hunted his game in the Creole state twice. When Mr. Thornburg first met "Old Ben" as the famous guide is known throughout the wild district of Louisiana and the Lone Star state, he saw a little wrinkled man, dressed in the garb of a typical woodsman and looking like an incarnation of Daniel Boone. If local reputation is to be believed, he has killed more bear than any man in Louisiana during his varied career of sixty odd years. Bluffton people may be interested to know that Ben Lillie, who is the chief guide with Roosevelt's party in Texas, had guided a citizen of this city in many exciting bear hunts in the swamps of Louisiana. The local nimrod is Harvey Thornburg, who hunted his game in the Creole state twice. When Mr. Thornburg first met "Old Ben" as the famous guide is known throughout the wild district of Louisiana and the Lone Star state, he saw a little wrinkled man, dressed in the garb of a typical woodsman and looking like an incarnation of Daniel Boone. If local reputation is to be believed, he has killed more bear than any man in Louisiana during his varied career of sixty odd years. Bluffton people may be interested to know that Ben Lillie, who is the chief guide with Roosevelt's party in Texas, had guided a citizen of this city in many exciting bear hunts in the swamps of Louisiana. The local nimrod is Harvey Thornburg, who hunted his game in the Creole state twice. When Mr. Thornburg first met "Old Ben" as the famous guide is known throughout the wild district of Louisiana and the Lone Star state, he saw a little wrinkled man, dressed in the garb of a typical woodsman and looking like an incarnation of Daniel Boone. If local reputation is to be believed, he has killed more bear than any man in Louisiana during his varied career of sixty odd years.

We would like the man with the goose bone, the thick or thin corn shucks, or the time the wild ducks return from their expedition to the North Pole would inform us as to the extent of winter that the provident citizen may adjust the coal line to suit the coming weather.

PRISONER AT THE COUNTY JAIL.

Tore His Clothing Off—Refused to Eat—Broke Eighteen Window Panes—Confined to Cell.

Gothard Brown, the disreputable character, who, as has been stated in a previous issue, made a desperate effort to deliver himself and a fellow prisoner from the county jail, a few days ago, by extracting rivets from the iron lining in the county jail, has become so unruly that it is necessary to confine him in a small cell. For several nights past Brown has been making noises of every description, and succeeded in keeping the occupants of resident apartments from sleep, and for the reason that he tried to effect an exit from a place in the wall of the bath room, where several iron rivets had been removed, he was kept in closer confinement for the past few days. This did not prove agreeable to the prisoner, and he is trying to make life miserable for Sheriff Meyer and family in every way he possibly can. Thursday morning he took every stitch of clothing from his person, excepting his shirt, and threw the apparel outside the bars, stating that he did not care to have any of the ladies serve him his meals, and maybe now they would stay out. The sheriff ordered him to put on clothing, but he absolutely refused to do so, and at noon he was served his dinner without any meat. He asked Sheriff Meyer if he did not get any meat, to which Meyer replied that he did not deserve any, and that if he continued to act as he has been, he would get less yet. At this he hurled a plate at the sheriff and went to the closet, tore a pipe from the water connection, and with it broke out eighteen window panes. The prisoner was then placed in a small cell, where he will remain until there is a change in his conduct. Last evening his meal was taken to him and he again threw the victuals and dishes out of the cell. He kept the knife that was given him, however, and after the sheriff left, he threw it at the lamp that was placed in front of his cell, breaking it to pieces. The desperado has quieted himself greatly since last night, and it is thought that no more trouble will be experienced.

EXCEEDS WHEAT AND COTTON.

It is the Most Important Product Raised by the American Farmer.

Corn is the only agricultural crop in the United States that annually reaches the enormous value of \$1,000,000,000. Its value exceeds the two other principal products of wheat and cotton combined. It assumes the leading importance in the agricultural and financial world on account of its stock-feeding properties. It is the paramount crop in live stock industry and general husbandry. A liberal crop sends farmers to market for stock and feeders to finish for the block. Commercially considered the marketing of the corn crop in live stock and unmanufactured is more evenly distributed than wheat and cotton, and more potentially influences the financial situation of the country. As a crop it is less extensively stored than wheat or oats; as it will keep on the cob in good condition indefinitely. The corn crop comprises in its raw condition and its finished products of live stock a large percentage of the freight traffic of the railroads. It is estimated that 631,000,000 bushels of corn shipped to market out of last season's crop was handled by the railroads, for which they received \$8,000,000. At forty cents per bushel the 1906 crop netted the farmers \$1,152,201,600—enough to pay the public debt.

FORMER DECATUR GIRL TO WED.

Will Become the Bride of Dr. Bell, of Indianapolis.

Invitations have been received by a number of Decatur people from Marion, Indiana, announcing the wedding of Miss Anna Merriman to Dr. Bell, of Indianapolis, the event to take place at the Merriman home at two o'clock the M. E. minister officiating. Miss Merriman is well known in this city, having for a number of years made this city her home, and her friends here are innumerable. Dr. Bell is one of the leading physicians of Indianapolis, and it is there that the young couple will make their future home. Several Decatur people will go from this city and be in attendance at this event.

VERDICT OF TWENTY DOLLARS.

New Case Filed, Heard and Decided—An Appeal Bond Filed—Various Other Items.

The jury in the case of Kalver & Hurst vs. William L. Gunder, a suit to recover \$200 paid for a mule, claimed to be worthless, returned a verdict at 7:30 Friday morning, after having been out seventeen hours. The verdict gave the plaintiffs \$20, and seems to have been a compromise, as the first ballot is said to have stood six to six. There seems to be some controversy as to who will have to pay the costs. A new trial will probably be asked for.

Hooper & Lenhart filed a new case entitled The Kuebler & Moltz Company vs. Elmer Johnson, suit on account. D. E. Smith appeared for the defendant, and judgment was rendered by agreement for \$507.95.

Martin F. Martz vs. May H. Martz, divorce. Appearance by Fruchte & Littler for the defendant.

John Watkins vs. Clara Watkins, divorce. Application for an allowance was made by the defendant.

John W. Poling vs. Peter Holthouse, interrogatories were filed by the plaintiff, and the defendant ruled to answer same.

George A. Bohrer Co. vs. Harry Cordua et al suit on bond. An appeal bond was filed by the plaintiff to the Appellate Court.

Christ Hoffstetter vs. National Supply Co. Lease asked and granted plaintiff to file a supplemental complaint.

A junk dealer license has been issued to Alfred Parks, giving him permission to buy from house to house in Adams county. His place of business is at Willshire.

THE MEIBERS-SNELEN PARTY.

Was an Enjoyable Affair—Home-Coming Day at Presbyterian Church Next Sunday.

With her home beautifully decorated with autumn leaves and cypresses, and here and there a twinkling light peeping through the foliage that was elaborately distributed through the various rooms, Mrs. J. B. Meibers and Mrs. O. N. Snellen charmingly entertained a large number of guests at an afternoon party Thursday. The day after tomorrow party yesterday. The day was ideal, and almost every person that was fortunate enough to receive an invitation to this brilliant event responded by their presence. After the arrival of the guests, they were seated at the different tables to indulge in that interesting pastime progressive pedro. The contest was most interesting, and when the last game was over the first prizes were awarded to Mrs. Ben Knapke and Mrs. Martin Mylott. The second prizes were captured by Mrs. Oem Voglewede and Mrs. Joe Tonneier. An elegant two-course luncheon was served to the merry party, and all experienced a good time. During the time the guests were doing justice to the luncheon, Mrs. J. Q. Neptune furnished excellent music, much to the delight of all. The out-of-town guests were: Mrs. Stine and Mrs. Moorehead, of Willshire, Ohio, and Mrs. Charles Myers, of Angola.

W. G. Spencer was the victim of a pleasant surprise party last night, when a number of his friends called at his store and told him that they wanted him to go home. He was at a loss to know what to do, but as there were too many there to overpower, he consented to go. An elegant time was awaiting him and the guests, and it was greatly appreciated by all. Progressive peanuts and social chat furnished the amusement of the evening, and Mr. Spencer will no doubt remember his fifty-first birthday anniversary for many years. Those present were Messrs and Mesdames C. S. Niblick, D. D. Clark, C. Meibers, Harry Helm, J. D. Reiter, J. K. Niblick and J. C. Miller.

Dyontis Schmidt's new home on Mercer avenue is nearing completion. It will be the largest and one of the most complete homes in the city, being modern in every respect.

MRS. LIDY STRUCK BY TRAIN.

Died Almost Instantly—An Infant Grandson Whom She Carried Was Also Fatally Hurt.

Bluffton, Ind., October 18.—Mrs. Alexander Lidy, 62, was instantly killed and her infant grandson was fatally injured this evening about 5 o'clock, while crossing the tracks of the Chicago & Erie railroad near Kingsland. They were struck by a passenger train and were thrown twenty-five feet.

Mrs. Lidy was going to the home of her son, Ted Lidy, when the accident happened. The railroad separates the two homes and it is thought that Mrs. Lidy did not hear the approaching train when she was on the track. At the time of the accident she was accompanied by her daughter-in-law, who had preceded her a few steps across the rails and who turned around in time to see Mrs. Lidy struck.

She says that Mrs. Lidy, with the baby in her arms, was walking down the track apparently not knowing that the passenger train was bearing down on her rapidly. As it came very close Mrs. Lidy seemed to realize its presence, for she started to run, but was caught and thrown in the air before she could leave the track. The daughter-in-law rushed to her side, but Mrs. Lidy expired in five minutes. The baby was badly hurt by the fall and may not recover.

Coroner McBride investigated the accident but he placed the blame on no one, all the circumstances showing that it could not have been helped by the train crew, as Mrs. Lidy was too near the engine when seen for its driver to stop.

WHO IS MR. COTTON?

Manager Patterson of the Western Union Has an Important Telegram For Him.

J. C. Patterson, Western Union operator, received a message late this afternoon from Keifer, Indian Territory, addressed to a Mr. Cotton, purporting to be in this city, but up to the time we go to press, he was unable to learn anything of a man of this description, neither were the postal authorities able to enlighten him. The message was as follows: "Mr. Cotton, Decatur, Ind.: Your son killed at Salupla. Please advise what to do. Answer quick."

J. C. GRIFFIN.

That it is important is without argument. Mr. Patterson is desirous of finding the person to whom it is addressed, so that he may deliver the same. Any information as to whom Mr. Cotton is would be greatly appreciated.

Health officers over the State are receiving instructions from the State Board of Health in regard to the new vital statistics law. This law, which was enacted by the last Legislature, requires doctors and midwives to report all births. In reporting births, the original information shall be sent to the State Board of Health, while copies of the reports are kept by the county authorities. In this way the State Board of Health gets correct information.

WIRING AUTOMOBILE FACTORY.

Haifling & Ernst Began Work on the Job Today.

Haifling & Ernst, who recently secured the contract to do the electric wiring at the automobile factory started in on the work Saturday, and will push the same to completion as rapidly as possible. The contract is no small thing, as the entire part of the main building must be wired according to specifications, and sixty lights are to be strung at various places throughout the same. Two electric motors will be placed in this plant, one being a five-horse power and the other a fifteen, which will be used as power for receiving the machinery. The firm, Haifling & Ernst, are fully competent to handle this job, and will no doubt put in their work according to the specifications and in a manner that will reflect much credit upon themselves.

Albert Numbers, of Ossian, arrived in the city this morning to make a short visit with friends.

BID HAD STRING ATTACHED.

Chicago Broker Bid in the Wells County Gravel Roads.

S. A. Kean, of Chicago, was the only bidder for the bonds on the twenty-five gravel roads under the three-mile law, this morning, and his proposal being considered a very good one, it was accepted by County Treasurer Ed Saurer. The face value of the total number of the bonds is \$117,280, and Kean's bid was \$117,388.64, or \$100.05 on the \$100. The fact that the bonds sold at a premium came as a surprise, as they are to draw but four and one-half per cent. interest, while road bonds under former laws have drawn 6 per cent. invariably. Tacked onto the end of this bid was a provision clause to the effect that the proposition would be void should the bonds be classed as taxable property. There is a statute covering this point, which says that any bonds issued by municipalities or corporations shall be non-taxable, but the law has never been construed by any court as regarding township matters.—Bluffton Banner.

ANSWER IN BIG DAMAGES CASE.

Same Probate Business—Several Final Reports Filed by Administrators—Other Items.

In the case of Horace Kohn vs. Joseph W. Hakes, suit on note and account, demand \$250, a demurrer was filed by the defendant to each paragraph of the complaint.

In the petition for a drain filed by Henry Teeple and nine others, D. E. Smith entered his appearance for Mary E. Harma.

D. B. Erwin, commissioner in the matter of Fanny Kochoer vs. Josephine Moser et al., a partition suit, filed his final report and was discharged.

Bessie Cronin vs. Ft. Wayne Morning Journal Gazette Company, damages \$50,000. An answer in three paragraphs was filed by A. J. Moynihan, one of the defendants.

John F. Felty, administrator of the William C. Felty estate filed his final report, which was allowed, and he was discharged. Final reports were also filed by George B. Maurer, administrator of the Maurer estate; by Mary A. Wemhoff, administratrix of the Bernard F. Henehoff estate; by Joseph D. Krick, administrator of the Jacob Krick estate.

Simon Sprunger, trustee of the Abraham J. Sprunger estate, filed a current report, which was allowed.

Peter M. Fulk has been appointed guardian for Merle, John, Jacob and Arthur Fulk, and filed bond for \$3,000.

FOUR CANDIDATES INITIATED.

An Oyster Supper Followed—The Boys Will Issue a Monthly Paper.

The knights and esquires of the Holy Grail held a conclave meeting Friday night in the lecture room of the M. E. Church for the purpose of conferring initiatory work upon four candidates who were initiated into the Esquire degree. Those who were initiated were Glen Tague, Sim Burke, George Sheeler and Willie Conrad. The work was quite impressive, and the new candidates started in this new organization under most pleasant auspices. After the initiatory work an elegant oyster supper was served to the boys, much to their delight. Negotiations are going on to organize a Holy Grail paper, to be published monthly, and last night the first step was taken to secure subscriptions. Outsiders as well as members are requested to subscribe for this paper and help the boys along. The price of this paper will be fifty cents a year.

Governor Hanly has granted two pardons, one to a man who is sick in the reformatory and the other to an inmate of the girls' prison. He refused to grant fourteen other applications for executive clemency. Two of the applicants are in the state prison, and the others are in the Jeffersonville reformatory.

Cures Biliousness, Sick Headache, Sour Stomach, Torpid Liver and Chronic Constipation. Pleasant to take.

ORINO

Laxative Fruit Syrup

Cleanses the system thoroughly and clears away all complexions of pimples and blotches. It is guaranteed.

THE HOLTHOUSE DRUG COMPANY,