

BEGINS ON MONDAY New Firm Will Be Erwin and Underwood—Deal Closed Today

Judge Richard K. Erwin, of this city, will locate at Fort Wayne. This was determined upon Friday when he closed a deal for the purchase of Judge John Aikens' interest in the law firm of Aiken & Underwood. The new firm will be known as Erwin & Underwood and began business Monday morning. Judge Erwin has been considering the Fort Wayne location for several weeks, having opportunities there and finally decided to join Mr. Underwood. He has purchased Mr. Aikens' library and his entire interest in the business and we predict the new firm will enjoy a splendid patronage. Mr. Aiken expects to locate in the west, probably at Huntington, Oregon. The offices of Erwin & Underwood are located in the Swaney block on Main street, just north of the court house, where the judge will be found after Monday. However, he will not remove his family until next summer, after the close of school.

Mr. Homer Underwood is a clever young man, a hard worker and a good lawyer. He is well known, having practiced here several years ago.

Judge Erwin is one of the best known attorneys in northern Indiana and his services are much in demand. He began the study of law with France & Merriam in this city twenty-two years ago. A year later he formed a partnership with J. Fred France, now of Huntington. Later he was a member of the firm of Mann & Erwin and prior to his election as judge of this circuit he formed a partnership with his brother, Dore B. Erwin. He served as representative in the legislature of 1890-92, was the democratic candidate for judge of the supreme court in 1906 and has been prominently mentioned as a candidate for governor this year. A man of pleasing appearance, rare ability and a state wide reputation he is certain to become a prominent member of the Allen county bar. While his Adams county friends regret this step which takes him to another county, they wish him the success bound to come to him and will watch his future with great interest.

NEW RECORDS ARRIVE

City Clerk Must Issue Checks—New Mode Be- lieved to be Good

After a delay of fifteen days the new set of books to be used by the city treasurer and city clerk under the new depository law arrived Friday morning from William B. Burford and from this time on will be put into practical use. The new law has changed the order of business considerably and it may take the public some little time to grasp the same, which however, in the end is very simple. Under the new law instead of the city treasurer issuing the check, that duty falls to the city clerk, who makes the issue in triplicate. That is a stub is to be filled out to be retained by the clerk, the body of the check is filled out which goes to the man to whom made payable and a stub is then made out which is retained by the city treasurer when the check is taken to him to be signed, thus a complete record is kept of every order. As of old the check must be signed by the mayor, treasurer and clerk and when this is done the check is payable at either of the local banks. The law is without a doubt one of the best ever passed by the legislature of Indiana, as a check is kept upon every order issued and the various officers' reports must correspond strictly with the orders issued. The new system will be inaugurated immediately by the city officials, and put into practical use.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—The Republicans of Indiana will hold their convention for the nomination of state candidates on April 1 and 2, in Indianapolis. These dates were decided on at a meeting held by the republican state committee—a meeting called for the reorganization of the new committee.

The recent warm snap has caused the ice men no end of worry and they are commencing to figure where they are going to get their summer's supply from, and unless the weather man helps them out in a short time they will begin to make arrangements to have the same shipped into Decatur for summer use.

EVENT WAS SUCCESS Big Parade a Feature— Montpelier Lodge Con- ferred Knight Rank

The fifty Knights of Pythias who attended the district convention at Bluffton Thursday arrived home at 1 o'clock Friday morning just in time for the Berne and Geneva delegations to catch their train on the G. R. & I. and they had to run a little at that. The boys report a good time. About 600 or 800 were in attendance from over the district, the towns represented being Portland, Pennville, Montpelier, Hartford City, Roll, Bluffton, Uniondale, Ossian, Geneva, Berne, Dunkirk, Redkey and Tocsin. A big parade at two o'clock was one of the features, the Montpelier, Ossian and Bluffton bands furnishing music.

The afternoon session at the opera house was a trifle late on account of the delay in starting the parade. The K. of P. orchestra, of Portland, recognized as one of the best lodge musical organizations in the state, opened the meeting with a stirring overture. The entire assemblage joined in the singing of "America," which was followed by the invocation by Rev. H. B. Dieffenbach of the Reformed church. After a selection by the ladies' quartet of Bluffton, the Hon. W. H. Elchhorn extended a hearty greeting to the visiting lodges in an address of welcome. The response was made by Deputy Grand Chancellor Charles A. Reeves, of Hartford City, and other five minute return speeches were made by members of the various lodges represented. The remainder of the afternoon was consumed in the principal address by Frank L. Gass, of Muncie, state grand chancellor.

In the evening the Montpelier lodge conferred the Knight rank on a candidate, there were speeches and a lunch. The convention was entirely successful and thoroughly enjoyed.

WHAT IT MEANS

If It Becomes a Law It Will Save Eighth District \$100,000 Annually

Washington, D. C., January 17.—(Special to Democrat)—Representative John A. M. Adair of the Eighth district of Indiana, today introduced another very important bill in congress it being a bill to remove the tariff entirely from all lumber imported into this country. Mr. Adair has made an estimate of the amount of lumber used in his district and states that if he can secure the passage of this bill he will have saved for his constituents more than \$100,000 annually. The busy congressman expects to secure the passage of the bill, as he has the promise of the support of many members of the house and he will make a vigorous fight for it when it gets before the committee. Mr. Adair is one of the most aggressive young congressmen in the house, and his proposed bills all have the right spirit to them.

Miss Gusta Cramer, who has been ill for several days, is reported as being much improved today, and will no doubt be able to resume her old duties in a few days.

Fred Hoffman has received the contract to mend the roof at the water works plant and expects to start to work on the same in the near future. The damage to the roof was caused by taking out the old brick smoke stack.

H. L. Conter is installing a five horse power motor in his ice cream plant in the south part of the city and this summer fully expects to manufacture ice cream by electrical power. The plant is being over hauled in many respects and will be put into first class shape for the coming summer.

The managers of the sale stables on First street are fast completing arrangements for their big horse sale to be held in the near future, and from all present indications it will be a hummer. A number of foreign buyers will be here and there is no question but that the horses will find a ready market. Get ready to attend.

Jonas Fisher, who has lived on the Albert Butler farm north of Decatur, for a number of years, is contemplating returning to this city and as a consequence he will hold a big public sale at that place on Thursday, January 30th. Mr. Fisher is contemplating going into business here, but in what line he declined to state.

Judge R. K. Erwin went to Fort Wayne to resume duties in the practice of law. Mr. Erwin goes back and forth to his work via the interurban each day.

WIFE LIVES HERE Is Daughter of Thomas Tee- ple—Rose Will be Tried at Huntington

Eugene Rose, of Huntington, who, about two years and a half ago married Harriet, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Teeple, of this city, and who has been a fugitive from justice for some time on account of a charge of wife desertion pending against him, has been captured and is being held at Hammond until the Huntington officers go there to take charge of their prisoner. Mr. Rose has left his wife on four different occasions, but had always returned and their differences would be settled. However, on the twenty-seventh day of last November he left the house stating that he was getting dry and he was going to get a drink. Instead of returning, he went to the round house where he was employed as a flue blower, drew his check and left for parts unknown leaving his wife in destitute circumstances. Mrs. Rose notified her parents of his actions and Thomas Teeple of this city, father of the girl filed charges against Rose for wife desertion. The officers at different places were notified about the wanted man and he was arrested and placed in jail at Hammond. Mr. Teeple was notified Friday morning of the arrest and he at once sent word for them to hold the man until officers arrived for him, and now the young man is staring the penitentiary in the face. Mrs. Rose has moved her household effects to this city and she will make her future home with her parents.

ARE INVESTIGATING A DEATH.

Mrs. Ira Porter, of Randolph County Died Wednesday.

Portland, Ind., Jan. 17.—Dr. Evans, the coroner of Randolph county, has not yet made his finding in the case of the death of Mrs. Ira Porter, who lost her life Wednesday morning from the supposed accidental discharge of a shotgun which she is said to have been carrying to her husband to kill a chicken hawk. It is said that the investigation so far has brought to light circumstances that seem to warrant an investigation by the prosecuting attorney and sheriff of the county. Both were at the Porter home Thursday for that purpose. The accident was witnessed by no one. Mr. Porter said that he found the lifeless body of his wife in a kneeling posture by a table in the kitchen, when he reached the house following the shot. The funeral of the unfortunate woman will be held Friday morning at ten o'clock, from Praise Chapel, one-half mile east of New Pittsburg. The interment will be at New Lisbon, three miles north of Union City.

THE NEW STATUTE

Provides for Qualifications Necessary for Teachers to Secure License

The first teachers' examination for the year 1908 will be held at the Central school building next Saturday. The examinations are held the last Saturday of the first eight months of the year. Section ten of the late law regarding these examinations provides for the qualifications of teachers in three classes: (a) A teacher without experience shall be a graduate of a high school or its equivalent; shall have had not less than one term of twelve weeks' work in a school maintaining a professional course for the training of teachers; and shall have not less than a twelve months' license. (b) A teacher with one school year's experience shall be a graduate of a high school or its equivalent, shall have had not less than two terms or twenty-four weeks' work in a school maintaining a professional course for the training of teachers; shall have not less than a two years' license; and shall have a successful grade. (c) A teacher with three or more years of successful experience shall be a graduate of a high school or its equivalent; shall be a graduate from a school maintaining a professional course for the training of teachers; shall have a three years' license; and shall have a successful grade. This section also provides that for teachers already in service successful experience shall be accepted in lieu of high school and professional training; and that teachers who fail to meet the requirements of the second or third class may, on continuing to meet the requirements of the first class, continue to teach in this class.

A LECTURE 'COURSE School Board Secures Ser- vices of Three of Indiana's Best Known Men

At the beginning of the present school year, a system of visitation was adopted by the school board that required the teachers to visit the home of each one of his or her pupils, and following this a committee of several men from each ward was appointed to visit the public schools for the purpose of ascertaining the manner in which the different classes were conducted. Many accepted this invitation and more men have visited the schools thus far this year than for any one term for twenty years past and as a result those who went are loud in their praise of the condition of the schools. The public is invited to visit the schools at any time they choose, but in order to enthrust the parents and students, next week has been set apart and will be known as visiting week at the schools when many men will make another visit to the various rooms. In connection with this plan of visitation, the superintendent, teachers and the members of the school board have completed arrangements for a series of lectures. These are to be given to the public and especially to the patrons of the schools, free of charge, the expenses to be paid by the board, superintendent and teachers. Able men have been secured to give these lectures including state superintendent Cotton, Prof. Kelly, president of the Earlham college and superintendent Study, of the Fort Wayne schools, all of whom are recognized as speakers of rare ability. The school board are sparing neither time nor expense in making the Decatur public schools among the best in the state and their efforts in securing the best teachers obtainable and in making school life unusually interesting and instructive for the pupils are certainly much appreciated by all.

CAN'T USE DOCTORS NAMES.

Huntington Physicians Adopt a Resolution.

At the meeting of the Huntington County Medical society Tuesday evening at the city hall the doctors freely condemned a certain kind of advertising in the newspapers, says the Huntington Democrat. It was the opinion of the society that there existed an anxiety on the part of the physicians to have their names attached to news items which came through their practice. This, all agreed, is detrimental to the best interests of the medical profession and should be stopped at once. Resolutions were passed severely criticizing this practice, a copy of which will be presented to the editors of each paper.

The main provisions of the resolutions are that hereafter the name of the doctor must be omitted from any news item coming through his office. This is according to the letter of the resolutions though it is understood that when a very important operation is performed mention of the name of the physician will be permissible. The officers of the society have been instructed to furnish a list of the members of the society to the newspapers with a copy of these resolutions at the same time requesting that the wish of the pill givers be observed.

WAS WELL KNOWN

Had Been an Inmate of the Infirmary for Over Fourteen Years

John Troxel, who for more than fourteen years has made his home at the county infirmary, and who is known by almost every person in northern Adams county, died Monday morning at about 9:30 o'clock at the infirmary after suffering for several months from dropsy. The deceased lived a short distance north of this city for many years, and had a number of relatives in this city and county. He was fifty-nine years of age. The deceased has a cousin who is at present making her home at the county institution. The funeral arrangements have not as yet been made. Troxel was a laborer about here many years and for a long time was a familiar character, his name still being used by many as a byword, by many boys who never knew Uncle Johnny.

Miss Hattie Studabaker is moving her household goods and effects from the old home place across the river into her property on Fourth street, where she expects to make her future home. The old home property will be occupied by D. E. Studabaker and family.

THE C. B. L. DANCE WAS MADE TODAY Miss Christen—Thimble Club Met

Masks of every description, the woman of 1840, even the woman in black and sitting Bull's wife, who had been to Washington with her husband to see the Great Father, and had heard of the shower which was to be given by the members of the Historical club for Miss Kittle Christen last Friday stopped off for the evening. This was the merry scene at the home of Miss Kittle Christen when twenty ladies gathered to hold a masquerade surprise shower. One part of each mask was the placard which was worn around the neck and which gave good advice to the hostess. The plan for the evening was that each one present was to give an original "stunt." This was beyond description and at the close of this feature the guests served all day suckers which they had prepared for refreshments, but before leaving, the hostess served a dainty luncheon, which proved delightful to all the members. During the evening Mrs. Crabbs as president of the club, gave a short talk, and then the guests presented Miss Christen with every utensil that could possibly be used in the kitchen. The members of the club are: Mesdames Jane A. Crabbs, Nannie Miller, Helen Blossom, Carrie Burns, W. A. Lower, Mary Congleton, Robert Blackburn, C. D. Lewton, Dora Erwin and her guest, Mrs. McMillen, Jennie Studabaker, R. K. Allison, Marie Holloway, O. L. Vance, B. J. Rice, R. S. Peterson, Katherine Allison, Amos Gillig, R. K. Erwin.

Exceptionally beautiful were the appointments of the six o'clock dinner given by Mrs. G. W. Knorr, at her home on north Second street to a company of twelve ladies. The guests were placed by the hostess at the table, which was decorated with exquisite taste. The color scheme of pink, green and white, prevailed throughout the five courses, which were served. Extremely lovely did the little pink roses filled with ice cream appear, with a delicious piece of cake with the green icing, tied with a pink candy bow, to correspond with the pink ribbon, placed at the side of the rose, which afterwards were given as favors to each guest. The hostess was assisted in serving by Mrs. Fred Linn. The guests were: Mesdames W. A. Lower, Matthias Kirsch, Peter Kirsch, Fred Heuer and her guest, Miss Sophia Heuer, Wilson Lee, Chas. E. Suttles, Fred Reppert, Dore B. Erwin, C. D. Lewton, O. L. Vance and L. C. Hessert.

FINDING RENDERED

Divorce Granted and Ali- mony Awarded—A New Floor in Clerk's Office

A few items of record were made at the close of the November term Saturday evening, shown on the records as follows:

In probate court Saturday evening J. F. Lehman, admr., in Daniel Sprunger estate filed a petition to assign notes and mortgages to ward and guardian in part payment of debt, so ordered; petition to make partial distribution to widow filed and so ordered by court.

M. F. Aspy, admr., in McClellan Tague estate, petition to distribute \$320.81 to guardian of minor children of decedent so ordered.

A current report was filed and allowed in the matter of Louis Conrad, guardian for John L. Conrad.

Judge Merryman decided the Haviland divorce case Saturday evening, finding the plaintiff, Mrs. Haviland, entitled to a divorce, that she recover \$250 alimony. Mrs. Haviland was awarded the custody of two of the children, Milton and Celesta and Mr. Haviland was given the custody of another child, Rex. The defendant was ordered to pay into court \$8.00 per month to support the two children in their mother's care, until they are thirteen years old. The alimony is to be paid \$50.00 in thirty days, \$100 in one year and \$100 in two years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Haviland are to see the children at proper times and places. Judgement against defendant for costs.

A new archway is being cut through the brick partition in the interurban building, which will add materially to the appearance of the room. This will thus throw the Wells Fargo Express and the interurban virtually into one room.

Oil Stock Ordered Sold— Ora Sells Will Fight Suit Against Him

Special judge R. S. Peterson held a session of probate court Friday morning the Wilson H. Shepherd estate, Andrew Gottschalk, executor, being the matter up for further consideration and another yard or two of record was added in this estate case, which already covers more pages than any previous case on the Adams probate court records. Today the executor filed a petition to sell sixty-five shares of stock in the Shepherd Oil company. Answers were filed by a half dozen parties, including Hunter, Staley, Flavius Shepherd, Engle Coon, Spicher and Oplinger. The petition was granted and the stock ordered sold at public sale on a date to be decided later.

In the case of Amanda Sells vs. Ora Sells in which the defendant was cited to appear and show why he has not paid the monthly installments as ordered by the court, D. E. Smith has entered appearance for the defendant.

Old Adams County Bank vs. John H. Yager et al, suit on improvement lien, plaintiff filed answers to the defendant's interrogatories.

Old Adams County Bank vs. Horace S. Porter, to foreclose improvement lien, answers to defendant's interrogatories filed by plaintiff.

Tom Ralling, who last season played with the Tecumseh base ball team in the Michigan league, received notice this morning to report at Springfield in the Three Eye league the latter part of March. Tom was drafted by Springfield and under the recent ruling made by the national commission, will be compelled to report at that place. Ralling pitched remarkable base ball last season, and if he comes anywhere near equaling the mark this season, he will be a winner pure and simple.

Frank Christian has accepted the district agency of the Equitable Assurance company, of New York, and will have supervision of Wells, Adams Allen, Huntington, Wabash and Jay counties and part of Blackford. He will have his office in the city with Merriman & Dailey and will control sub-agencies.—Bluffton News.

DISTURBED MISSION

Joe Eley Was on Another "Bender"—Was Fined Five and Costs

Nathan Haley and Charles Grim, the latter being better known among his associates as "Coxey" were arrested Sunday by Marshal Bohnke on a charge of public intoxication and lodged in jail until Monday, when they were arraigned before the mayor. The boys claimed to have secured the booze on Saturday night before closing time and on Sunday proceeded to load up. Sunday afternoon, after acquiring quite a package, they proceeded to the Mission Hall, where they became somewhat boisterous and Marshal Bohnke was sent for. The boys were arrested as soon as they stepped from the hall and from there to the jail the Marshal had his hands full. The boys both plead guilty this morning, the mayor fining each a dollar and costs. Haley paid his fine and was discharged while Grim stayed the docket and was also discharged from custody. Marshal Bohnke seems to be performing his duties right up to the handle and will tolerate no monkey business.

Joe Eley, another well known character, was picked up Sunday night by Marshal Bohnke near the Central school building. Eley being so drunk that he had some trouble getting along without the assistance of the fence. He was lodged in jail, but before submitting to arrest put up a great fight and some trouble was experienced in putting him in jail. Marshal Bohnke was forced to use his club with some force before Joe submitted. He was put on trial this morning before Mayor Coffee, and stated that he was not drunk but sick, the mayor asked him if it was not the same old complaint, and Eley said he guessed it was. This being his fiftieth appearance before the mayor within the past few months, he was given a dose of five dollars and costs, being unable to pay or to get any one to stay the docket Joe will board it out with Sheriff Meyer.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Schlegel, of Decatur, arrived Saturday to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Baxter a few days ago.—Bluffton News.