

AND TELLS WHY HAS FALLEN OFF ALL DOUBT REMOVED

Claims It Would Benefit All the Farms in That Locality

E. Woods, of this city, who owns a farm in Root township, filed a petition Monday in which he asks that the creek which crosses his farm be located and cleaned so that the water will be carried from his farm. Mr. Woods asserts that the ditch refuses to do its work and when a heavy rain comes the water overflows over his land. This surplus amount of water as complained of, is drained from adjoining farms and has no outlet, hence the inconvenience is caused. The creek in question also crosses the Kukiehan and Knapp farms and is inadequate in size to drain the land through which it runs. Should the ditch be located as purported in the petition, it would be possible for farmers living along its course to have sub-ditches. The course being taken by Mr. Woods seems to be a plausible manner in which not only he, but others who have farms in that vicinity can be relieved from the unpleasant condition of their land in consequence of lack of drainage. The petition will be circulated among the people concerned and it will certainly be signed by all through whose farms the creek intersects.

HELD NEXT MONTH

At Cincinnati—Entry Fee Has Been Sent—Boys Who are Eligible

It is now a settled fact that Decatur will be represented at the National Bowling tournament to be held next month at Cincinnati, O., this matter being finally determined at a meeting held by the bowlers Saturday evening at the Klondike alleys. The boys have been figuring on this trip for several days and have been trying to gather in the best bowlers and Saturday evening in response to a call ten men appeared, namely Guy Dorwin, Will Berling, Frank Wemhoff, Oscar Lankenau John and Tom Peterson, Dyke Frisinger, Fred Vaughn, Cottle Shafer and Will Poole, and signified their intention of being favorable to the proposition. The entry blank, together with the names and amount of fee taxed were made out and sent in and five of the men at least will contest. It was determined to use the five best bowlers out of this list and take two substitutes along, and who the team will be will definitely made public when the boys are ready to leave for the scene of action. However Frisinger and Shafer will enter the two men team contest and Frisinger will enter in the individual contest. The above named boys are all strong bowlers and any five selected will make good and will no doubt return with their share of the prize money.

A SHOCKING EVENT

Husband Found Her Lifeless Body the Next Morning—Lady Known Here

Mrs. George W. Cline, aged about 68, wife of a prominent farmer living at the south edge of Markle, was found dead Monday in the barn at her home by her husband. She had been out all night, but her husband supposed she had gone to the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Rarick, in east edge of Markle, and he was horrified when he found her cold in death. The last Mr. Cline saw his wife alive was between five and six o'clock Sunday evening. At that hour she went to the barn to milk and Mr. Cline went to the home of a Mr. Stockman, who is sick and with whom he had set up all the previous night. Returning and finding his wife gone he supposed she had gone to her daughter's, as was often her custom, and he went to services at the United Brethren church, where revival meetings were in progress. Returning he went to bed and slept soundly all night, not dreaming but that his wife was safe at her daughter's. When he found her she was lying in the manger, with her head partly under the cow's body and blood oozing from her nostrils. Dr. Morgan, of Huntington, county coroner, was called and pronounced death due to apoplexy, and the blood due to bursting of blood vessel. The piston rod at the power house broke this morning and as a result the cars on the interurban were delayed one hour. The first car leaving at eight o'clock instead of seven.

Government Reports Show Decrease in Indiana's Crude Production

Washington, January 27.—The temperance forces are making headway with their legislative program before congress. The measure they are most deeply interested in, that providing that states shall have authority to control interstate shipments of liquor to their borders, is before a sub-committee on interstate and foreign commerce, of which Representative Littlefield, of Maine, is chairman. The sub-committee is ready to report the bill favorably any time the temperance workers want it brought out. No hearings have been held, and the temperance workers are not asking for any. The opponents of the legislation have asked for hearings. Possibly they will be granted.

Washington, January 27.—According to a government bulletin, the oil industry has fallen off perceptibly in Indiana in the last year or two. During the year 1907 Indiana produced 7,673,477 barrels of petroleum. This is a falling off from the quantity produced in 1906 of 8,290,770 barrels. This is a rapid reduction in the quantity of oil produced, especially as nearly 1,200 new wells were drilled during the year, which added a daily production of nearly 15,000 barrels. A large number of wells were abandoned in 1906, probably due to the encroachment of salt water. The new developments during the year were principally in Delaware, Grant and Jay counties.

ALLISON CO. INCORPORATES.

Will Conduct Timber Mills in Missouri.

The R. K. Allison Real Estate company is the title of a new firm to whom incorporation papers were issued Saturday at Indianapolis. This is the company that R. K. Allison, of this city is interested in and who in fact owns the controlling interest and the company will operate solely in Missouri, where Mr. Allison recently purchased fifty-five hundred acres of timber land. It is the intention of this company to put up several new mills in and about Cardwell, Mo., and will clear the land as fast as possible. It is the opinion of those who know the lay of the land and all particulars surrounding that Mr. Allison has made a great move and they are predicting that the new company will succeed beyond their expectations.

THE CAT CONTEST IS OVER.

Mrs. Ed Whitright is Successful in Winning the Prize.

A few days ago a cat puzzle was inserted in the ad for the "Little Detective" show company and a prize of two tickets to the show was offered for the first correct answer to same. Mrs. Ed Whitright was the first to send the correct answer, hence she is the winner of the prize. However several other correct solutions have been received, the answer being fourteen cats. Among the many answers received by Mr. Bosse was one from a gentleman who lives north of the city, which said two good cats could kill one hundred rats in one day.

EASTER COMES ON APRIL 19TH.

Feast Days as Shown by This Year's Almanac.

According to the almanac for 1908, Easter Sunday will come April 19, Lent will begin March 4. Easter Sunday will come this year at a more normal time than in 1907, when March 31 was the date. Of course, all the church holidays dependent upon the date of Easter Sunday will come on normal dates. Last year Lent began February 13; this year it will begin March 4.

This is a list of the feast days for this year: Septuagesima Sunday, May 23; Quinquagesima Sunday, March 1; Shrove Tuesday, March 3; Ash Wednesday, March 4; Quadragesima Sunday, March 8; Palm Sunday, April 12; Good Friday, April 17; Easter Sunday, April 19. Low Sunday, April 26; Rogation Sunday, May 24; Ascension day, May 28; Whit Sunday, June 7; Trinity Sunday, June 14; Corpus Christi, June 18; Advent Sunday, November 29; Christmas day, December 25; Ember days for 1908, March 11, 13, and 14; June 10, 12 and 13; September 16, 18 and 19; December 16, 18 and 19.

Mr. Adair Says That Bryan is Undoubtedly a Candidate

Washington, Jan. 27.—Congressman John A. M. Adair, of Indiana, had a conference at the Metropolitan hotel here with William J. Bryan. Mr. Adair said after it was over there is not the slightest doubt that Mr. Bryan intends to be the Democratic candidate for president. The advice of certain alleged friends in the east urging him not to run will not have the slightest effect on Mr. Bryan. Mr. Adair says "Mr. Bryan is highly enthused over the reports he is receiving from all over the country," said Mr. Adair. "He told me that Democratic prospects are growing brighter every day, and that the party with reasonable certainty can expect to win next fall. I never saw him in a more optimistic frame of mind."

Mr. Adair informed what had been told Bryan by Representative Dixon about the Indiana Democracy being practically a unit for him. Perry Belmont, who was conspicuous in the management of Judge Parker's campaign, called on Mr. Bryan shortly before Adair saw him. Belmont represents the eastern crowd that is trying to force Bryan out of the running by raising the question of his availability.

WAS KNOWN HERE

Had Worked for the Company for Five Years—Accident at Fort Wayne

George F. Condon, aged twenty-six years, and but recently promoted to the position of freight conductor on the G. R. & I., was instantly crushed to death at 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning beneath the wheels of a G. R. & I. freight train at the junction of that road with the L. E. & W., just west of the city. The unfortunate man was running backwards when his foot caught in a frog and he fell to the rails, two cars passing over the prostrate body before the engineer could bring the train to a stop in answer to the frantic signals of the victim's fellow trainmen, who witnessed the accident.

Although Condon had been promoted to a conductor's berth he was doing brakeman's duty at the time of the accident. The train had broken in two at the crossing and Condon in attempting to make the coupling, was running backward presumably tugging at the coupling lever when his foot caught in the frog, throwing him violently to the rails, directly in the path of the wheels. In the twinkling of an eye the cars were upon him and two of them passed entirely over the man before the train was brought to a standstill. His body was horribly mangled the head being severed from the trunk. One leg and one arm were also ground off and the body badly mutilated. He leaves a wife and his parents. He had worked for the G. R. & I. five years.—Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. Mr. Condon was well known in Decatur.

WILL USE OLD BALLOT SYSTEM

Delaware County Will Not Use Their Machines at Primary.

Muncie, Ind., January 25.—Notwithstanding that Delaware county, at great expense, has bought voting machines for use in general elections here, and also intended to permit political partis to use these machines at party elections, there is little doubt that the county republican central committee will decide to employ the old ballot system at the republican primaries on February 21. Such action will be taken over the protest of certain candidates, however, although approved by others. The nominal reason for this action by the county central committee is that the election will be cheaper under the ballot method than when the machines are used. It is notably true that in the general elections the voting machines have proved much cheaper than the cumbersome Australian method, because they do away with a number of election officers, and a good many protesting republicans are unable to see why the machines should not be cheaper in a primary election as well. It is certain, they say, that the machines are absolutely honest, and there has been much trickery in the past when the ballot system has been relied upon.

NOTICES SENT OUT A SURPRISE PARTY IN WELLS COUNTY

Medical Terms Must be Given in Plain English

The state board of health is preparing to send to the physicians of the state notices to the effect that they must be more explicit in reporting causes of death. The board has been troubled much with indefinite death returns, which have led to controversies, especially over applications for widow's pensions or the payment of insurance. Oftentimes deaths have been reported as being due to a "bad cold." The state board wishes to know whether or not death was due to bronchitis, pneumonia or pulmonary tuberculosis. The board will insist, also, on knowing what kind of "bilious fever" the patient died of, and when death is reported as being due to "blood poisoning" the board must know what kind of blood poisoning killed the patient. If there has been death by "cancer" the board will insist on knowing what organs were affected. When physicians report deaths by "complications," the board wants to know just what diseases were included in the "complications." "Heart failure" the instructions say, should never be accepted as the sole cause of death. "What disease caused the heart failure," says the circular to the physicians. "The heart always fails before death from any cause. Be particularly careful that deaths from diphtheria, tuberculosis, etc., are so reported. If organic heart disease is meant, it should be so stated. Regarding the term "inanition" as returned by some physicians as a cause of death, the bulletin says: "This is a particularly pernicious term and is responsible for a multitude of worthless certificates. It sounds as if it meant something definite, but in the majority of cases it does not. What disease caused the inanition? Was it tuberculosis or cholera infantum? If unable to take food state cause."

AT LIBRARY HALL

"An Evening With Tennyson"—An Opportunity to Hear Miss Miller

A rare treat is in store for all who are planning to attend the "Evening with Tennyson" at Library hall Thursday evening. The event is under the auspices of the Euterpean club, and one of the participants, Miss Grace Miller, is a Decatur lady and a vocal musician of rare talent. The exchanges speak of both her and Miss Elliott in glowing terms: Brazil, Ind., Times: Miss Miller is a vocalist of the highest order. She possesses a rich contralto voice of surprising strength, volume and range, and she has it under perfect control. Her selections last night were most judiciously chosen and the sound of her voice will linger in the memory of her audience for many months. Chicago, Feb. Events: A charming little reader, Miss Etta Elliott, has come before the Chicago public lately and charmed many of her audiences with the delightful readings and dialect stories. Miss Elliott is well known throughout the northwest, where she has been received with open arms. One paper says of her: "We know of no one who has greater command of the humorous, pathetic or the laughter next to tears." Another says: "Miss Elliott is a reader who has succeeded because she has added to her natural gifts all that results from adherence to exalted ideals, sincere purpose, and a determination to achieve." Miss Elliott has taken up her residence in Chicago and intends doing club work principally.

WILL HAVE ARM RE-SET.

Karl Ernst Undergoes Painful Operation.

Karl Ernst, who last New Year's had the misfortune to have his arm broken while working in the Pennsylvania yards at Fort Wayne, went to that place Monday, where the arm will be broken and re-set. Since the accident Mr. Ernst has suffered much pain from the fracture and the arm is somewhat crooked on account of the bone knitting together while out of its position, hence the operation is necessary to straighten same. Charles Ernst accompanied him to the hospital.

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Herman Reece, of Ossian, was a business caller to our city last evening.

Given for Uncle Joe Brandyberry—Missionary Society to Meet

The Indiana delegation in congress is very considerably scattered this winter in Washington. Mrs. J. A. M. Adair, wife of the new Representative from Portland, Ind., received for the first time this season in the new hotel near the capitol, called Congress Hall, where they have an apartment. Mrs. John C. Chaney, of Sullivan; Mrs. Elias S. Holliday, of Brazil; Mrs. C. C. Gilhams, of Lagrange, and Mrs. William H. Cox, of Jasper, the last two being new in the circle this year, are all at the Varnum. They received a large number of callers on Tuesday, which was also their first day at home for this year. Representative and Mrs. Overstreet are again at the Portland; Representative and Mrs. Brick are at the New Willard; Representative and Mrs. Crumpacker at the Dewey; Representative and Mrs. J. H. Foster, of Evansville, at 1505 L street; Representative Watson, of Rushville, is at the Portland, where he has been for many years; Representative Charles B. Landis, of Delphi, in anticipation of his wife's absence this winter, has a bachelor apartment in the Cecil, and Representative George W. Rausch, of Marion, is at Congress Hall.—Washington Society News.

Fourteen girls and boys of the two infant classes of the Christian church met at the home of Miss Ruby Artman on Tenth street, where she delightfully entertained them. Among the amusements of the afternoon was music, "Little Jack Horner Pie" and a peanut contest with other games which amuses children. A dainty three course luncheon was served the little guests who were: Lucile Buhler, Vivian Burke, Mary Bark, Irene Eady, Vera Eady, Harry Barnett, Reba Ramey, Bertha Schultz, Elyas Lichlinsteger, Blenysse Mangold.

When in the course of human events it became necessary to surprise "Uncle Joe." And what a complete surprise it was, when the many friends and relatives of J. R. Brandyberry gathered at an early hour Sunday at his home and proceeded to shake hands with him and extend their hearty congratulations in honor of his thirty-seventh birthday anniversary. After which the tables were extended to their various lengths and filled to their utmost capacity with the dainties which were brought by the many friends and all proceeded to do justice to the dinner, which was so elegant. Those who were present were: Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brandyberry, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Brandyberry, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buckmaster, Lizzie Buckmaster, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Trim, Mrs. John Trim Sr., Mrs. John Hill, Mrs. Wm. Roe, Frank Faurot, Misses Alice and Tita Brandyberry, Mayme Gass, Mr. Joseph Samuel, Henry Simeon, Misses Margaret Faurot, Anna Faurot, Rosa Faurot, Messrs. Warren Forrest, Mirald Buckmaster, Misses Leota and Lucile Trim, Mr. Glenn Hill, Miss Lillie Trim, Mr. Chas. and Esther Pennington Jr., all of whom enjoyed the good music which was rendered in the afternoon and after a jolly good time they departed for their different homes, wishing J. R. Brandyberry many more such occasions.

EIGHT HOUR LAW

It Causes a Change in Present System of Operators

Provisions of the eight-hour law in railway telegraph service March 1 will effect a number of important changes in train operation on the Chicago & Erie divisions of the Erie. A number of the smaller stations will be abandoned and the operators transferred to points where the service requires three telegraphers. According to interpretations of the law, where operators are in charge of receiving and sending messages governing the operation of trains, they shall not remain in continuous service longer than eight hours. Where the offices are open the full twenty-four hours, three operators will be assigned tricks at such stations. Stations of this class will be at all points where interlocking plants are operated, all railroad crossings and the larger terminal points. At lesser block stations, where sidings are maintained, two operators will work tricks of nine hours each. But few additional telegraphers will be required by the adoption of the new rulings by a changing about of the men after the close of a number of the smaller stations. Just what stations will be annulled has not yet been announced.

Will Install a New Telephone System—Offers Cheaper Rates

C. S. Brinneman, ex-county auditor of Wells county, has asked for a franchise to install a new telephone system in that county. A year or two ago the independent company sold their interests to the United company, since which time they have been paying rather high rates and have had mighty poor service, so they claim. Mr. Brinneman appeared before the Bluffton council Friday night and the Banner says:

He said that the citizens of Bluffton were paying more for their telephones than many surrounding towns and received poorer service; that while the company was only paying a legitimate dividend on the stock that it had been watered so heavily, that on the real value it paid a large per cent; that the company would not co-operate with the numerous county lines and that patrons of the local company had to pay toll to talk, often but a few miles into the country. He said that by the terms of the franchise that they hold, the local company could charge as much as \$2 per month rent for residences and that the prospects were that the maximum would be charged in the near future. He alleged that the service was poor, the toll rates high and in general that the company gave poor service, charged too much for it, and that without competition was likely to do worse.

Mr. Brinneman started by saying that he was in earnest and represented men of means that could and would do what they agreed. These men believed they would have a paying investment in a company that would guarantee to install 'phones in private residences for a maximum rate of dollar and a dollar and a half for business houses. Furthermore, that his company would guarantee that their patrons could talk to any part of Wells county without toll which at the present time is ten cents a call. Mr. Brinneman said here were companies operating rural lines in the county that had tried to make arrangements with the United company for free service over their lines but that the company refused to have anything to do with them.

Mr. Brinneman stated that rural companies operating near here had lines in operation a year, furnishing 'phones at a dollar, with but one subscriber to the mile, and that they were able to pay six per cent on the investment and his company could do the same.

When his company asks for the franchise they will offer to furnish all telephones for use in the city buildings free of charge and keep their books open for the inspection of the council and citizens.

At the conclusion of Mr. Brinneman's talk the council decided to investigate the proposition, the entire body being on the committee, assisted by City Attorney Stine. The franchise is expected to be presented within the next two weeks.

OPENED BURNED WOOD PARLOR

Mrs. C. Vogt-Will Sell Burned Wood and Chinaware.

Mrs. Chris Vogt has started a burned wood parlor in her home in which she will have a large assortment of beautiful plaques and all kinds of designs for sale. This parlor is open to the public and it will pay any one who contemplates buying anything of this sort to call on her. Mrs. Vogt is artistic in her work and has many valuable pieces of burned wood. Her sister, who is a graduate from the state college of Oklahoma, and who has studied under a foreign artist in art painting, has sent her an assortment of beautifully painted chinaware which will also be sold at her home. This work will be sold very reasonable.

MRS. HELLER BROKE HER FOOT

Peculiar Injury Received While Dancing Virginia Reel.

Mrs. John H. Heller is suffering from a painful injury received in a peculiar manner last Friday evening. With a crowd of relatives, she attended a masquerade party at Bellview farm. They were dancing the Virginia reel when Mrs. Heller turned quickly, fracturing a bone in her left foot and tearing the ligaments loose. Though the injury is not considered serious, she will be confined to her home for some time.

Another meeting of the new law school was held last night in C. L. Walters' law office and it was most interesting. Mr. Walters has a goodly number of students to begin with and it is safe to say that he will have a large class soon.