

THE DEMOCRAT

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JIM McDONALD

DECLARES FOR TEMPERANCE

Mr. Lew Ellingham, editor of the Decatur Democrat, and one of the delegates to the state convention that nominated the late democratic state ticket and endorsed the platform upon which the fight was waged, is advising against a repeal of the Hanly local option law and the enactment of the local option legislation promised by the democratic convention. Ellingham says the law should be given a trial. He should have been honest with his people last September and October, and told them to vote the republican ticket, to defeat Steve Fleming for senator and to support the republican candidate for representative in Adams county. Everybody knows that the Hanly local option law was a snap judgment, not only upon the people, but upon Mr. Hanly's own party. It is certainly not what the democratic state convention promised to the people, and if the democratic legislature does not repeal it, put a good democratic home-rule local option law in its place or make an honest effort to do so, the party should be driven from power in 1910 by an overwhelming vote. The party did not go into the campaign under false pretenses. Mr. Hanly's special session did not change our promises, nor did it remove our responsibility or our obligation to carry out the democratic policy.—Ligonier Banner.

Party pledges should be held inviolate, and we hope Bro. McDonald is as deeply concerned in every party platform as he happens to be in this one. The only argument advanced is that a law following the Democratic state platform would be a more honest temperance law than the present county unit law. We believe that to be true, but after all, both are in favor of temperance, the only difference is in the controlling unit. We do not believe that had a county option law been in full force and effect at the time the Democratic state platform was built, that a plank would have been adopted by that convention which would have substituted the township and ward unit for the county. The Democratic organization, speakers, press and voters accepted the issue as settled and we will wager the ice water that after the adjournment of that special session the Ligonier Banner contained no editorial argument setting forth the superiority of the township and ward unit over the county unit. The people generally condemn Governor Hanly for the rank usurpation of his power in calling that special session, and the Democrat then and now terms as party traitors the six Democrats that refused and failed to follow their party caucus. Had that law failed in passage then the result of the election would have made clear the preference of the people.

Who is asking for the repeal of county option? So far as the knowledge of the Democrat goes, there is not a Democrat in Adams county asking for repeal. And in speaking of Adams county Democrats they are a pretty good sort to be to. Their party record is straight, and their counsel is conservative and wise. The Democrat believes that the same sentiment prevailing in Adams county prevails and predominates in Indiana. We say this too, with the knowledge that Noble county is on the map and that Ligonier forms an important part thereof, to say nothing of Jim McDonald. It looks to a man up a tree, as bad politics for a political party to relieve another political party of such a load of odium as the Ligonier Banner places upon county option. On the other hand, if we must have an option law, why not "let well enough

alone" and let 'er go at county option.

Why not, Jim?

Up to date no lawmaker has suggested a new dog law. They are a slow lot of statesmen.

The Post is inclined to think that the democrats in Lake county are a mighty slow bunch if they permitted the republicans in that county to naturalize and vote two or three thousand foreigners who were not entitled to vote.—Columbia City Post.

The Republican organization at Bluffton by mistake all endorsed a Democrat for postmaster at Petroleum, and after they discovered their mistake they spent eleven dollars in telegrams to Washington trying to undo the great wrong done to the G. O. P. Think what a national disaster should that Democrat be appointed to this important post.

"Just my luck," said the pessimist when informed that tomorrow would be one of the shortest days of the year. "Sunday, my day of rest, and to have it cut short in that way is an outrage." Poor fellow, he should remember that the nights are proportionately long and that he will have more time to sleep.—Muncie Press.

Steel trust now admits it can make steel and make money without the present protective schedules. But it can make steel so much cheaper than its smaller competitors that to remove the tariff or even to modify it too much would spell ruin for its adversaries in business. The solicitude of the steel trust for its little competitors is touching to a degree that is equaled only by its steadfast purpose to sell its products to the poor foreigner cheaper than to it money-bloated American customers. Verily, the steel trust is an embodied philanthropy.—Fort Wayne Sentinel.

Congressman Adair is already getting busy. He has introduced a widow's pension bill, which applies to all widows prior to 1890. The eighth district congressman has also made one speech, the first of the session by an Indiana congressman. In that speech bucket shops and stock gambling were flayed to a sweet, fare-you-well. Congressman Adair already gives evidence of outshining his splendid record of two years ago.

Mr. Thurman Gottschalk, Adams county's member of the Indiana general assembly, attended the conference of Democrats at Indianapolis. Mr. Gottschalk measures up to the legislative standard nicely, and if we mistake not he will be one of the leading members of the majority. He is in thorough accord with the program of efficiency and economy in state government and will support such measures as will bring this happy condition into full force and effect.

The Cotton divorce case which is being aired in the Wells circuit court, is drawing better crowds than would Ringlings circus. The evidence is calculated to satisfy all those who have an ear for gossip of the savory sort, and this case is a good producer. The wife charges the husband with getting too gay with the fair sex, and the husband is proving his case on the safe kind of testimony. Bluffton newspapers are spreading this sort of stuff over pages of their newspapers and never even bat an eye over the prospects of catching the yellow fever. A murder or suicide would not be in it with the Cotton divorce case now operating in the Wells circuit court.

Another holiday season is drawing to a close. Within a day or two the buying season will have passed into history and the up to the minute merchant will begin to figure out how he came out for the year 1908. Although the year started with a panic there are few business men in Decatur who have not prospered. There was a general step forward in every way. There was more building than usual, and the general business has been excellent, considering everything, all of which goes to show that Decatur is the best town on the map. The holiday trade has exceeded last year with two more days ahead, and the business done this season has been

equaled but few times in our history. There seems no good reason why we should not go forward with even greater strides in 1909.

Fred Rohrer, editor of the Berne (Ind.) Witness, probably the best informed person in the state regarding temperance campaigns, shares in the opinion that the law (county local option) will not be repealed. He says that he has talked, personally, with a number of the legislators concerning the matter and has been led to believe that every effort of the brewery interests will be easily baffled at the coming session of the legislature.—Telegraphic Dispatch.

This from Fred Rohrer. One is tempted to lose confidence, if not respect, for the editorial column of the Berne Witness. One who reads it during the heat of a campaign, especially the last one, will not find even a suggestion that the county local option law would not be repealed. In fact, the Witness would not admit that any one but a brewer or a sympathizer with a brewer, could support the Democratic ticket. Now in less than two months after election this same editor is making the prophecy that the Democrats will not do what he then said they would do. The editor of the Berne Witness will soon be eligible for membership in the Ananias club.

Governor Hughes, of New York, has appointed a commission of well known men who are distinguished in their several pursuits to investigate Wall street and its stock gambling. The commission is expected to make a report on conditions and any measures that may be taken to reduce both the volume and flagrant character of the gambling. It is not intended that the exchanges shall be reduced to mere cash transactions, but that remedies may be provided against a lot of speculation that is controlled by factors of such large magnitude that the little fellows who go into the game have no chance whatever, on the ground that prices so often fall or rise, not by reason of inherent and natural conditions but through what is termed "manipulation." The man who gambles in the stock market is foolish and usually pays for his folly. Why not, then, let him alone to suck his burned fingers in retirement? The same principle would apply to the lottery business, which has been driven out of the country, or to the bucket-shop trade, which is having a hard time to keep alive under the drastic statutes of various states. The country needs the marts of finance and they have been of great value in developing the country, but it is true that they have been damaging instruments in robbing the unwary.—Fort Wayne Sentinel.

The Democrats are at last going to have a club house in Indianapolis that will measure up to the necessities and dignity of the party. The Indiana Democratic club, which is both a local and state institution, is preparing to build a capacious home which will cost anywhere between \$80,000 and \$150,000.

No one is prepared to say at this time just what bills of special importance will be introduced during the coming session of the legislature. There are several matters that will receive particular attention, but there is a very general hope that no time will be wasted on inconsequential things. Sixty days every two years is not a long time for the consideration of the welfare of three millions of people, but ordinarily it is quite long enough provided the members of the legislature confine their labors to the proposals that are really essential. This, it is believed, will be done at the com-

ing session in a much larger degree than in former years.

The legislature will meet and organize on Thursday, Jan. 7, at which time retiring Governor Hanly will submit his final pronouncement. There is some curiosity as to what Mr. Hanly will say. He entered office with an attack upon the administration of his predecessor, Governor Durbin, and it is not improbable that on disappearing into the capacious political grave which has been dug for him by his party associates he will leave behind an official last will and testament that will cause those same associates to sit up and take notice. Just what form the devices and bequests will take no one is likely to know until the will is read before the expectant mourners and interested spectators.

The talk about Thomas R. Marshall for president in 1912 does not seem to be making any impression upon him. Certain it is that he is paying practically no attention to it. He has other matters to think about at the present time, which are interesting him far more than is the probable candidate of the democratic party four years hence. He is now interested in giving the people of Indiana a good administration and state matters are therefore receiving his particular attention at the present time. He has not discussed the presidential situation at all and is not likely to have anything to say about his attitude for some time to come.—Columbia City Post.

MERCHANTS GIVE

J. S. Lower Secures Signatures of Business men for Institute Prizes

WILL BE BIG EVENT

Various Business Men Will Give Prizes on Yellow and White Corn

J. S. Lower, by his untiring efforts, has secured a new feature for the farmers' institute to be held at the county court house January 27 and 28 which will not only be highly appreciated by the farmers, but will cause the corn display to be better than ever before. For two days he has worked diligently in soliciting premiums from the merchants who display the best corn and his efforts have been crowned with success, as the following list will indicate: Niblick & Co., \$3 umbrella; F. B. Tague, \$1 slippers; Holthouse, Schulte & Co., \$5 hat; True & Runyon, sugar \$1; Smith, Yager & Falk \$1 lantern; Holthouse Drug Co., \$1 in trade; Decatur Lumber Co., \$1 nails; D. M. Hensley, \$2 silver cup; Page Blackburn, \$1 lantern; Laman & Lee, \$1.25 halter; Decatur Hardware Co., \$1 hammer; Anderson & Baker, \$1 candy; J. H. Vogelewe and Son, \$2 shoes; Kuebler & Moltz, \$2 blankets; A. Van Camp, small sack flour; Schafer Hardware Co., \$1 in trade; U. E. Cramer, \$1.25 horse shoes; Everett & Hite, \$1 sugar; Harvey Sprague, ten shaves; F. V. Mills, 50c coffee; M. Burns & Son, 50c whip; Winnes Shoe store, 85c rubbers; Adams County bank, \$2; National bank, \$2; Milt Leavell, \$1.50 horse shoes; Gay & Zwick, \$1.50 high chair; Elzey & Vance, \$2 sweater; Teeple, Brandyberry & Peterson, hat and shirt, \$3; J. D. Hale, one sack oyster shells; Daily Democrat, one year's subscription, \$2.50; and H. H. Bremerkamp, flour, 65c. The business men have responded nobly to the call in offering prizes on the corn of the farmers and they are entitled to credit for the progressive spirit manifest. The above prizes will be divided into three classes for both yellow and white corn and the totals are as follows: First white, \$10.08; second, \$7.35, and third, \$3.00; first yellow, \$12.23; second, \$8.00 and third \$3.50. Besides these the institute will give prizes.

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New W. B. Reduso No. 770. For large tall women. Made of white coutil. Hose supporters front and sides. Sizes 20 to 36. Price \$3.00.

New W. B. Reduso No. 771. Is the same as No. 770, but is made of light weight white batiste. Hose supporters front and sides. Sizes 20 to 36. Price \$3.00.

New W. B. Reduso No. 772. For large short women. The same as No. 770, except that the bust is somewhat lower all around. Made of white coutil, hose supporters front and sides. Sizes 20 to 36. Price \$3.00.

New W. B. Reduso No. 773. Is the same as No. 772, but made of light weight white batiste. Hose supporters front and sides. Sizes 20 to 36. Price \$3.00.

Ask any dealer anywhere to show you the new W. B. "hip-subduing" models, which will produce the correct figure for prevailing modes, or any of our numerous styles which are made in such a variety as to guarantee perfect fit for every type of figure.

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FIGHT SHOPLIFTING CHARGE.

Young Men Arrested at Lebanon Say They Are Northwestern Students.

Lebanon, Ind., Dec. 22.—Protesting their innocence, Ben Akerman and Harold Chase, arrested on a charge of shoplifting, employed this afternoon the law firm of Terhune & Adney to defend them. They say they have been students at Northwestern university, at Evanston, and exhibited to their attorneys and Sheriff Roberts receipts for tuition in that institution. They have been studying law there, they say, and are spending the holidays canvassing in order to make enough money to help pay their expenses at the spring term of the university.

Jake Stults, who has been working for Davis & Co., at Fayetteville, Tenn., has arrived home after an absence of several months.

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Charles Adlesperger, of El Reno, Okla., arrived this morning for a short visit with friends, after which he will go to Cleveland for a few days on business, and will then return to his western home, where he is engaged in the newspaper business being one of the firm in charge of the El Reno Daily American, a bright and live western paper. He says his town is on the boom and will soon double itself in population, having secured one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the country, which will locate there and will employ over 2,000 men.



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