

THE DAILY DEMOCRAT.

EVERY EVENING, EXCEPT SUNDAY, BY
LEW G. ELLINGHAM.

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J. H. HELLER, MANAGER.

AN EYE WITNESS.

Writes His Parents of the Awful Chicago Fire.

By request we publish the following letter from an Adams county boy to his parents:

Hegerwisch, Ill., Jan 3, '04.
Dear Parents. This is Sunday afternoon, I will endeavor to write you a few lines. We had quite a snow storm here yesterday lasting all day. This cold weather and snow is staying with us here pretty well. There were over two hundred funerals yesterday in the city, and such a blinding snow storm, you can imagine how terrible it was to burry the dead. Today is a very nice day and I expect there will be more buried today than yesterday. I suppose you have read or heard of this awful disaster here, which happened last Wednesday afternoon when nearly 600 people lost their lives in the Iroquois theatre fire. I can not explain in this letter the awful catastrophe that I saw on New Years Day with my own eyes. This was the saddest New Years Day of my life. Although I was not personally acquainted with anyone who lost their life in the theatre fire, yet I felt like sympathizing with the living who had lost their loved ones in the fire. On New Years Day morning accompanied by Dave Armstrong I started downtown, expecting to view the theatre death trap as some called it, and some of the dead in the morgues. We went to the City Hall into the

Supt., of the Police office and got a permit to see the dead in the morgues. After getting our permit we left the City Hall and the first place we came to was Jordan's morgue, 14 E. Adams. I told Dave before entering that I could not bear up under the strain of seeing such a horrible sight and he said he felt the same but we nervously up a little and entered. In the first room there were quite a number of dead who had been dressed and placed in their coffins and relatives and friends viewing their dead, across the aisle were two doctors who were operating upon a man, a victim of the fire and trying to save his life. We passed on out of this room down the aisle and entered the second. As I came to the door I stopped, I shuddered at the thought of seeing such a horrible sight of so many human beings; men, women and children, lying in rows and a narrow aisle between them, but I nervously up myself a little and passed down the aisle. This sight which I now see I can not explain in writing. But as we passed down the aisle there was a man ahead of us whose wife had gone to the matinee on that fatal afternoon. He told me his story and said he was about to give up hope of finding her. I told him to renew his courage and not to give up. He turned and started on to continue his search, suddenly he stopped at the form of a woman, her clothing was partly burned off her body, her face was burned so that he could not recognize her features, but he looked closer and closer. He began to examine her underwear and found her initials. He knew those initials but to make sure that she was his wife was the next thing to do. He knew that his wife's first name was worked in letters on her stockings, so he took off her shoes and the stockings. He had recognized the name. The tears began to flow down his cheeks when he suddenly exclaimed: "My God" that is Elizabeth my wife." We tried to comfort him. Quite a few other people noticed him too and gave assistance. He had one friend along with him who gave the men in charge orders to prepare her body for burial. So that is the way the routine of work has

been going on since the horrible fire. One wealthy man who lost his wife and three children, one boy and two girls, and a maid servant said that he had lost all he had and that there was nothing to live for any more. He says to his lawyer, take all my money and use it to punish those who are guilty for this offense. His name is Hull, and he was the first man to swear out a warrant for the owners of the Iroquois theatre and the building commissioner. Still the dead list increases quite a number who were injured and taken to the hospitals are dying of their wounds. It is said that the list of dead will reach 700. The number of people dead when taken from the fire was 582. There are any amount of people who are losing their minds here because of this horrible loss of life. Chicago was the saddest city upon the earth when the old year passed away and the New Year entered, not a noise of any kind could be heard, but instead you would see people going from morgue to morgue searching for their friends or relatives. Not only this city but several other cities in different states was weeping for the dead. There were people from nearly half of the states in the U. S. who were watching that play. The papers claimed three were 2100 people in the theatre on that afternoon. Today all the theatres in the city are closed 38 in all, it being so ordered by the Mayor. All of them it is claimed have violated the city ordinance in different ways, and they will remain closed until they comply with the law of the city. That picture which I saw on New Years Day will never vanish from my mind. We don't know what our fate will be for we are constantly in danger wherever we are. Well I will close for this time.

Your Son,
Homer Hendricks.

Farm For Sale.—135 acres in Jennings county, only \$35 per acre, limestone soil, 20 acres bottom, good house, orchard, large barn, living water, 20 acres timber, balance in cultivation, 20 acres growing wheat, on pike, 3 miles from Pa. railroad, 2 miles from Big 4. Call on or address, D. A. Hendrickson, Queensville, Ind.

Announcements.

JOINT STATE SENATOR.

We are authorized to announce the name of John W. Tyndall of Decatur, as a candidate for joint senator, subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of J. F. Snow as a candidate for Joint State Senator for the district composed of Adams and Jackson counties, subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held on Friday, January 15, 1904.

REPRESENTATIVE.

We are authorized to announce the name of S. W. Hale, of Geneva, as a candidate for Representative; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of Henry Dirksen of Preble township, as a candidate for Representative; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

PROSECUTOR.

We are authorized to announce the name of Dr. J. W. Vizard, of Pleasant Mills, as a candidate for representative; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of John C. Moran, of Decatur, as a candidate for re-election as Prosecuting Attorney for the twenty-sixth judicial circuit; subject to the decision of the Democratic Primary Election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of S. A. M. Butcher, of Geneva, as a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney for the twenty-sixth judicial circuit; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of John S. Faile of Washington township, as a candidate for Coroner of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

AUDITOR.

We are authorized to announce the name of John C. Moran, of Decatur, as a candidate for re-election as Auditor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of S. A. M. Butcher, of Geneva, as a candidate for Auditor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of John S. Faile of Washington township, as a candidate for Auditor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of Phil Sauer of Berne, as a candidate for Auditor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of T. H. Baitzell of Washington township, as a candidate for Auditor of Adams county; for one term only; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of D. D. Coffee, of Decatur, as a candidate for Auditor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of Albert Butler as a candidate for re-election as Sheriff of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of George E. McKeon, of Decatur, as a candidate for re-election as Surveyor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election, to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of L. L. Baumgartner or as a candidate for Surveyor of Adams county; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of W. V. Buckmaster, of Jefferson township, as a candidate for Surveyor of Adams county;

SHERIFF.

We are authorized to announce the name of Caleb B. Andrews as candidate for Trustee of Washington township; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of George E. McKeon, of Decatur, as a candidate for Trustee of Washington township; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

We are authorized to announce the name of L. L. Baumgartner as a candidate for Trustee of Washington township; subject to the decision of the Democratic primary election to be held Friday, January 15, 1904.

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