

INDIANA HAPPENINGS.

EVENTS AND INCIDENTS THAT HAVE LATELY OCCURRED.

An Interesting Summary of the More Important Doings of Our Neighbors—Weddings and Deaths—Crime, Casualties and General News Notes.

THE LEGISLATURE.

January 11.—The second day of the fifty-sixth general assembly passed off without special incident. Lieutenant Governor Robertson was again refused admission to the Senate chamber. The seat question came up before both houses. The members who were late in selecting their seats through the librarian attempted to adopt resolutions providing for reseating everybody. The plan proposed—to draw lots for choice seats—has been in vogue in the National House of Representatives for forty years, and is considered the most satisfactory way of seating the members. The proposal was defeated in both houses. At 2 o'clock both houses met in joint convention for the purpose of listening to the Governor's message.

January 14.—SENATE.—Senator Griffiths offered a resolution, comprising the names of members of the Senate standing committees for the present session, and as soon as the reading was concluded, moved the adoption of the resolution, and on that motion demanded the previous question. The demand was seconded by a strict party vote—yeas 27, nays 18. Senator Johnson submitted the protest of Republican Senators against the organization of the Senate by any other presiding officer than Lieutenant Governor Robert S. Robertson, which was ordered spread upon the records without reading, on motion of Senator Howard. HOUSE.—The Senate having arrived, the Speaker declared that the two houses had met in joint convention, pursuant to law, to canvass the votes cast for Governor and Lieutenant Governor at the last general election. This he proceeded to do, and, when the voting was completed, announced the following as the vote cast for Governor: For Alvin P. Hovey, 263,194; for C. C. Matson, 260,994; for Milroy, 2,702; for J. H. Hughes, 9,920. The Speaker then announced the vote for Lieutenant Governor as follows: For Ira J. Chase, 263,166; for W. R. Myers, 261,011; for Many, 2,737; for Baxter, 10,066.

January 15.—SENATE.—Lieutenant Governor Chase presided. A number of bills were introduced, among them being bills provided for registration of votes, and to prevent trusts. HOUSE.—Bills introduced: Putting the new insane hospitals under the control of a board of trustees, to be chosen by the Legislature; for the relief of the Supreme Court; relating to elections.

January 16.—HOUSE.—Rules were reported by the Democratic majority of the Committee on Rules, and adopted by a strict party vote, providing that after a previous question has been seconded no member shall have a right to explain his vote, and that after the yeas and nays have been ordered upon call of the House no motion or amendment shall be permitted. Bills introduced: Creating a board of control for Indianapolis; relating to elections; appropriating \$300 for a monument to Gov. Jennings. SENATE.—A resolution providing for the appointment of twenty additional doorkeepers provoked a lively discussion. It was adopted after being amended so as to provide that the appointees should be ex-Federal soldiers.

Miami County Farmers' Institute.

A permanent organization of the Miami County Farmers' Institute has been effected and is now in practical and active operation, and bids fair to become of inestimable value to those engaged in agricultural pursuits. The object of the meetings is the discussion of views relative to the various pursuits and of general interest. A constitution and by-laws were adopted at the organization, and officers elected, as follows: President, Joseph Cunningham; secretary, J. Pierce; treasurer, Louis Bond. Various committees were appointed. Prizes will be offered to farmers' sons with a view to a large and general attendance. The success of the movement is assured from the large number enrolled and the general interest being manifested throughout the county. The first regular meeting will be held in Peru on Feb. 2, and following one each month.

Minor State Items.

The disease known as "scab" is prevailing among the sheep north of Wabash. A fine flock owned by Mr. Samuel Specher was attacked. The wool on the hind quarters of the animals, in advanced stages of the disease, drops from the hides, and in a few months the sheep die. Active measures to prevent the further spread of the malady will be taken.

John Pontius, a well-to-do farmer of Geneva, Adams County, was fatally kicked on the head by a vicious horse.

Rev. George F. McGee, pastor of the Christian Church, at Madison, has accepted a call from Richmond, Va., and will vacate his present pulpit on Jan. 27.

William Heller, one of Elkhart's oldest citizens, fell dead in his yard from heart disease. He was one of that city's first business men, and was 78 years of age.

Isaac Kres, a railroad employee, 46 years old, was fatally crushed by an engine on the Pittsburgh road at Fort Wayne. His injuries are of such a nature that he cannot recover.

The sudden and mysterious death of John Dohm Donnell, of North Judson, three weeks ago, aroused suspicion, and the Coroner had the body disinterred and the stomach sent to Indianapolis for chemical examination. An analysis disclosed the fact that quantities of strichine had been administered to him, but by whom is unknown.

Dr. C. E. Rankin has been appointed health officer for Montgomery County.

A little daughter of Dr. Bidder, at Waynesburg, was playing near the fire, when her dress ignited, and before she could be rescued was fatally burned.

Glanders has made its appearance in Miami County, and considerable apprehension is felt. Five horses of good stock, the property of Abraham Miller, and which had been ill for some time, were shot to prevent the further spread. The disease was unmistakable, and was so pronounced by competent veterinary authority from Chicago. These cases are the only ones thus far reported. There is considerable sickness among horses, but purely of a distemper nature, with no fatal results.

—Fred Pfister, of Huntington, was accidentally shot in the shoulder by his brother, while hunting rabbits.

—Edward Treker, living near Columbus, is said to be suffering from a bite inflicted by a calf that had hydrophobia.

The citizens of New Richmond, in Montgomery County, have organized a company and will bore for natural gas.

The following gentlemen have been appointed by Gov. Hovey as members of his military staff: Adjutant General, Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis; Surgeon General, Dr. R. B. Jessup, Vincennes; Inspector General, John H. Jack, Lafayette; Commissary General, Jas. S. Wright, Rockport; Aids, W. H. Ridenour, Terry Haute; Frank Swigert, Logansport; Gil R. Stornmont, Princeton; W. A. Oliphant, Union, Pike County; William C. Lamb, Indianapolis; Perry S. Heath, Muncie; George Hinrich, Mt. Vernon; R. C. Wilkinson, Evansville. Capt. O. C. Perry, of Posey County, was appointed as the Governor's executive clerk.

—Patents have been granted Indiana inventors as follows: John W. Anderson, South Bend, sprinkling nozzle; John C. Berger, Michigan City, refrigerator; William H. Cloud, assignor of one-half to W. Stryer, Kokomo, pump; Philander M. Curtis, Lebanon, siding, gauge and square; Anders Hagnquist, South Bend, plow; Micajah C. Henley, Richmond, fence machine; Jacob Marsh, Warsaw, door check; John J. McElain, assignor of one-half to F. A. Baker, South Bend, split pulley; William T. Morgan, Muncie, sash fastener; John Q. A. Newsom, Seymour, steam plow; David M. Parry, Indianapolis, shaft coupling for vehicles; John A. Whitmer, Waukesha, vehicle spring.

—William Dowell, living at Andrews, who had boasted that he could not be scared by the White Cap movement, was visited by seventy masked men. They put a rope around his neck, threw the other end over a telegraph pole, and hoisted him. He was shortly afterwards lowered, when he slipped the noose and escaped, but was soon recaptured. His cries brought citizens to his rescue, and the White Caps fled.

Under the leadership of Mr. Jesse Zern, Peru capitalists will build another natural-gas pipe-line to that city.

—The Wooden Butter-dish factory at Seymour is said to be the largest one of the kind in the world. It turns out 250,000 dishes a day.

—Father McCabe, of Baltimore, has been appointed by Bishop Chatard, of the Catholic Diocese of Indiana, as assistant to Father John Kelly, priest of Holy Trinity Parish of New Albany.

—The towns and villages in the southern part of the State have adopted a novel plan of ridding themselves of worthless dogs. They are loaded into empty box cars destined for some western point, and then left to shift for themselves. The frantic yelps of nine half-starved dogs led a crowd of boys to open a car at Jeffersonville, a few days ago, and the canines lost no time in seeking larger quarters.

—The old prison burying-ground at Jeffersonville is said to be in a deplorable condition. It contains the bones of at least a hundred convicts, is not inclosed by a fence and is a favorite resort for hogs that burrow into the graves. Recently a colored man, while passing through the place, found several bones lying near a partially-opened grave, but whether they belonged to a human being or an animal no one who saw them could tell.

—The safe in the general store of Weaver, Tod & Co., Chicago coal operators, at Center Point, Clay County, was blown open and about \$1,000 taken. The town has no bank, and a big haul was no doubt anticipated.

—A 15-months-old child of William Woodward, of Muncie, was scalded to death in a singular manner. The little girl crawled up to the chair of a 4-year-old brother, at the supper table, and in some way the boy accidentally overturned a cup of hot tea on the infant's upturned face, the fluid striking her in the mouth and going down the throat passage, causing death several hours later.

—General Manager Beckley, of the Cincinnati, Wabash and Michigan Railway, was in Wabash recently, and was interviewed in regard to the proposed boycotting of the road by Elkhart citizens. Mr. Beckley stated that a petition is being circulated in Elkhart, urging President Wade to remove Auditor Wheelock, which a committee will take to Cleveland to present to Mr. Wade. Another paper is being circulated pleading withdrawal of patronage from those who refuse to sign the petition. Mr. Beckley stated positively that Mr. Wheelock would remain; also that the road would not retaliate for the unjust action of the Elkhart people. The charge against Mr. Wheelock is that he was instrumental in the recent wholesale arrest of a number of saloon-keepers.

—The enormous amount annually paid for school books has created great dissatisfaction throughout the State. Some plan, if possible, should be adopted by which the price of such books could be brought within a reasonable limit. On an average, the cost to each pupil could be safely stated to reach \$8 per annum. Our average daily attendance of pupils in 1888 was 408,775. This would show an outlay by parents and guardians for that year amounting to \$1,226,325. Two plans have been adopted by the different States to curb vast expenditure for text-books:

First, the publication of school books by the State. Second, free text-books bought by the State or school districts and loaned to the pupils.

The first method has been condemned as impracticable and costly, while the second, where it has been tried, has received the highest commendation on State Superintendents and professional teachers. By this free text-book system, the cost of books for each pupil in Michigan is estimated at 50 cents per annum; in Maine, 26½ cents per annum; in Vermont, 26½ cents. In Wisconsin, not one-third of former cost. The argument is made in favor of free text-books may be stated as follows. The cost is greatly below that of any other method yet adopted; more prompt attendance and regularity of pupils; it makes the schools free in deed, and equalizes the children of the rich and poor, as both are supplied alike; it teaches pupils the responsibility and care for the property, and enables them to obtain a better education. The amount overpaid by parents and guardians, under our present system, would greatly exceed the taxes which would have to be levied to purchase all the books required in our schools under the free text-book system. The people would be the gainers over the taxation by more than twice the sum required to purchase all the books under the proposed system,

INDIANA'S GOVERNOR.

GEN. HOVEY'S INAUGURAL AT INDIANA-NAPOLIS.

A Brilliant Reception Tendered and Attended by Gen. Harrison—Some Excellent Suggestions to the Legislature.

An Indianapolis special dated the 14th inst., says: The inauguration of Gov. Hovey took place at English's Opera-house at 2 o'clock this afternoon. After the members of the Legislature had been seated, the band played "Hail to the Chief," and incoming Gov. Hovey, escorted by retiring Gov. Gray, followed by the committee on arrangements, consisting of Senators Sears, Mullinix, and Kennedy and Representatives George A. Adams, Curtis, and Robbins, entered the House, and after receiving tremendous applause and listening to an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Dr. McLeod, Speaker Niblack introduced him to the General Assembly. Chief Justice Elliott administered the oath of office and Gov. Hovey read his inaugural address.

His inaugural dwelt upon the imparity of the ballot and said:

"In the late election, charges of fraud and corruption have been made by the contending parties. There is reason to believe the ballot has been polluted, not only in this State but in many other States and in both political parties.

This cannot continue if we hope to perpetuate our free institutions. If it does a moneyed aristocracy will soon control the destinies of our nation and the liberty we now so highly prize will be lost forever. Your attention is particularly called to the necessity of legislation in regard to the registration of voters and election laws.

First, it is the duty of the General Assembly under the ninety-fifth section of the constitution to provide for the registration of all persons entitled to vote. This amendment has been in force since March 4, 1881, but the law has not been enacted and the constitution has been disregarded. I recommend that provision be made for a full and fair registration of all the legal voters, where the rights of each elector can be investigated before the day of election.

Second.—Limit the number of electors in each election precinct, so as not to exceed 300 voters.

Third.—Provide that every precinct shall be surrounded and protected by barriers or guardrails which will prevent all persons except the person voting from approaching nearer than forty or fifty feet from the inspectors, judges, and clerks of the election, and make the infraction of this rule a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine.

Fourth.—Provide that the buying or offering to buy the vote of an elector directly or indirectly, or giving any gift or reward to work for the election of any candidate at the polls shall be a crime, with a penalty of imprisonment for life or for a term not exceeding five years, and it is to be feared that some have been appealed to that court for the sole purpose of delay. This delay arises from no fault of the judges of the court, but from their inability to fully investigate the numerous cases which are brought before them. The result of which is that the number of judges in the Supreme Court would tend to the furtherance of justice. No case should be passed upon without the full consideration of every judge upon the bench. This would be impossible if the number of judges should be greatly increased, and I can conceive of only two methods by which the present evil can be avoided.

First.—The creation of intermediate appellate courts, with exclusive jurisdiction within certain limits.

Second.—By assistance being liberally given to each judge.

Third.—Limit the number of electors in each election precinct, so as not to exceed 300 voters.

Fourth.—Provide that every precinct shall be surrounded and protected by barriers or guardrails which will prevent all persons except the person voting from approaching nearer than forty or fifty feet from the inspectors, judges, and clerks of the election, and make the infraction of this rule a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine.

Fifth.—Make it unlawful and criminal for any political convention or committee to demand or exact any assessment or contribution from any candidate for office, or to provide a penalty of disfranchisement for life to those who are members of such convention or committee who may demand or attempt to enforce such assessment or contribution. No office should be placed beyond the reach of the poorest man in the State.

Sixth.—Make it unlawful, with a heavy fine and imprisonment, for any person to challenge a legal voter at the polls."

—BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

Obsolete laws and statutes which are so far in advance of the age, or so far behind it, as to be wholly disobeyed and disregarded, should without the least hesitation be repealed. Laws which are never enforced are like dead wood upon a living tree; they are not only useless, but tend to weaken and bring our statutes into disrepute and contempt. Our people should realize that every act of the General Assembly has been made to be enforced, and not paraded on our statutes as a threat which will not be executed. There are now laws on our statutes which come within the purview of these obsolete laws. Our present laws in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors are disregarded in many parts of the State. In some localities large numbers of the people are decidedly opposed to the licensing of the sale of intoxicating liquors, while in others no prohibitory law could be enforced. It seems to me it would be wise to so frame our laws as to meet both conditions. I believe a local-option law for the sale or prohibition of intoxicating liquors should be constitutional, and that it would be wisdom to permit the people to choose which system they would prefer in each county, city, or incorporated town in the State. Our institutions are founded upon the democratic theory that a majority should rule, and I submit that the question of local-option should be left to the voice of the people, and that all laws passed for the purpose of regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors should be rigidly enforced. I recommend that the license to be granted for the sale of such liquors should not be less than \$200, nor more than \$1,000, in the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners.

MONOPOLIES, TRUSTS, AND COMBINES.

All monopolies, combines, and trusts formed for the purpose of increasing the price or cost of the necessities of life should be declared unlawful. The publication of articles of food in common use should be prohibited under penalties, and the sales made unlawful, so that the courts would refuse to enforce them. The mixture of coffee with chicory, sugar with glucose, butter with oleomargarine, lard, tallow, and oils, and the admixture of coal oil, benzine, paraffine, and adulterating articles should be prohibited and the sale forbidden, unless the relative quantity of each article composing the compound is clearly stated by the vendor. Such sales have been condemned, and in many instances abolished, by the civilized nations of the world for several past. The currents of commerce are now running deeply in the channels of deception and fraud, and should be checked by every means in our power.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS.

The necessity of improved roads is strongly urged and the resolution suggested looking to the accomplishment of the same. A good system of gravel roads throughout the State would add greatly to the value of property and the comfort of the people.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

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and could well afford to pay the additional tax that would be required for that purpose.

The cities of New York, Philadelphia, and Michigan, Iowa, Maine, and Vermont have adopted or tried this system. In New York City it has been practically tried for forty years, and in Philadelphia for seventy years. Taking a high average under this system, say 40 cents per pupil, the entire cost in Indiana for the year 1888 would only amount to \$163,515, or against the probable cost, \$1,226,325, which would give an actual annual gain to the people of this State of \$1,062,815, or \$2.60 to every pupil.

If the system should cost on the average \$1 to the pupil, it would still leave a gain to the parents and guardians, for that year, of \$817,550. With free text-books a great burden would be taken from the poor, who are often unable to spare the amount required to purchase their books, at the very exorbitant prices they are compelled to pay or leave their children uneducated. Experts on booksellers inform us that the price paid for schoolbooks in this State yield from 300 to 600 per cent above the actual cost of production. Something should be done to reduce the cost to a reasonable price, and lift from parents and guardians these heavy burdens.

The expenses of our common-school system should be greatly curtailed in the future, as nearly every county in the State is provided with excellent school-houses, now numbering 9,682. Our school property, independent of all buildings, may be estimated at nearly \$1,000,000. This cost, with the ever-increasing demands from fines and forfeitures, will be believed, admit of the income from the license on the sale of ardent spirits, and from the dog tax, being transferred and profitably used by the State for the construction of gravel and macadamized roads. I commend the subject to your deliberate and mature consideration, and I will heartily co-operate in any measures that will lessen the present exorbitant prices.

Some confusion and inequality has arisen in reporting the number of pupils in each county as having attended the common schools. As the distribution of the funds depends upon the number thus reported, it would suggest that each superintendent and teacher in reporting the numbers be required to give the name of each pupil who has attended during that period, and in no case count the name more than once.

SUPERIOR COURT.

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