

SOUTH BEND MAN DEFENDS SCHOOLS

Says Rating Basis Gives State Erroneous Standing.

Special to The Times.
SOUTH BEND, Ind., Nov. 12.—Commenting on the widely circulated report that Indiana ranks seventeenth among the States of the nation as regards schools, Ralph Longfield, county superintendent of schools here, declares the basis on which the rating was determined is not accurate, being based on educational efficiency. He points out that the national educational committee, which established the rating, tabulated items which are largely physical, including investments in school property, per capita expenditures and proportion of one-room schools.

Such a method, he says, is advantageous to those States which high building costs make attractive.

Despite the feeling that the State suffers a grave injustice in being ranked seventeenth, every district in St. Joseph County is entering heartily into the campaign for school betterment, and educators say the rating, erroneous though they feel it to be, may prove a blessing by acting as a spur to the State's scholastic pride.

INVALID WOMAN IS GAS VICTIM

Gas fumes escaping from a range in the kitchen of the home of John T. Edwards, 324 East Sixteenth street, resulted in the death of his wife, Mrs. Lydia J. Edwards, 73, late Thursday. Mr. Edwards is the senior member of the real estate firm of Edwards & Edwards.

When he returned home at 3:45 o'clock

he found the residence filled with gas fumes and his wife on the floor in the kitchen, evidently having attempted to open the door to reach the fresh air.

Dr. David L. Kauz said she had been dead only a short time.

Mrs. Edwards has been an invalid for

a number of years, and it was her custom to lie down for a nap each afternoon. The coroner believes she smelled gas escaping and started to the kitchen to shut off the gas, but was asphyxiated.

Funeral services probably will be held in Roachdale, the former home of Mr. and

Mrs. Edwards.

One son, James F. Edwards, 2213 North New Jersey street; a daughter, Mrs. William Radford of Roachdale; a sister, Mrs. Greenville Dodd of Crawfordsville, and a brother, Albert Shetherlin of Colorado also survive.

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