

# JASPER COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

F. E. BABCOCK, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Commissioner 2nd District.

LUCIUS STRONG, of Rensselaer.

Only about three months ago, wheat reached \$1.85 per bushel. To-day it is worth but one-third that price with a prospect of going still lower.

What a vision for office-seekers looms up in Havana, Port Rico and the Philippines, especially to that large class who believe that public office is a private snap.

In referring to that gas-pipe flag pole surmounting the new court house, please say the \$416.16 flag pole. In the light of recent investigations we have come to the conclusion that \$337.50 is not correct.

If so much revenue was received from the poor farm last year, why is it not shown in the auditor's annual report? And why, the report being due in June, was it not published until the middle of August, and then in such form as to require an expert to comprehend it?

In the death of ex-Governor Claude Matthews, Indiana loses an important figure in the politics of the state. News of his fatal stroke of paralysis and subsequent death came as a shock to his many friends all over the country. Deceased was but fifty-two years of age, a man of correct habits and apparently a model of manly strength and vigor, about six feet in height, well proportioned and weighing nearly or quite two hundred pounds. His death is a loss to Indiana and creates a vacancy in the front ranks of democracy in the state not easily filled. A wife and two daughters, the younger unmarried, survive him.

## THE EXPLANATION.

Rensselaer, Aug. 27, '98.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT: Dear Sir: In your issue of last week you made a number of allusions to the fact of two leaves, (four pages) having been removed from Commissioners' Record in my office. I wish to make a statement of the facts in regard to this matter, which it seems to me common fairness should have prompted you to give me an opportunity of doing before such publication with accompanying insinuations of

many instances. A rigid examination should be made and the wretches who have starved and ill treated our soldier boys made to suffer the very severest penalties that can be imposed upon them.

Said a prominent republican tax payer to us a few days ago: "We have got that new court house now and must pay for it, but we can show our disapprobation at the polls in November, and this we will do."

An entry setting forth the error and expunging pages 471, 472, 473 and 474 of commissioners record 10 would have been much better than to have cut the pages from the book altogether, and would have effectually settled any question as to what what said pages contained.

A republican congressional love feast was held at the Makeever house behind closed doors Wednesday afternoon. Congressman Crumpler was the star attraction and gave his henchmen their orders for the work of the campaign. Commissioner Davidson and W. S. Rowe of Benton county, and about a dozen wire-pullers from other places were present at the star-chamber meeting.

It is really amusing to observe the frantic efforts of the boodle organ to figure out a surplus from a deficit, in the poor farm matter. While you are about it, Bro. Clark, why not include in next day's report all the stock, produce, etc., which you expect to be sold from the farm during the next five years? It would make a better showing for your side of the case and is just as reasonable as the including of unsold products or receipts in last year's report. Better drop the matter, Leslie. There are many things connected with the county management here that emit a worse stench for you the more they are stirred.

Although many well informed people believe otherwise, admitting that the new court house is worth every dollar it has cost and that every dollar of such cost has been put into the building, did the future outlook for Jasper county demand any such expensive structure? And was it wise in the Commissioners or did they show even average business management in paying \$165,000 for a building which they had contracted for COMPLETE at a cost of \$89,180.00?

Indiana has no ex-governor now living. In this connection it is interesting to note that Indiana governors do not as a rule, live many years after their retirement from office. Governor Hovey died in office. His successor, Governor Chase, died a short time after his retirement. Oliver P. Morton lived twelve years after his gubernatorial service expired, and Conrad Baker lived fifteen years. Thomas A. Henricks lived seven years after completing his term as governor, Isaac P. Gray lived seven years, and Albert G. Porter twelve years. Governor Williams died at an advanced age while in office.

In another column we publish a statement from the county auditor in regard to those missing pages from the commissioners' record. While not disputing the truth of Mr. Murray's statement, the fact remains that the people of Jasper county simply have his word as to why the mutilation was made. The record pages in question are gone from the book, and we will add that no matter what error might have been made, the auditor nor no other officer is justified in cutting any pages whatever from any record in his possession. Public records are most sacred property and should be kept inviolate. We are much surprised to have an officer of Mr. Murray's intelligence and experience come before the people and say that he cut four pages from a county record of such importance as this one simply "because he made a mistake" in writing up the proceedings of the board.

Good correspondence stationery, cheap at THE DEMOCRAT office.

Judy and The Lief Buggy Co., will sell anything in their line to you individually, independently of any one else as security.

## LABOR UNIONS

### Through Legislation the Democracy Lifts Many Burdens From Labor Organizations.

It Was Through Democratic Legislatures That Coercion and Intimidation by Unscrupulous Employers Was Prohibited—Republicans Responsible for the Infamous Law to Intimidate Railroad Employees—Bringing of Pinkerton's Into the State to Shoot Down the Strikers Prohibited by Democratic Enactments.

It is well known to every union workingman in Indiana, because it is a part and an important part of labor's history, that the time is not remote, even if it has passed, when employers were virulently hostile to labor organization and in numerous ways sought to impose penalties upon workingmen who became members of such organizations.

This hostility was exhibited in various forms, each and all of which was inimical to the liberty and independence of the union workingman.

This opposition took the form of coercion, intimidation, threats of discharge, and of discharging men from their employment and of blacklisting them. It was in the most odious form wage slavery. And to make matters still worse, the opposition of employers to labor organizations was often, and generally, secret. The employers had escaped being scalped to death by hot water or killed by electricity, and finally to subdue men who were contending for fair wages and against robbery, Carnegie and Frick imported into Homestead a small army of thugs known as "Pinkertons," who were armed to the teeth with the most deadly weapons. These mercenary murderers, hired to kill for so much a day and rates, were attacked by the Homestead workingmen and compelled to ingloriously retire from the battlefield.

But the incident aroused universal indignation and became a world-wide infamy. It disclosed the fact that a concern in Chicago kept constantly on hand or within call an army of unhung mercenaries, who could be hired as the British hired Hessians, to kill workingmen with as little compunction as if they were so many vagabond dogs, and it was seen that there were men in the United States at the head of great industrial enterprises who were willing to hire these outcasts to murder their employees, and fearing that Indiana might be within the "Pinkerton" zone, the Democratic legislature of 1889 enacted a law which forbade the employment of such vagabonds.

This law enacted to protect workingmen from wounds and death inflicted by men as heartless as Apache savages, provided:

"That it shall be unlawful for any individual, or member of any firm, agent, officer or employer of any company or corporation, to prevent employees from forming, joining and belonging to any lawful labor organization, and any such individual member, agent, officer or employer that coerces or attempts to coerce employees, by discharging or threatening to discharge from their employ or the employ of any firm, company or corporation, because of their connection with such labor organization, and any officer or employer, to exact a pledge from workingmen that they will not become members of a labor organization, as a consideration of employment, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$100, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court."

In these provisions of a wise and just law it is seen that labor did not appeal to the Democratic legislature in vain. Workingmen were at once emancipated from a most debasing thralldom. The odious schemes and machinations of employers were overthrown and union workingmen could exercise their rights and discretion unintimidated.

When the great number of union workingmen in Indiana is considered and the benefits that have accrued to them by virtue of the law under consideration, the Democratic party of Indiana has a right to felicitate itself upon the wisdom and justice of the statute which secures rights to workingmen which they appreciate, and prize above measure.

### INTIMIDATION

Infamous Legislation Enacted by the Republicans Against Workingmen Repealed by the Democracy.

The Republican legislature of 1881 enacted one of the most infamous laws that ever blotted the pages of the state books of Indiana. The law, which was approved April 14, 1881, was designed especially to intimidate railroad employees and prevent them from striking against oppression, intimidation and coercion, and compel them from fear of fine and imprisonment to do the bidding of their task masters unresistingly.

It is a matter of history that the demands of corporation magnates, when they have required laws promotive of their schemes, however nefarious the object in view, have sought the aid of Republican legislation, and there is not an instance on record in which a Republican legislature or a Republican congress has failed to respond satisfactorily.

The Republican law of 1881 was in the interest of railroad corporations, the penalty being fine and imprisonment for any and every attempt to resist the outrages inflicted upon them by men in control of the railroads of the state, among whom, more or less conspicuous was, O. W. Fairbanks, now United States senator.

No one knew better than Fairbanks the purpose of the despotic law, but it was reserved for the Democratic legislature of 1889 to give railroad employees the relief they sought by repealing the Russianizing Republican intimidation law, for which thousands of railroad men in Indiana were profoundly grateful.

The splendid record made by the Democratic legislatures to improve the standing and broaden the influence of workingmen in Indiana has made the Republican party cautious, though still ready, as is shown by the infamous and unconstitutional garnishee law to aim a blow at poor men when ever an opportunity offers, if it can be done in a way to obscure the real intent of the measure.

When, as the records show, that five Democratic legislatures in succession responded to the requests of the work-

men of Indiana to afford them relief from oppressive conditions, all doubts regarding the fealty of the Democratic party to labor at once disappears, and the fact that the party is the friend of the workingmen of the state stands confessed and irrefutable.

### PINKERTONS

The Great Friends of Carnegie, Frick and Other Unscrupulous Employers Denied Admission to Indiana by a Democratic Legislature.

It will be remembered by every citizen of Indiana, who has ever given labor troubles and interests a thought, that a few years ago serious labor difficulties occurred at Homestead, where about 10,000 workingmen were employed in building up the colossal fortune of Andrew Carnegie, one of the multimillionaires of the country. This man Carnegie is now known in Europe and America as "Blowhole" Carnegie, a sobriquet applied to him because of his attempt to rob the government in the manufacture of armorplate for battleships, which was found to be worthless on account of "blowholes."

But before Carnegie attempted to defraud the government, he, in association with another rascal by the name of Frick, who had won a large measure of infamy in the coke regions of Pennsylvania by defrauding workingmen, began the same system of robbery at Homestead. Carnegie and Frick tried several methods for killing their employees who struck against the reduction of their wages and by being watchful, had escaped being scalped to death by hot water or killed by electricity, and finally to subdue men who were contending for fair wages and against robbery, Carnegie and Frick imported into Homestead a small army of thugs known as "Pinkertons," who were armed to the teeth with the most deadly weapons. These mercenaries, hired to kill for so much a day and rates, were attacked by the Homestead workingmen and compelled to ingloriously retire from the battlefield.

When the man of the house arrived the situation was explained to him, and he went up those stairs at a gallop. He did not wait for argument or persuasion, but, bending low, shot under the bed. The anxious mother followed him into the room, reaching the door when the husband was half under. The culprit from beneath could see nothing, but he understood that his father was coming, and that his mother was a close second.

"Here, dad! This way!" he cried. "It's comfortable here, and there ain't no show of her getting in after you." And then in a free-masonry of crime: "What did you do, dad? What's she tryin' to get you for?"

And he spoke with such honest consideration and such a desire to be helpful to a fellow-sufferer that the father hadn't the heart to give him the hiding he had intended to administer.—Chicago Record.

### SYMPATHIZED WITH HIM.

The Boy Didn't Know That His Father Was After Him.

The person who related this anecdote vouches for its truth, regardless of its near approach to a narrative well known to history.

Down on the south side lives a family of three. The boy is small, the father is of slender construction, but the mother is ample and globular, and if the earth does not tremble when she treads it certainly shudders slightly. One day the boy, being caught red-handed in some mischief, was directed by his mother to go upstairs and prepare himself for a trouncing. The boy fled to the upper floor, but instead of waiting in patience for his body-beating he took refuge under a bed. When the avenger came with sounds of heavy breathing to chastise him he refused to come out of his retreat. She bent and tried to pursue him to his corner, but it was like the effort of the camel to progress easily through the eye of the needle. The space between the bed and the floor was too narrow for the admission of the mother's unsupple form. She pulled the bed out from the wall, but the boy was still too wily, and he followed under it. Then she pushed it over to another side of the room, hoping that it would pass over him and leave him behind, but it did not. So in despair she returned to the lower floor to wait for the homecoming of the father of the flock.

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### THE SAFFRON CITY.

Havana as It Has Been Recently Described by a Tourist.

Havana is bounded by beauty on one side, by ignorance on the other, remarks Edgar Saltus in Collier's Weekly. The approach to it, particularly in the early morning, is exceeded in loveliness by perhaps