

The Republican.

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Plymouth, Ind., June 27, 1901.

Fortunately for the city of Plymouth the paving proposition possesses sufficient inherent merit to prevail with a majority of the citizens in spite of the fool advocacy of the disreputable sheet that poses as its especial defender. Fortunately, also, the people who favor the project are not guilty of sympathizing with the campaign of vilification and misrepresentation that is being waged by that sheet against those who, for reasons sufficient for themselves, are opposing the plan. There is not a man on the side of paving who does not know better than to attempt to scare possible remonstrants away from their legal rights by holding up the bogey of costs, as the whimsical sheet alluded to has done, nor is there one who does not pray to be delivered from such fool support.

SUGGESTIONS FOR VACATION.

In Lake Maxinkuckee there are found exclusive of the microscopic forms of animal life, a great number of species of living creatures. There are forty-five species of fishes, eight of turtles, sixteen of batrachians and thirty-four of mollusca, of which sixteen are univalves and eighteen are bivalves. More than two hundred different forms of plants occur in the lake and on the beach below high water mark, not including the microscopic forms of plankton.

There could hardly be devised a more pleasant or profitable way for a pupil of the public schools to spend a summer vacation than in collecting and classifying examples of some of these divisions of plant or animal life. A whole season could well be passed in the study of the shells alone, which are easily secured, or of the turtles and a nicely labeled and catalogued collection would be a valuable memorial of a diligent student if deposited in the high school department.

Another form of study that would without much effort result in a valuable collection of statistics is the observation of the temperature of air and water, of the water levels and of weather conditions. A daily record of these conditions covering a period of time, the longer the better, would be deeply appreciated by the state geologist and would lead to the acquisition of scientific habits by the observer. The action of the ice in winter and spring and its effects on the beach, sea walls and piers, together with its influence on the plant life of the beach, is an interesting subject of observation in itself.

MAY BE GOLDEN.

Plymouth has before it two opportunities to secure factories, both of which are highly spoken of in the places where they are now located, as we have shown by quotations from papers published in those places. One is the industry of the Boyers, now at Goshen, which can be had for a very small sum of money just sufficient to cover the expense of moving; the other is the Truabull wagon factory of Laporte, which asks only the chance to rent a suitable plant. The two would transform the old Novelty works and the wagon factory into busy hives of industry where now all is silent and forsaken.

It does not appear that any steps are being taken even to investigate the desirability or feasibility of either proposition, but rather it seems to be taken for granted that an apparent willingness to bring a good thing to Plymouth is prima facie evidence against the good faith or business ability of the proposer. Every town is just what its own people make of it and God, or good luck, help those who help themselves. Public improvements are excellent so far as they go and we must and will have such things as water light, drainage, sewage, pavements and the like, but they will not increase the business of the city nor are they expected to do so. They simply make the conditions of living more tolerable.

If the business of the town is satisfactory to those who conduct it; if those who have property and business here are content with present conditions, then there is no use in reaching out for anything more. But we desire to suggest, without wishing to be understood as in any way vouching for the institutions we refer to, that it would be well to ponder deeply before letting the opportunity pass for securing either of the industries mentioned, without even so much as a thought as to their possibilities.

AVOID THE HEAT AND DUST.

When You Go East By Traveling via D. & C., the Coast Line.

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A. A. SCHANTZ, G. P. A.,
Detroit, Mich.

OIL AND GAS

The exceeding interest that is being manifested in the subject of oil prospecting in this part of the state and the fact that the state geologist has expressed the opinion that "there is little doubt but that the productive territory will eventually be found to extend over a large area to the north and northward of the present development," lends a degree of interest to the present conditions and the facts concerning oil so far as they are known. The report of Prof. Blatchley for the last year is largely devoted to a discussion of this subject and from it we epitomize some of the leading statements.

The Trenton limestone, which is the source of by far the greater part of the oil now produced, underlies the whole of the state at varying depths, averaging 1000 feet in the oil districts. It is covered by an impervious layer of Utica shale which keeps the gas and oil from escaping upward and passing off as volatile products and this is usually about 200 feet in thickness. Over it is the Hudson limestone about 400 feet, the Niagara limestone about 225 feet and the drift from 100 to 200 feet.

The practice is to drive an 8-inch or 10-inch pipe down through the drift to the Niagara where salt water is usually found and is cased off by an iron tube about 5 inches in diameter and reaching to the Hudson River limestone. The drill is sent on down until it is well into Trenton rock, 15 to 30 feet, where the product sought is found if at all, though sometimes the pay streak is found a little below the first indications, always however, in the upper fourth of the Trenton stratum. No oil or gas is found lower than 70 feet in the Trenton.

There are absolutely no surface indications of oil or gas. Every shale, sandstone or limestone in the state contains some gas or oil and it is encountered in pockets at many varying depths but such appearances are meaningless so far as pay oil or gas is concerned. The only way to find out anything about it is to sink the drill to the necessary stratum and see what will come of it. A dozen wells in a mile square will test that area and give the levels of the Trenton from which its direction and rate of incline or decline can be determined and the direction of possible oil be approximated. Salt water is always struck in the Niagara limestone and is not a disadvantage unless the quantity is excessive.

The average cost of drilling and fitting up the first well on a lease, if productive, is about \$2,000, of which \$750 is for the power and tanks with which to take and care for the oil. Subsequent wells on the same lease will cost less, both to put in and to operate. The expense of running is about \$75 per month for one well and proportionately less for several. Six three-barrel wells on a lease, with oil at 70 cents, would make a profit of \$240 a month. In the main Indiana fields the average cost of producing oil is 50 cents a barrel and all above that is profit. The price has been above a dollar much of the time and 90 cents is regarded as a good and safe figure. Some Indiana wells have produced as high as 600 barrels a day at first. The experience in this state shows that several small companies cannot operate profitably in a limited field as the expenses eat up the profits.

The corniferous limestone has also been productive of oil in some sections of Indiana, but the oil is a lubricant and not an illuminant. Martin county, Vigo county and Jasper county have witnessed the principal developments in this kind of oil. The rock varies in depth much more than the Trenton and is found at about 110 feet at Medaryville while at Ferre Haute it is 1,630 feet down. The Phoenix well in Vigo county has yielded an average of 1,000 barrels a month for 12 years. It was discovered after bores had been put in the same vicinity over 2,000 feet. At Logansport a prospecting company was formed with a capital stock of \$12,000 in \$10 shares and they succeeded so well that the stock, when for sale at all, has brought as high as \$60 a share. They have four gas and four oil wells now producing.

It is not true, as many have thought, that oil follows gas. Though they have the same origin it does not necessarily follow that the two are associated in the same fields. Where they have been found together the oil has almost invariably been struck in a layer of rock below the gas stratum. They occupy different reservoirs, though a small amount of each may be found with the other. The supply of gas in the Indiana field has been greatly reduced within a few years and there is not at present sufficient to satisfy the demand, even with the most economical use. During the last winter the gas towns had to burn coal and now the factories are experimenting with other fuels to supplant the exhausted natural gas.

Chatsqua Lake Excursion.

July 5th and 26th via the Nickel Plate Road at reduced rates. Tickets good returning until August 6th and 27th respectively. Write, wire, phone or call on nearest agent, or C. A. Asterlin, T. P. A. Ft. Wayne, Ind.

B. P. O' E. Elks.

Reduced rates via the Nickel Plate Road to Milwaukee, Wis., on July 22nd and 23rd. Tickets good returning until July 27th, or by deposit until August 10, 1901. Write, wire, phone or call on nearest agent or C. A. Asterlin, T. P. A. Ft. Wayne, Ind. or R. J. Hamilton, Agent, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

DOWN TO SIXTY NOW

The Number of Lives Lost in the Flood in the West Virginia Valley.

PROPERTY LOSS DOWN TO \$500,000

One Late Report Says the Fatalities Number but Twenty—Good Deal of Panic in the First Stories.

Radford, Va., June 25.—The latest news received from the flood-swept region of West Virginia states that the number of lives lost is twenty instead of several hundred, as at first reported.

Roanoke, Va., June 25.—The following short statement by one of the general officers of the Norfolk and Western railroad, summarizing the flood situation in the light of the latest dispatches, has been given to the Associated Press: "Restoration of telegraph lines develops that damage by the flood was exaggerated. The loss of life will not exceed sixty or seventy-five, and the damage to property, including repairs to the railroad and coal operations, will not exceed \$500,000." The town of Keystone, while much damaged, is not wiped out, as reported.

Reminder of the Johnstown Flood. Huntington, W. Va., June 25.—The tremendous high water in the Tug river caused by a heavy rain along the headwaters of that stream on Saturday, was a thing unprecedented in the history of that section. Though it comes far short of rivaling the famous Johnstown flood, it serves as a vivid reminder of that terrible deluge. The rain torrent occurred near the headwaters of the Elk and Dry Fork rivers, whose confluence near Welch forms the main Tug river. Both of these streams were swollen far beyond any proportions which they were ever before known to assume.

Box Cars Swept Away. Along the coal regions of the Elk and the numerous big lumber plants lower down box cars were swept away in the rushing flood and are lodged against the rugged mountain sides, and in a few instances were carried down the Tug river even as far as below the falls of it before being checked. Many of the cars were loaded, ready to be moved, and with their cargo they are practically a total loss. All the lumber plants—and there are many of them—are great losers.

River Rises Ten Feet an Hour. At Lager station the river rose to the height of thirty-one feet inside of three hours from the time it began, deluging every house in the little town, and washing away many of the outbuildings. In some instances dwellings were swept from their foundations, but lodged against larger and more substantial ones and were thus saved from destruction.

VIEW OF A CORRESPONDENT.

Special at Bluefield, W. Va., Tells the Way It Looks to Him.

Cincinnati, June 25.—A special to The Enquirer from Bluefield, W. Va., telegraphed yesterday, says: "After a trip over a large part of the flooded district today your correspondent is able to say that the loss of life has not proved so heavy as was at first feared, though the property loss will be greater. The region devastated over which the greatest damage prevails begins west of Bluefield a distance of twelve miles, at Cooper, where on a branch of the railroad extending up Simmons creek to Goodwill, a distance of ten miles, four railroad bridges are swept completely away. The first one is at Bramwell, one of the best towns of the whole region; another at Simmons, a third at Dupring and a fourth between the two points last named.

"These points were practically shut off from all communication with the outside world. The bridge at Cooper also suffered considerable damage. The railroad company has about 2,000 hands making repairs, and everything possible is being done to get the trains through. It will be at least a week or ten days before the freight trains can be run. The track has been repaired to Ennis, a distance of six miles from Cooper, where the first damage was done. Telegraphic communication has only been opened to this point, and owing to the fearful condition of the valley further down it is impossible to reach the stricken district farther west except by footpaths.

"General Superintendent J. C. Cassell is at Ennis, and was seen late this afternoon and stated that the loss to the railroad company would be about \$1,000,000, not considering the loss of revenue from inoperation. He believes that the passenger traffic may be resumed within a few days. Every section hand and employe along the various lines of road that can be spared is being rushed here. The loss to the coal operators, Mr. Cassell thinks, will be far in excess of that of the railroad company. The total loss will probably approximate \$2,000,000.

"The various operations along the line are owned by stock companies, and all the losses of tipples, power houses, tracks and miners' homes and equipments will fall on the operators. The loss of individuals is small, as they had but little furniture and the comforts of life. However, it was their all, and many instances are related where the miners lost small sums of money, which doubtless represented the savings of years."

Russia Is to Get in Her Work.

London, June 25.—A dispatch to The Times from Peking, dated June 23, says that M. de Giers, the Russian minister, has notified Li-Hung-Chang that immediately the indemnity agreement is signed Russia will require of China negotiations concerning the condition of Russia's withdrawal from Manchuria.

Another Anti-Strike Injunction.

Milwaukee, Wis., June 25.—Another injunction against striking machinists was issued yesterday, the plaintiff being the Bucyrus Steam Shovel company, of South Milwaukee. The nature of the order is similar to the one issued on Saturday.

MELUSINA

A Beautiful Cantata offered by the Mozart Club this Evening

The Mozart club, the well known musical organization of Plymouth ladies, has long had in preparation and on Thursday evening will produce Hoffmann's beautiful cantata, "Melusina," a German legend set to music that is especially well fitted to the subject.

Prof. J. L. Frank, of South Bend is directing the society. Mrs. North is the pianiste and solo parts are assigned to Mesdames Louis McDonald, Geo. H. Thayer, Jr., and Thornberry, Misses Mary Hoban and Helen Dieber and Messrs. K. F. Brooke and Upson. The chorus comprises male as well as female voices.

The story told in this cantata is a simple but pathetic and beautiful legend of the Rhine and is translated from a poem by Osterwald. Melusina was a queen of the water nymphs whose home was in a fountain hid "in the depths of Bressilia's forest shade," but, as occasionally happened in those days in the fairy world, she fell in love with a mortal, the blue-eyed Count Raymond of noble lineage. The maid queen's faithful companions of the wave protested against the match and pointed out the inevitable unhappiness at the end, but the impetuous Raymond and the softly yielding Melusina knew that because they really loved their experience would be different from all that had gone before as they wedded.

The count's hunting companions and the queen's water sprites were gathered, in the forest glade where the union took place and sounded vain notes of warning. They also heard the queen's exclamation that she should have one day in seven for herself without any inquiry from her husband as to how or where she spent it, to which the count agreed.

It was a bad season for crops in the count's dominion and the simple inhabitants laid it all on the new and strange countess, for nobody could find out who she was or how she had been raised. The mother and brother of the young husband did not like the bride's habit of disappearing every seventh day and nagged him so that he finally disregarded his vow, for which the penalty was death, and he followed her. He found her playing in the cool fountain in company with her attendant spirits, her fish-like form giving him a fright hardly less shocking than the doom of death that was pronounced upon him by the king of the water spirits, and despite the pleadings of his Melusina he perished in her embrace.

Ever after the mortal who wandered to that pleasant fountain heard a murmuring wail arising from its cool depths, especially distinct in the gloom of evening, for Melusina was ceaselessly sighing for her dead lover.

Is a Great Region.

Farmer and growers of produce of all kinds felt elated and grateful for the late substantial rain. It was badly needed and its good effects were visible within twenty-four hours. There is no region on earth that excels Northern Indiana, and it is a positive fact that a greater diversity of crops can be produced in this part of the state with fewer failures—or if a failure of one crop, like that of wheat last year, occurs, the agriculturist can always make it up on some other one, just as during the wheat failure, the corn yield was immense. The man who owns a Northern Indiana farm, sticks to it and cultivates it diligently and intelligently, has a sure thing, and we are proud and happy to make a statement so truthful for a region that when as a boy we first saw it, did not promise so favorably.

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E. F. SHORT.
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