

INDIANA'S FAIR NAME

BESMIRCHED BY THE NUMEROUS MURDERS WITHIN THE STATE.

SINCE ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Was Adopted Many Crimes Have Been Committed and Are Increasing.

Indianapolis, June 6.—That eminently good and self-sacrificing class of Indiana citizens who have been devoting their time and money for years to the prevention of crime and the elevation of criminals confess themselves staggered by the record which the state is making, and in some quarters there is a disposition to give up the fight and to confess that, great as are the means invoked to make men better, they are defying all agencies for good and seemingly glorying in the evil bent given to passions. Though the administration of Governor Durbin stands out prominently on the side of law and order, and though four murderers have been hanged since he came into office in January, 1901, his administration will go into history as distinguished for the many murders crowded into the four years he has occupied the executive office.

May Be Law's Fault.

The administration of Governor Mount, immediately preceding, was marked by a number of lynchings and in one case the mutilated body was burned by the excited citizens, thus closely approaching those exhibitions of vengeance in the south which have caused so much horror. One of the first acts of the legislature that assembled under Governor Durbin was to empower him to remove sheriffs in cases of lynching and to investigate the circumstances attending the crime and the officer's responsibility for its commission. There have been fewer lynchings since this law was enacted, but thoughtful men are not satisfied that, while it has made sheriffs more determined in protecting their prisoners and thus lessened the danger from mobs and the consequent fear of criminals of quick and condign punishment, it has not also emboldened the criminal class and in some measure contributed to that melancholy record which the state is now making.

One in Six Convicted.

Certain it is that this class does not now fear the people will take the law into their own hands, for every sheriff in the state, as soon as a crime is committed within his jurisdiction that would naturally inflame the people, summons men to guard the jail and puts arms in their hands with which to defend the prisoner. But for these precautions there would have been three lynchings in this state within as many months, for the people were never more thoroughly aroused over the commission of crime and would have visited it with punishment but for the determined preparations which the officers of the law made to resist any attempt at violence.

While thus the fear of punishment, save such as follows upon the slow tread of the law, has been removed, the criminal class has been emboldened and Indiana has witnessed more murders within the last eight months than were ever before crowded into the same length of time in her history. Although six murder trials occupied the attention of the courts of the state one time, and in each case the crime was without the least palliation, only one of the defendants has been convicted, and he was found guilty of murder only in the second degree. Of the other five cases three of the defendants were acquitted and two trials resulted in hung juries.

Five Trials at One Time.

These crimes were almost coincident with each other and the trials were called at the same time, making five murder trials in progress at one time, and the sixth beginning just at the close of the most important of the five. Among the first of these was the murder of Miss Sarah Schaefer, a talented Latin teacher in the Bedford High school. Between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening she was dragged into an alley as she passed along the street from her supper to her room and was foully murdered. James McDonald, a laborer, was arrested for the crime over the protest of many citizens who did not believe him guilty. After a protracted trial he was acquitted, and the grand jury is now in session on another hunt for the murderer.

Then came the brutal assassination of Miss Elizabeth Gillespie, a comely young lady of Rising Sun, who was

shot through a window when she was preparing the parlor for the meeting of a literary club to which she belonged. Her brother, her sister and two cousins were indicted for the crime and the trial has resulted in a hung jury, seven jurors holding that the defendants were not guilty.

Daughter Acquitted.

A Mrs. Ireland, an aged woman who had become a great care to her daughter, Mrs. Cora Weeks, was found dead in the house. Mrs. Weeks and her husband were charged with the crime, and it was contended by the state that Mrs. Ireland could not possibly have shot herself, as claimed by the daughter. The jury acquitted her of the murder, and her husband will doubtless never be tried, for the state admitted that its strongest case was against the daughter.

In Warrick county two men quarreled and left the hotel, and a moment later one of them shot the other down. The murderer was acquitted. James Steward came running out of his house one day and called to neighbors, saying his wife had been murdered. They found the wife dead, having been struck over the head time and again with a club. The instrument of death was found a few steps from the house. After two weeks of investigation the husband was arrested, charged with the crime. The jury found him guilty, but only of second degree murder, and he goes to the penitentiary only for a brief term of years.

Tramp Shot by Farmer.

Several days ago a farmer returned home and found that his house had been robbed in his absence of \$46. He suspected that it was the work of a tramp, and armed himself with a shotgun and proceeded to the railroad track. Just as the station was reached a freight train drew up, and the farmer started down the tracks alongside of the train to see if there were any tramps aboard. Five men jumped out of a box car and ran. The farmer leveled his gun and shot one of them, killing him instantly. He proved to be a young man who was returning east, and the place where he was murdered was the nearest he had ever been to the farmer's house.

One night less than a week ago, and in different sections of the state, two men were cut to pieces with knives, and at another place one was brutally murdered from ambush as he stepped from an interurban car, the assassin throwing a heavy stone out of the darkness and killing his victim instantly.

Record in Crime.

Such a record of crime as is embraced in the foregoing, which is but a partial list, was never before made in Indiana in so short a time, and the people are asking themselves what can be the cause. It goes without saying that the criminal class does not fear the law.

EIGHTH STREET

The Paving Question Will Be Discussed Tonight.

John M. Loutz, secretary of the Richmond Street & Interurban Co., appeared before council last night to speak on the subject of repairing Eighth street. Mr. H. H. Engelbert, chairman of the committee on streets and alleys, reported adversely to paving eighth street with brick. The street is in bad repair and the street car people are in favor of fixing the same at their expense. It was decided that as President Smith would be here tonight it would be a good time to take the matter up with him, so the committee on streets and alleys will meet with the railroad people in the city clerk's office tonight and discuss the situation.

LIGHT BILL

Against the C. C. & L. For Nine Hundred Dollars.

The committee on claims of the Richmond City Council has a bill against the C. C. & L. railroad for \$900 for lighting five crossings for two years at \$90 per light per year.

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TRAINS MAY BE DISCONTINUED

RUMOR THAT PENNSYLVANIA MAY DROP UNNECESSARY TRAINS.

TOO CLOSE COMPETITION

Is Not Desired—Retrenchment the Cause of Dropping the Trains.

The wave of retrenchment that has swept over most of the railroads seems to have subsided with regard to the laying off of men and other measures will be taken to reduce the operating expenses to correspond with the present earnings of the Pennsylvania lines west. The Pennsylvania dismissed 1,100 men a few days ago from the various divisions and others have been discharged on their becoming unnecessary. In Richmond on this division only about thirty men were laid off, and these were few of them regular men. Most belonged to "extra" crews and their services can readily be dispensed with. There will be little done towards discharging the regular men as the situation does not warrant this step.

But is rumored that things will be "evened up" by dropping of trains which are not absolutely necessary, or those which compete too closely with other and more profitable trains. The rumor says that the G., R. & I. train which arrives here at 3:40 p. m., leaving for Cincinnati at 3:47, will be discontinued on account of the fact that No. 18, the Cincinnati-Chicago mail, arrives and departs only seven minutes after and is a much more profitable train. For the same reason the G., R. & I. train which arrives here from Cincinnati at 10:50 p. m., will be stopped, as a fast Cincinnati-Chicago train arrives only ten minutes after. The G., R. & I. trains will not be entirely stopped, but will only run to Richmond, instead of Cincinnati, from the north.

No. 33, from Columbus, at 10:00 a. m. will be run only to this city instead of through to Indianapolis, as No. 21, the fast train to the west, is only ten minutes after. No. 34, from Indianapolis at 3:45 p. m., will run only to this city instead of to Columbus, as No. 20, is just behind it. If, according to the rumor, these changes are made, they will be made in the next few days. The definite announcements as to these changes (if they take place), will be announced at that time.

BULLA REUNION

A Splendid One Held Saturday at Home of Winfield Smelser.

The Bulla reunion was held Saturday at the home of Winfield Smelser. A short program was rendered. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Executive committee—Mrs. Sarah Crockett, Mrs. Abigail Pyle, Miss Luella Druley, Chester P. Bulla.

Program committee—Mrs. Will Haughton, Misses Grace Druley and Elizabeth Smelser. Corresponding secretary—India H. Smelser.

HAGERSTOWN.

Will Fout and wife, of Newcastle, visited Mrs. Henry Presbaugh last Sunday.

Jessie Newsum returned home after a three months' stay in Toledo, Ohio.

Will Presbaugh went to French Lick sanitarium for his health. George Twitchell has a relapse and is not expected to live.

Claude Pierce has returned from an extensive trip through the west. Major Ostrander, of Richmond, Gen. Agt. of the Penn Mutual Life Ins. Co., was here last Saturday on business.

Will Clapper and wife, of Dayton, Ohio, visited Daniel Nicum and family last Sunday.

Twenty-one of the Cordel family went to Modoc last Saturday and took dinner with a member of the Cordel family.

Caleb Lamb, of Newcastle, paid this place a visit a few days ago. He formerly lived here.

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thy cake and have it?
—George Herbert

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