

COURT WILL HELP VIRGINIA BROOKS

Get Rid of the Grafters in West Hammond.—Drastic Action Is Taken.

(Palladium Special)

CHICAGO, Aug. 30.—Miss Virginia Brooks and some of her West Hammond allies told Judge Owens in the County court yesterday about some of the oddities in her town that for several years have dispensed "justice."

When the testimony had been taken Judge Owens said he did not know whether to laugh or weep.

Then he authorized the filing of informations charging Frank Green and Charles Wittenberg, justices of the peace at West Hammond and Burnham, respectively, with malfeasance in office, neglect of duty, extortion, and several other offenses.

The testimony was so striking that the judge and assistant county attorney Thomas L. Johnson decided to call to account all the city officials of West Hammond and the village authorities of Burnham. Ducas tecum subpoenas were issued for them.

Continuance to Investigate Records.

The case against Green and Wittenberg was continued for two weeks to give the county officials time to investigate the records.

According to the report of an accounting concern the police records show that during the last year fifty-one cases have been dismissed. The book of Justice of the Peace Green shows that 127 cases were dismissed. The police books say seven were held under bonds. Green's books say four.

The police records show that 131 prisoners were released on payment of costs; Green's books say eighty-three paid costs. The police say forty-seven paid fines. Green's books say forty paid fines. The police books show three cases were nonsuited. The magistrate's books say there were seven.

Assistant County Attorney Johnson said the accounting firm found \$164 of funds unaccounted for by Green.

Forget Their Books in Same Place.

When the proceedings against Green and Wittenberg began Judge Owens discovered the two men had suffered a lapse of memory and had forgotten to bring along their books, although both had been summoned on subpoenas duces tecum.

Fortunately it developed that they had forgotten their official documents in the same place, the office of their counsel, so a deputy sheriff had no difficulty in bringing the records into court, where they were impounded. The afternoon was devoted to the telling of strange tales.

Once upon a time, according to Miss Brooks there was a bachelor in West Hammond named Henry Wolf, who owned a neat little cottage surrounded by a well kept lawn. There was an old fashioned pump in the front yard, and the children of the neighborhood visited Wolf's lawn and pump and watered the premises freely every day.

Battle Over Pump Handle.

The water washed most of the grass away, and the children trampled down the rest. Wolf fenced in the pump. The children tore down the fence. Wolf removed the pump handle.

Some of the children happened to have fathers who were strong politicians. Wolf was arrested.

"Any man who will do such a mean thing has no love for children." Miss Brooks quoted Green as saying. "I will fine this man \$25 and costs."

This fine never was paid because Wolf appealed, and the case never was taken up in the higher courts.

"On several occasions when the disorderly houses of Hammond have been raided," said Miss Brooks, "the inmates have pleaded guilty and have been fined \$1 and costs, the costs amounting to \$7. But when it came to the owners of the house, Justice Green has dismissed them without any fine. He said there was no evidence to prove that the house was used for immoral purposes, although the girl inmates just pleaded guilty."

Again Tolls of Sonnastine Death.

Miss Brooks told the story of Martin L. Sonnastine's death once more. He died on June 16. The man was in the best of health on that day when he entered the saloon of Will Stevens. A few minutes later he was carried out unconscious. His skull was fractured, his teeth knocked out and his body covered with bruises.

The man died in a few minutes. A

HELPLESS CRIPPLE ARRIVES HERE



WOODLAND PLAYERS PROVE BIG FEATURE OF CHAUTAUQUA

BY ESTHER GRIFFIN WHITE.
Marc Klaw and Lee Shubert ought to get the chautauqua managers to tell them how to do it.

If they had taken a surreptitious glance through the cracks last night they could have seen an audience of between three and four thousand people more or less hypnotized by a presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," by the Woodland Players.

Shakespeare al fresco, so to speak, has an inexplicable attraction for the unsophisticated theatre-goer.

Why this is true is not, however, still so inexplicable as it might seem.

For the magic name of "Shakespeare" will conjure up high-brow visions and cover a multitude of theatrical sins.

He who has delightful shudders over an attendance at the play-house or sneaks with palpitating heart into the vaudeville, will proudly take an orchestra seat at a Shakespearean performance held in the open.

Or what corresponds to an orchestra seat.

The truth is that there never was a greater humbug than the Shakespearean.

For the reason that people "like Shakespeare" is not the reason they do.

Shakespeare was primarily a dramatist. Then poet.

But first of all a playwright.

It is a mistake to say that he is a closed dramatist.

That is, that he is better read than translated on the boards. This is an obsession started by some fusty pedant lecturing through his spectacles before a set of callow collegians.

Shakespeare an Actor.

Shakespeare, himself an actor, whether good or indifferent nobody knows, wrote his plays for the stage. And that they are admirably adapted for stage presentation any manager will tell you. Should the managers deny it, try the critics. They will confirm this statement.

For Shakespeare knows superbly how to arrange his climaxes.

Never is tragedy prolonged beyond the point of endurance.

Never is comedy reduced to banality.

And his burlesque is such burlesque as poets dream. It is burlesque sublimated.

Nonetheless Shakespearean traditions are somewhat archaic.

And therefore are only effective when translated through the medium of superlative art.

This letter explains the tremendous success of Sothern and Marlowe. For their genius overcomes every handicap met in the adaptation of Shakespeare's plays to modern theatrical standards.

These two great artists humanize Shakespeare, in short, for the stage.

While this may seem anomalous in that Shakespeare, of himself, lives because of his intense humanness, it still is not so anomalous when you consider that this very humanness has been obscured through misguided literary enthusiasts who have made of the great dramatist a sort of literary bogey to scare the little theatre-goer from the play-house.

And this is one reason why amateur Shakespearean presentations at colleges and educational institutions are not impressive to the practical student of the stage. The castes being trained, as a general thing, by the instructors in English and elocution, who insist upon the literary interpretation and whose knowledge of theatrics is practically nil.

Satisfactory Presentation.

The Woodland Players gave a satisfactory presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last evening, although they were handicapped by the limitations of the stage, which was entirely too small to give opportunity for those effects which are called for by the nature of the play.

The scenic effect, however, was good, the lights being very well arranged for the background of greenery against which the figures were silhouetted, and the company had the very great advantage of a quartette of men's voices through which were admirably interpreted the Shakespearean "incidental music."

That these players are not theatrical people was shown in their evident

fore our faces," said the speaker. "Heresy hunting is ceasing because the hunted outnumber the hunters."

That it was the disposition of the modern to get past elaborated creeds to a few essential principles which would appear to his reason as a legitimate rule for the conduct of life.

"But while the grip on the formulas of the past decreases, there is an increase in the religious spirit," said the speaker. "The desire to make one's will God's will. A desire to make one's life a part of a great world's purpose."

This loosening of the grip on the ideals of the past was accompanied by the speaker stated, by an impatience of restraint in leading what is sometimes termed "your own life."

Professor Russell.

"The vulgarity on the playgrounds of our public schools is one of the serious objections to the public school system by parents who send their children to private institutions," was the declaration of Professor Russell.

in his lecture on "The Conflict Between School and Playground Ethics," which closed the session of the institute.

WAS THROWN OFF ICE CREAM TRUCK

Falling from the running board of the Bender ice cream truck, as it was climbing the small incline near the east gate of the Chautauqua grounds at 7:30 o'clock last evening, William O. Brannon, 1224 Butler street, was run over by the rear wheels of the heavy truck and painfully injured. Both legs were badly bruised below the knee. Brannon was removed to his home in an ambulance. He spent a restless night, but is slightly improved today. Brannon was standing on the running board and the driver of the truck started the car quickly, throwing Brannon to the ground. Brannon is employed at the Westcott Motor car company.

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ANOTHER NEW SONG

Mrs. John McKann is composer of a new song entitled, "I'm Waiting, My Sweetheart, for You." It is very pretty and is a good seller; it is now on sale at Runge's music store.

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