

THE INDEPENDENT.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA.

BARELY ESCAPE RIOT

EXCITING SCENES IN KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE.

Several Members Are Unseated—Fearful Fatality at a Chicago Crossing—End of Venezuelan Muddle Is in Sight—Change in Departments.

Blue Grass Solons in a Tangle.

The long-expected riot in the Kentucky Legislature was very nearly realized Wednesday. The trouble arose over the action of the House unseating Kauffman in the Kauffman-Dunlap contest. Dunlap informed the Republican leaders he would drop out, but they would not permit it. When Senators James and Walton, Republicans, were unseated excitement became intense. A great cry went up and a rush for the door of the House to prevent the entrance of the two unseated Senators. It turned out that Senator James was already in the House. Hot words followed and trouble seemed imminent. The cry was heard to throw the first Senator over the banister who attempted to enter the House. In a few minutes the excitement seemed to have died away. The Blackburn men declared they would put James out of the House. W. G. Dunlap was prevented from entering the hall of the House to take his seat.

DEATH ON A CROSSING.

Children and Coachman of W. L. Blackman, of Chicago, the Victims.

A terrible misfortune has fallen upon the Blackman family, the well-known operators on the Chicago Board of Trade, when the children of Willis L. Blackman were run into by an express train at Hinsdale Tuesday. One son was killed outright, the other son is terribly mangled and can not live, while the daughter may recover. The coachman also was killed. The accident took place at 11 o'clock Tuesday night at the crossing of the C. B. & Q. Road. It is said that the gates were not down, and there was no sign of the approaching train. The coachman started to drive across. The carriage reached the middle of the tracks, when suddenly the headlight of the express shot out of the gloom. Before the frightened coachman could whip up his horses the engine struck the carriage full and square. The coach was smashed into kindling wood and scattered for fifty yards along the track. The coachman was hurled from his seat and killed. Both of the boys were badly mangled, and the youngest one was dead when picked up. The other was still alive, but was so terribly injured that the physicians say he can not recover. The little girl alone escaped with her life. But even she was badly bruised and shaken up, besides having one leg broken. Both of the horses were also killed.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Senator Frye's Bill Contemplates Extensive Transfers.

Senator Frye's bill providing for the creation of a department of commerce and manufactures contemplates the transfer to this department from the Treasury of the life-saving service, the lighthouse board, the marine hospital service, the bureau of steamship inspection, the bureau of navigation, the coast and geodetic survey and the bureau of statistics; also the bureau of statistics of the State department, the two bureaus of statistics to be consolidated into one. The consular service is also transferred from the jurisdiction of the State department to the proposed new department. It is provided that the department shall have general jurisdiction over the foreign and internal commerce of the United States, except in so far as relates to the collection of the revenue and the administration of the customs and internal revenue laws. It is also to have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the manufacturing interests of the United States, including the extension of foreign markets for the same, and the increase of trade and trade facilities with foreign countries.

Venezuelan Boundary Dispute.

Washington dispatch: A settlement of the Venezuelan question has been reached. It will be announced at an early day. Of this satisfactory conclusion of the controversy the President has had knowledge for two days past. Great Britain has acted with a magnanimity which commends her to severest critics. She concedes so much that there will be little left to arbitrate should arbitration be necessary. It is not improbable that the entire matter may now be settled outside the Venezuelan commission by the President and Lord Salisbury.

Ohio Republicans for McKinley.

Ohio Republicans in convention at Columbus enthusiastically declared for McKinley and protection. Governor Bushnell, Senator Foraker, Congressman Grosvenor, and Mark A. Hanna were chosen delegates-at-large from Ohio to the St. Louis convention. Nominations for State offices resulted as follows: For Secretary of State, Doty, 206; Kinney, 427; Wickoff, 217; necessary to choice, 420. Kinney's nomination was made unanimous. Marshall J. Williams was renominated for Supreme Judge by acclamation.

Allison Is Their Idol.

The Iowa Republican State convention at Des Moines was an Allison mass meeting. Two thousand delegates, representing every section of Iowa, mingled cheers with those of 2,000 spectators at every mention of Allison's name. Every faction, local and State, got together to starr the Allison boom, and all delegates to the national convention were pledged for him.

Editor Bailey Handled Roughly.

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With Men and Arms for Cuba.

It was stated Wednesday at Philadelphia that the steamer which left Thursday with a load of men and arms for Cuba was the Bermuda, which was seized two weeks ago by United States officers.

HIGHEST TRIBUNAL.

DAY WITH A MEMBER OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Hard Work One of the Conditions of a Justice's Life—Immense Amount of Labor in Preparing Sound Legal Opinions.

His Round of Exacting Duties.

Washington correspondence:

NOW, those men have what I call an easy time in life," remarked a young lawyer to his elderly companion on the avenue the other day, referring to a couple of justices of the United States Supreme Court, who were strolling westward in a leisurely manner, apparently enjoying the bracing air.

"Why do you think so?" inquired his companion, quizzically.

"Well, they hold high positions at the very front and head of an honorable profession, being the first lawyers of the land; they have nothing to do but render decisions upon cases argued before them, and they are certain of \$10,000 a year as long as they live."

"Your argument is all right as far as it goes," rejoined the elder, "but you have forgotten to state the principal proposition. As a matter of fact, there is not a more industrious body of professional men in this country than the United States Supreme Court, and there are few lawyers who dare to work as hard and as continuously as the members of this court. Their lives are anything but easy, as any one who is informed upon the matter can tell you. Their duties are exceedingly responsible, to begin with, as immense business interests are often involved, as well as grave matters of state, and are practically continuous, requiring the most assiduous application, deep study and painstaking research.

"The question of the \$10,000 a year does not weigh in the matter at all, for any one of them could earn five times the sum in legal practice, which would not take one-twentieth the time he now devotes to his duty. The honor of the position, the pride they take in filling it conscientiously, and the realization of the service they perform for their country and the profession is doubtless compensative to them, and furnishes sufficient inducement for retaining their positions, but do not for a moment delude yourself that their lives are easy ones."

In Gowns of Silk.

The old lawyer was right; very few people know, in fact, to what extent the duties of the members of the Supreme Court weigh them down with arduous and exacting details. The public only sees the grave and reverent seigneurs, robed in gowns of silk, sitting soberly in the comfortable big chairs of the Supreme Court and listening to arguments being made before them. That, indeed, does not look



IN SINGLE FILE.

to be very hard work for the members of the court, not half so hard, apparently, as for the anxious and agitated members of the bar haranguing them. But this is only the smallest part of their daily life. The immense number of cases on the docket of the Supreme Court and under argument require them to work early and late out of court.

Prompty at 12 o'clock noon the business of the Supreme Court begins. The crier raps for order, and the members of the bar and the visitors within the chamber rise to their visitors as he announces the entry of the court. Slowly the members file in, with funeral tread, robed in their voluminous gowns of black silk, the chief justice at the head of the cortege. They take their places behind their chairs, and the crier continues:

"Oyez, oyez, oyez, all persons having business before the Supreme Court of the United States are admonished to draw near and give their attention, for the court is now sitting. God save this honorable court."

With that the chief justice and his associates bow gravely to the bar, who in return make respectful obeisance, and all hands sit down, the visitors in the chamber hardly daring to draw breath, so impressed by the sight of all this greatness and the canopy of solemnity with which the officials festoon it. If there are any decisions to be rendered it is done, the justice having charge of the matter either pronouncing the decision extemporaneously, or, if it is a particular case, reading it from manuscript. New members of the bar are proposed for admission to practice and motions made for the disposal of business.

No Place for Oratory.

Then the case to be argued is called and the attorneys rise to address the court. Before any case is argued it is necessary to file a printed brief for the two parties at issue, and the grounds upon which it is brought before the court. Everything presented for the consideration of this tribunal is required to be in printed form. The arguments are usually very prosy. There is rarely any high-flown oratory attempted, for there is no jury to be influenced and the attorney must stick close to facts. After brief arguments on each side, or perhaps, without argument, and by the submission of a brief, the case is rested with the court and the parties at issue must go home and await the rendition of a decision.

This is where the work of Mr. Justice

Blank begins. He is required to consider and digest the argument made by the attorney and to make up his mind on the questions presented for his decision. In his argument the attorney made numerous citations of law, of references and precedents, which Mr. Justice Blank must look up and verify, as he cannot afford to trust anything to the attorney's say so. It may have been a forced interpretation or application that the zealous attorney made of the citation, and this must be examined. Mr. Justice Blank feels also that he must be thoroughly posted on the subject when it comes up for discussion in the privacy of the consultation chamber, for it is a point of pride with him that he must know as much about it as any of his colleagues.

Mr. Justice Blank rises in the morning with the rest of the work-a-day world, and by 9:30 o'clock is ready for business. He has an office at his residence, with a reference library of standard legal works and law reports. The Government furnishes him a secretary, who must be an expert stenographer and who attends him at his house. For a couple of hours or so in the morning the work of examining citations proceeds, the details varying with the nature of the case. By noon Mr. Justice Blank is at the Capitol and ready to take up the routine in the court room. The court sits from 12 until 4 o'clock, from the second Monday in October until the middle or latter part of May, five days in the week.

Work in the Evening.

After adjournment Mr. Justice Blank will more likely walk home, given a pleasant day, for he feels the need of stretching his limbs after sitting four hours on the bench, or rather in a leather chair. In the evening he puts in his best work on the case in hand, and if it is an interesting one will probably keep at it until a late hour. Perhaps he has his sec-



ADMITTED TO THE BAR.

retary read him the cited passages or the provisions of the law, or the record of the lower court upon which the case was argued, while he ponders the matter from an easy chair and behind a cloud of cigar smoke. This is continued until Mr. Justice Blank has absorbed clear ideas of his own of what ought to be the decision in the case.

Every Saturday the members of the court meet at the Capitol for consultation. They assemble in a little room on the basement floor, used for that purpose alone. Up to this point the public has kept tolerably well posted on the movements in the case, but here the court parts company with the public and the rest can only be surmised. The consultation chamber is the holy of holies where profane foot dare not tread, curious eye may not rest, and more than all, where no inquisitive ear can listen. What goes on within these walls is secret locked in the breasts of the members themselves and they never tell. It is surmised, however, that in this room and at this time the members of the court express their individual opinion upon the case at issue and reach a conclusion on it. The chief justice thereupon designates one of his associates to prepare the opinion of the court to be delivered at some future date.

Mr. Justice Blank, having now received authorization to present the opinion of the court upon the case, proceeds to draw it up, and this is a matter requiring care and deliberation, with rare choice of phrase in laying down the law. He knows that this opinion will be read by every lawyer in the country; will be criticised and scrutinized with keen eye and discriminating mind, and he must make it proof against assault for his own pride's sake. Moreover, this is to be the law of the land henceforth upon this particular subject, and he would like to have it stand as a monument to his ability, so that in the next century the decision of Mr. Justice Blank in the year 1896 will be cited in all similar cases.

Some of the opinions delivered by members of the court are at great length, going exhaustively into the subject and in trenching the court in a citadel of precedents and references. Of course it requires labor to do this. It takes delving and study, with reasoning and logic. It must be remembered also that just as soon as this case is disposed of there is another one pressing hot upon its heels, and so on, day after day and week after

week, until the adjournment of the court in the summer.

This does not end the labors of Mr. Justice Blank, however, but only closes one branch of them. He must now go on his circuit and continue his judicial duties. The States of the Union are grouped into nine judicial districts, each one constituting a United States Circuit Court of Appeals and presided over by a justice of the United States Supreme Court. The circuit courts of appeals are often in session simultaneously with the United States Supreme Court, but there may be certain cases reserved for hearing before the Supreme Court justice. If the parties at issue are not satisfied with the judgment of that one member of the Supreme Court, the case may be appealed to the full Supreme Court and heard later. Members of the Supreme Court frequently spend the vacation months on circuit, and get back to Washington only in time to take up their larger duties here.

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NOTES ON EDUCATION.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO PUPIL AND TEACHER.

The More Prominent Duties of the Superintendent as Outlined by A. W. Edson of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Duties of a Superintendent.

The duties of a superintendent may be classed as general and professional. His more prominent general duties are to inspect the school premises—the grounds, buildings and outhouses; to know and as far as possible to introduce the most approved methods of heating, lighting and ventilating school buildings; to select text and reference books, apparatus and supplies, and to see to their distribution; and, in brief, to attend to the endless details accompanying the business part of the school administration. From an economical standpoint the superintendent often proves himself a profitable agent, saving a town, city, or district in a single year no small part of his salary, and sometimes more than his salary. If prepared for his work, the superintendent is a thorough student of the science and art of education, of psychology with special reference to child study, of applied pedagogy and of the aims and work of our great educational reformers. He has had large and successful experience in teaching, especially in elementary grades. He has an intimate acquaintance with the best schools of the day; he attends educational conventions, institutes, and summer schools; in short, he keeps abreast of all advanced educational movements. Only by such preparation is he fitted to arrange a course of study for his schools. This keystone to any educational structure should be the work of a scholarly and progressive educator. It should indicate the principles underlying the ends to be attained, the subjects to be taught, the order of their presentation, with some general suggestions on methods of teaching. And after the course of study has been prepared, it must be wisely interpreted and intelligently applied. The further professional duties of a superintendent may perhaps be best shown by a discussion of his relations to four classes of people—the school committee, the teachers, the pupils, and the public:

1. He is the executive head of the school committee. It is the province of the committee to legislate, to give a candid consideration and final decision on the general policy to be pursued. It is the province of the superintendent to study every phase of education, to suggest to the committee what in his judgment he thinks for the best interest of the schools, and, after decision of the committee, to execute their wishes. He keeps the committee well informed on the actual and comparative condition and needs of the schools freely and conscientiously recommending changes where improvements are needed. He is their professional leader, and makes his influence felt on all questions pertaining to the welfare of the schools.

2. The value of skilled supervision rests largely in the ability of the superintendent to select and retain good teachers, and to assist all, both strong and weak, to the best results possible. He secures a list of desirable candidates, examines carefully into their qualifications, corresponds with persons able to speak from personal knowledge of their worth and work, visits them in the school room, and in a variety of ways exercises a judicious care in their selection. He places each teacher where she is most likely to succeed, visits her often, suggests good methods and encourages her in every way in his power. He is a strength and inspiration to the entire teaching force. Superior teachers are recognized and upheld, mediocre ones are stimulated to better preparation and greater efforts, while those who have no ability, who are hopelessly poor, are soon crowded out of the service. Many of our best teachers refuse to teach in towns having no superintendent—they recognize the value of the help he is able to render.

In the school room the superintendent follows closely the work of each teacher, notes mistakes, omissions and weaknesses, and give occasional test and teaching exercises. This constant contact with the schools enables the superintendent to understand and appreciate the difficulties of teachers far better than can any amount of reading and theorizing. Even a brief visit enables a superintendent to observe the spirit and order of the school and the value of the teaching.

The superintendent confers frequently with his teachers at general or grade meetings. Here he unifies and strengthens effort, compares the work of teachers in the same grade and of several grades, considers with them the ends and means in all school exercises, presents model lessons, interprets the various steps in the course of study, encourages and directs professional reading and study. Teachers' meetings without a superintendent to direct are rare and of little value.

3. The superintendent sees that the schools are provided with everything necessary to the bodily health and comfort of pupils, as well as with every appliance for their instruction. He assists in examining, classifying, and promoting pupils from time to time, and by his discriminating oversight prevents the machinery of school organization from destroying all individuality. Proper gradation and frequent promotions lead pupils to be prompt and regular at school, and to this end sees that the truant officers do their duty. He excites the ambition of pupils to obtain a good education, and as a result the attendance in grammar and high schools is greatly increased.

4. The superintendent often renders

the schools invaluable service by interesting the people, the fathers and mothers, taxpayers and voters, in their present condition and needed improvements.

He gains their attention and support by frequent teachers' meetings, where all interested can learn of what is being attempted, and of modern education—its purpose, means and methods; by evening meetings for general discussion of the work of the schools and the relations of the people to them; by school exhibitions, where some of the more tangible results of the school work can be displayed; by arranging special visiting days, where the regular daily work of the schools can be observed by providing monthly and yearly reports of pupils' work and progress for the inspection of parents; and by interesting the daily and weekly press in reporting school news and abstracts of addresses at teachers' meetings, institutes and conventions. When people hear much of the schools, visit them often and appreciate their needs, they appropriate liberally for their support.

Again, he often sets the paper of intermediary in settling differences and misunderstandings between parents and children on the one hand and teachers on the other. Educational machinery will always work with greater ease and efficiency if the cogs, wheels and bearings are kept well oiled.—The School Journal.

WHAT TO DO FOR BOYS.

Much can be done for boys from twelve to sixteen. Physically, we can easily aid them to be lithesome, strong, enduring, establishing habits of physical care and exercise. Mentally, there should be no overloading, but much exercising. The effort should be to develop quick, reliable, persistent thinking. Habit of the best mental activity is indispensable. If the boy is not bookish, if he has no scholarly tastes, no tendencies for investigation in science, or activity in industry, there is need of great care to discover the line along which he can be led to think individually and vigorously.

It is more difficult to know what to do with the boy emotionally excitable, impatient and inconsistent. Each child needs treatment specially adapted to himself, and every varying mood needs varying treatment. The will is not to be broken, nor is it to be allowed to run wild. While goodness cannot be whipped into a boy, it is not at all sure that some boys at some times do not need a very firm restraining hand. It is impossible for a mother to weep saintliness into the boy, and yet, rare tears and great occasions may be most efficacious. The rod, the scolding tongue, the weeping mother are not specific, and yet it is as sure as anything can be that any boy who has no birthmarks of fatal moral deformity could be trained, if in the hands of experts, so that he would come of age in a thoroughly balanced, well modulated, emotional life. The great demand of the age is for expert treatment of boys and good sense on the part of the part of parents which shall place especially freakish sons in charge of such experts.

There is little hope of expert home training for the boy who needs exceptional home care and treatment, the only hope is in the teacher who has prepared himself for such effort. The public school teacher cannot expect to be a specialist, and if he is, he has no right to give to one child the time, thought