

NO CHANCE FOR IT

At White's Bill to Split Up Kent County

WILL NOT BE PASSED THIS YEAR

It's Altogether Too Much of a Democratic Scheme to Be Swallowed by Republican Legislators.

The sentiment regarding At S. White's bill to cut eight townships from the north end of Kent county and with several townships from Newage and Montcalm to make a new county to be known as Stockbridge county, is decidedly against the measure. It was a chief subject of conversation on the street corners and about the court room all day yesterday. Many citizens express surprise at At White's tenacity in supporting the republican legislature will agree to his scheme of slicing off eight townships, all but one of which are solidly republican, and thus secure very probable democratic majorities in Kent county. Of all the objections raised none has more weight than the one raised by Simon Sullivan, that the passage of the bill would call for a redistricting of the state and that can not be done until 1926, after the next census. A few of the opinions expressed yesterday are given below:

Frank H. Gill—"I think the bill is all right. Great heavens! We must do something. Just look at the way the taxes are apportioned between the county and city and see how powerless the city is in the hands of that board of supervisors. It is ridiculous, and I think that At S. White should be supported in his effort to correct a great evil. His bill would give the county sixteen members and the city fifteen members. With the support of the members who come from the townships bordering on the city the city would be better represented. If that was not enough the city could divide some of these large wards and thus make several members for the city. City Treasurer Norrick—"I do think the representation on the board of supervisors should be more equally divided between the city and county. I do not know whether this is the best way to accomplish it or not."

E. A. Maynard—"At White has killed himself politically. Those people in the townships he proposes to cut off from the county will be well pleased if Cedar Springs may feel all right that it would doubtless be the county seat of the new county. That would build up another town to take more or less trade away from Grand Rapids."

Deputy Sheriff Davis—"Oh Lord! that makes me weary. Stockbridge county, ha, ha, what a way to waste a parcel. That's a nice trick; it would make Kent county safely democratic. Where are we at?"

Woolsey Cronkite—"I used to live in those townships and they tried many years ago to do the same thing. It won't work. Cedar Springs would like it because it would be the county seat. It is a foolish move."

George Cogshall—"It would make this a democratic county safe enough. Of course I would like to see the powers of the board of supervisors more equally divided between the city and county and this bill, if carried, would help us in that respect."

Simon Sullivan—"I do not believe the bill would be constitutional. It would necessitate redistricting that portion of the state and they have no power, as I understand it, to redistrict except after a census has been taken. I am sure that I am correct, but I wish you would interview some lawyer on that point. I would like, however, to see some means devised to give the city a more equitable representation on the board of supervisors."

Superintendent of Schools—"I think the act would be a foolish thing and I do not believe anyone in Kent county wants it. One of the chief objections is the fact that we have about \$100,000 debt now and to cut off those eight townships would but add to the people who remain in the county higher taxes in order to pay the debt. I have talked with the supervisors in those townships and they say there is not a desire expressed by any number of citizens in their townships for the change. In fact they say they have heard no one express a desire to have a new county formed. It looks as if there was no reasonable occasion for the introduction of such a bill."

C. H. Bender—"It looks to me as if At White had made a mistake. There is no earthly reason for such a change. At is mistaken if he thinks he can work a political scheme by such a trick as calling the proposed county 'Stockbridge county.' I don't see a reason for such a bill, anyway."

Prosecuting Attorney Wolcott—"It seems foolish to me to divide the county. I do not believe the people of those townships want it."

Superintendent of Schools—"Mr. White's main reason may be to give the city more representation on the board, but at any rate it would make Kent county democratic. Now looking at it fairly, we from the country have always used the city well. The city pays but 64 per cent of the taxes. We don't need any such change."

Chairman Page of Sparta said: "I consider the question as being almost too preposterous to answer. Of course we are opposed to it. We have just

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HOW THEY CUT ICE

Some Facts About an Important Industry,

ABOUT 100,000 TONS TO BE CUT

At Reed's Lake This Winter—The Ice Is of an Exceptionally Fine Quality. How It is Harvested.

Out at Reed's lake the ice harvesters are holding high carnival. The rasp and clink of the scaman's to be resound on the air and give the surroundings a tone of activity quite unprecedented at any other season of the year. Something over 100,000 tons will be put up in Grand Rapids this winter. Most of it will come from Reed's lake. The Valley City company will store about 15,000 tons; the Grand Rapids Ice and Coal company about 15,000; Hiram Collins 10,000; the South Grand Rapids Ice and Coal company about 10,000; the Grant company about 9,000 and the S. P. Bennett Fuel and Ice company about 8,000 tons.

No Mint Julep Famine. But the regular dealers put up little more than half of the entire amount. All the hotels and stores store their own ice. The packing houses and larger meat markets do the same. Many of the hotels have their private ice houses, and part of the saloons depend upon their own supply. It might be stated parenthetically that 100,000 tons of ice means 200,000,000 pounds. It takes less than four ounces of ice for a mint julep. Unless the straw crop is a failure the success of another summer industry is practically assured.

Time to the person that has a little spare time and two suits of under-clothing, there can be no more interesting winter amusement than to go out to the lake and watch the process of harvesting the ice crop. The average individual has an idea that a hand-saw and a pair of ear-laps are the essential elements in cutting ice. They are not. It is as systematic as putting down a parlor carpet.

How It is Done. First the snow is carefully cleared from a given area by means of a large snow plow, drawn by a span of horses. A rectangular space is carefully measured off, and the marker is brought out. It is provided with teeth set in rows at a distance equal to the size of the cake of ice—usually twenty-two inches. The marker is drawn by a single horse. Parallel lines are first drawn and then the lines at right angles, thus marking the ice into squares the size of each cake. A plow furnished with long teeth arranged on the same plan as those of the marker is then used. This cuts grooves about three inches deep in the ice. As ice is usually cut when it is twelve inches thick, three cuts are made. This prevents the cakes from breaking up. The ice is then cut into rafts about forty squares long and ten squares wide. The rafts are towed in the direction of the ice house or elevator and broken into strips. These strips are pushed through a narrow channel that leads from the open water to the ice house elevators. As it passes through this canal it is broken into chunks, and the pieces are carried into the ice house by means of an endless chain, in much the same fashion as saw logs are lifted into a mill.

The Ice Houses. The ice houses themselves are more elaborately constructed than the casual observer is aware. Between the outer and inner walls are three distinct compartments. The outer one, which is about eight inches wide, is filled with sawdust. The inner one serves as a cold air flue. The cakes of ice are carefully covered with sawdust. When the house is filled a quantity of straw or marsh hay is packed on top, and the building locked up.

Although the ice is packed as carefully as possible yet the loss to packers is almost one-fourth. The ice at the lake is now about twelve inches thick, which is as clear as glass. The two inches of snow ice is a great benefit, as it prevents the cake from being honey-combed when exposed to the sun.

Old Boreas made a ten-strike on his 1893 ice crop and up to date no ice trust has been formed.

Tailor's Union Organized. The Tailor's Union was re-organized last night by the state organizer and organization committee of the Central Labor Union. They will meet again Monday evening in Central Labor Union hall. The tailors had a strong union several years ago and propose now to maintain a good, permanent organization. Their prospects are now good. They have a union label for custom made clothing and will try to induce firms to employ union men entirely and in that way secure the use of the label.

Gas Meter Parties. "Gas meter socials are now the most recherché of the winter socials," remarked Charlie Reed in the Morning last night. "Ever attend one? Great fun. I was up to one at John Brewer's the other night. Event of the season in its way. You see they're like this: The guest goes down in the basement and holds a kerosene lamp while the host thaws out the gas meter by an alcohol lamp. Great affair; but it usually takes all the alcohol in the house to thaw out the meter."

Cleared the Walks. Yesterday the corps of men kept by the street commissioners were able to clear the sidewalks of snow for the first time in two weeks. These men have kept snow plows running constantly, but the heavy drifts were too much for these machines and it was not until yesterday that the weather was settled enough to make it profitable to clear the walks with shovels. A large number of men were busy removing these drifts. The work was not all completed and will be continued today.

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General with a Tasteless & Reliable Catalog. Of all druggists. Price 25 cents a Box. Sent by mail on receipt of 50 cents.

There was a decrease of \$125,595.92 the bank clearings yesterday as compared with the corresponding day of last year on a business of \$174,770.33.

DeMolai commandery, Knights Templar, will go to Big Rapids by a special train this afternoon to visit Pilgrim commandery of that city.

The annual meeting of the K. S. I. will be held tonight at the high school building. The annual election of officers will take place.

The Y. M. C. A. committee to solicit funds for their new building, will meet at the Old National bank at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

J. E. Rensburg of Atchison, Kan., will lecture on the folly of closing the world's fair on Sunday at Powers' on Sunday night.

Orland Turner, steward of one of the Williams line of steamboats, is visiting his uncle, Alderman L. M. Turner.

The Grand Rapids Railroad Clerk's association held its annual party at the local street armory January 25.

The Rev. W. A. Frye gives his lecture on "Money and Muscle" at Lake Ojewa on Saturday night.

The Grand Rapids Comedy company gave an entertainment at Rockford last evening as announced.

Frank Welch, a furniture salesman, is confined to his room at the Morton with an attack of gout.

A number of society persons from the city will attend the Muskegon club's annual ball tonight.

The Old Times concert was repeated at the South Congregational church last evening.

Yesterday was a busy one for the furniture men and many of them took large orders.

A conference on economic questions is called for tonight at Central Labor Union hall.

Truant Officer Fee will give the boys in the truant school a sleigh ride this afternoon.

G. N. Wagner and J. J. Tucker left for Jacksonville, Fla., Wednesday night.

The Misses Lilly will give a dancing party one week from this evening.

A new elevator is being placed in the Berkley & Day factory.

A. B. Richmond has returned from a western business trip.

C. F. Couston of Muskegon was in the city yesterday.

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Our entire stock of Blankets and Comfortables at prices to close them out at once. We have a few Blankets, SLIGHTLY SOILED, that you can have at a price. First comer gets the best bargain. Cloaks are going at prices you can not resist to buy. Dress Goods also are included in this sale.

OUR MUSLIN UNDERWEAR SALE.

Watch for it, wait for it, save your money for it. Remember the bargains we gave you last year. This year we shall do still better. Greater bargains. Larger assortment. We are getting ready for--watch the daily papers.

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