

The True Northerner.

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PAW PAW, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1912.

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WILL CARRY CONTEST TO LEGISLATURE

Van Buren County Representation to Be Decided by Legislative Body.

ASK FOR RECOUNT OF BALLOTS

Both Simpson and Knolls Ready to Contest Election of Representative Weidenfeller.

The following from the Hartford Day Spring would seem to indicate that the legislative fight in Van Buren county is not yet over with:

"That the legislative fight in Van Buren county, which waxed warm following the election in November owing to the close vote polled by the candidates of the three leading parties, is not yet ended is evidenced by the activities of the democratic and progressive party leaders who are planning to carry the contest to the legislature in January and ask for a recount of the votes in the county.

The official result of the election, as determined by the board of county canvassers, resulted in the election of C. A. Weidenfeller of Bloomington, who polled 2,315 votes as compared with 2,239 votes cast for the Democratic candidate, Fred L. Simpson of Hartford, and 2,289 for the Progressive nominee, Fred M. Knolls of Hamilton.

When the result was made known Mr. Simpson filed a petition for a recount of the ballots with the board of county canvassers, but the petition was denied. He is now informed by prominent members of the Democratic state central committee, as well as by friends of Alfred Lucking of Detroit, the Democratic candidate for United States senator, that they stand ready to assist him in carrying the contest into the legislature when it convenes in January, which is the only method by which a recount may now be had.

That the Progressives will join in contesting the election of Representative Weidenfeller when the legislature convenes next week is probable. Candidate Knolls of Hamilton is reported as stating last week that the state central committee of the Progressive party was planning to carry a petition to the legislature asking for a recount of the votes in his behalf.

Politicians of all three political parties are agreeing that if both the Democratic and Progressive influence is brought to bear at the opening of the legislature, it will prove sufficient to unlock the ballot boxes in Van Buren county and cause a recount of the votes cast for member of the state legislature.

What the final result may be is problematical, but the democrats are insisting that the ballot boxes have a surprise in store for the people of the county when a recount is made. They hold to the theory that numerous votes cast for Simpson were overlooked by the election boards and that a more careful examination of the ballots will show that a sufficient number of Republican voters split their tickets for the Democratic candidate to result in his election.

DETAINED BY ILLNESS.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Broughton were planning on a family reunion on Christmas day, but were disappointed and much grieved to receive news that their grandson, little Dick Roach, who is at Nazareth Academy, Kalamazoo, was detained there on account of sickness. The nature of the illness is fever and the precaution had to be taken even though it does not result seriously.

Little Dick has many friends here where he is so well known that will be sorry to hear this report. His mother, who is also in Kalamazoo, did not come over on account of this.

CORN IMPROVEMENT ASSOC'N

The Michigan Corn Improvement Association will hold its ninth annual show at the Western Normal, Kalamazoo, January 8 to 11, inclusive.

It has created three divisions in the Junior Class—from 8 to 12 years, 12 to 16 and 16 to 20 years of age, and a sweep-stake.

Valuable prizes will be given in each division. All boys and girls are requested to have their corn in by January 1.

The program will begin January 7 and continue four days. One day will be an alfalfa growers' experience meeting, led by Mr. A. R. Potts. Another day will be given to the consideration of our prairie, rolling and soils, and the third will be given to Juvenile Education.

The boys and girls who grew corn the past summer for the county contest conducted by the commissioner of schools are eligible to enter this contest.

LOCAL TRAPPERS DO GOOD BUSINESS

Fur Bearing Animals Still to Be Found Along the River and Prices are Better than Formerly.

The decline of fur bearing animals has caused the price of furs to advance in the same ratio as eggs and butter. Our local trappers, "Tip" Showerman and Will Pike still have their line of traps on the river and as long as the river is open they may be seen paddling their canoes anywhere between here and Lawrence, gathering in the mink and muskrat.

The latter has now become a delicacy and "Tip" can supply a ny one who wishes a rat pie with nicely dressed water chickens. The pelts, which formerly sold for 10 cents, now bring 70 cents, and the difference in price makes up for the smaller catch. Occasionally the trappers diffuse a perfume that makes attar of roses go into cold storage, and then you know that a \$3.00 skunk has come their way. Take it all together there seems to be as much money in the game as when the forest which covered this locality literally swarmed with fur clad animals.

COMING ONE BY ONE.

Miss Ione Reynolds came from Connersville, Ind., last Saturday to spend the holiday vacation with her parents and friends. The rest of the clan are expected the last of the week. This is the only time in the year that the family are together and a good time is always expected.

A familiar figure haunts the grocery stores as the genial Wint peeks around looking for good things for those kids to eat, and sooner or later he can be seen facing the east with his basket on his arm, chuck full. They will have their family gathering next Saturday.

CHRISTMAS EXERCISES.

There were the usual exercises in all the churches in the village last Tuesday evening, consisting of recitations, songs and a tree filled with presents to delight the children. All of the Sunday schools drew large crowds and their programs were all good. The children were all happy and that makes the rest of the world happy.

Santa Claus is always a welcome visitor and never disappoints us.

H. C. WATERS & Co. ONE OF THE BEST

Well-Known Hardware Store Has County-Wide Reputation. One of Paw Paw's Solid Institutions.

In making the rounds of the various business establishments of Paw Paw, one can hardly fail to be impressed with the magnitude of the hardware house of H. C. Waters & Co. The average town of the size of Paw Paw hardly contains a business house of such dimensions, and when we reflect that the present large establishment is the outcome of years of successful business career right here, we can but conclude that good business methods, coupled with a desire to serve the public honestly, with goods that are guaranteed as represented, will win out in the long run.

The firm of H. C. Waters & Co. was established in 1893, succeeding to the business of J. H. Waters & Co. who first engaged in business in Paw Paw in a small way in the year 1889. The transfer to their present large and commodious store was made in 1896.

There are certain well established rules of business, which, if followed scrupulously and without deviation, will lead to ultimate success. These are not necessarily of a hackneyed nature, as new ideas in the business world are being promulgated every day—but it is the unswerving fidelity to certain principles, once inaugurated, that counts. To guarantee one's goods doesn't amount to much unless the merchant is willing to stand behind such guarantee with dollars and cents, and this is something H. C. Waters & Co. have a habit of doing.

The hardware business may be considered as different from almost any other line of mercantile business, in that there is necessarily handled such a variety of products and to be able to select judiciously in buying his stock requires a knowledge far beyond that possessed by the merchant who carries but a single line of goods. This firm prides itself on having this knowledge and demonstrates it in a practical way. They know that the best they can buy will give the most satisfaction in the long run and quality, not cheapness, is what is looked for by the better class of buyers. Their slogan, "Talk to Waters," is well known in Van Buren county and Van Buren county people have learned that when they are in doubt regarding hardware, to talk to Waters will set them right. That they have the most complete line of hardware in Van Buren county goes without saying, and their constantly increasing sales demonstrates their popularity.

A Happy New Year

We take it for granted that the readers of this paper enjoyed a Merry Christmas; now for a Happy New Year. Can we but start in right when the new year overtakes us, it will be easier to keep right. If health be ours what does it matter, whether we have everything we want or not. It is fortunate that we never reach the point where we want nothing more. Let us strive for what we failed to reach last year—there are only twelve months in the coming year—the same as last—and we have much more to accomplish.

Stories of Long Ago

ISAAC W. VAN FOSSEN.

People who have become acquainted with this man only within the last few years and have visited him in his home, seeing him as he appears now—at leisure—little know and realize the busy life that he led in his younger days. He was born in Livonia, N. Y., in the year 1826, on the 24th day of July. His father was a miller and was one of the prominent young men of that day. There were eleven children in the family. The father came to Michigan in 1820 prospecting for a location, but not until 1833 did he move his family here and take up the responsibilities of a pioneer. They came by the way of the Erie canal to Buffalo and thence to Detroit by steamboat. By team they reached Jackson county where they established their new home.

Young Isaac was but seven years of age at this time, but later did what he could to aid in the work of the farm, which consisted of breaking up the land, using an ox team to accomplish the work. After the death of his mother in 1839 he went to Jackson and afterward secured employment in the Jackson Democrat, which was in time absorbed by the Jackson Patriot. Here he served his apprenticeship and this was the small beginning of his large experience in newspaper business, having been an employe of the Toledo Blade and also the Detroit Advertiser. Mr. Van Fossen was very clever with his pen, having written many articles for publication that attracted the public eye. A story dealing with the situation existing between the two tribes of Indians, the Ottawas and Pottawatamies, which had been at war, was read with the greatest interest and was a credit to his versatility.

About the year 1849 he went to Greenville, Montcalm county, and established a trading post. His business was largely with the Indians, and he dealt in furs, skins of deer, red and gray, exchanging for them jewelry, the most gaudy to attract the eye of the people with whom he dealt. He also sold them knives, calico and numerous commodities, useful and otherwise. Mr. Van Fossen in this way and by observation of the Indian life and characteristics became familiar with them and can tell many interesting things of his personal experience with the red man.

In 1854 John R. Baker, who was then district attorney of Van Buren county, was sent to Detroit by the business men of Paw Paw to secure a man to manage the Paw Paw Free Press, which they had recently acquired. Mr. Van Fossen was recommended to him by reliable men in Detroit as the right man for the place and the result of the conference which followed was that he bought the plant and assumed the management. In 1858 his office was destroyed by fire, but he bought new material and continued the publication of this paper until he sold his interest in 1875 and left the state. Paw Paw had a strong hold upon him, however, and he returned here and was in the harness of journalism until he retired from active business in 1902. His newspaper career covers a period of 50 years, and he is therefore interested in the fate of all newspaperdom in general.

Mr. Van Fossen was married in 1858 to Miss Irene Simmons of this place, who, it is interesting to know, was the first white girl born in this town and which was at that time called Lafayette. He has been very prominent in the politics of the earlier history of the county and still enjoys a little discussion of topics bearing on the subject, but has taken no active part in it for some years. He took his first degree in Masonry in 1849, and has been a member of the Paw Paw lodge since 1855. He is also a Knight Templar.

Mr. Van Fossen still lives in the home that he established at the time of his marriage. Dr. Verne, his daughter, is his constant companion and the two make their home a convenient place to drop in for a chat. Eighty-six years of usefulness and activity is a record to be proud of. The subject of this sketch at this age is erect, alert, and walks down town for his mail, striking a gait that would put some younger people to a test. Having lived an outdoor life when young and being always employed with head and hand is one of the requisites of long life as expressed by this well preserved man. Eighty-six years of effort to help build a commonwealth and to help keep the procession moving. May the coming generations exemplify his example.

SERIOUSLY ILL.

Henry Sage, while about the house last Monday had an attack of paralysis. He was, for the time being, unable to speak and was for several hours in a helpless condition. He regained consciousness and is somewhat improved at this time.

Mr. Srge is nearly 70 years of age and unable to rally from such an attack as readily as a younger man.

CLOSING EXERCISES AT HIGH SCHOOL

High School Presented Play Other Rooms Had Various Exercises, Songs and Recitations

Last Friday afternoon occurred exercises at the school building, prepared by the teachers and pupils, for the closing of school for the Christmas vacation. Nearly every room had a program or joined with some other grade. The high school presented a play entitled "The Obstinate Family," and it was very well done. The cast included only six characters, Cecil Gries, Margaret Cole, Ruth Webb, Horace Howe, Earl Markille and Harold Salyer.

The young people surely did credit to the little farce, as it was very amusing. The fact that the play was translated from the German by them made it doubly appreciated, for it certainly represented a great deal of work. The little German song by the boiler and the maid was catchy and cute.

The High School band played several pieces and the Girls' quartette sang a German song.

The exercises in the various rooms consisted of songs and recitations, with plenty of candy and Christmas things exchanged. Professors Robertson and Mayer, with their competent assistants, are receiving many compliments on their work this year.

The rooms in the annex were said to be very merry too, as the little tots always have something good. Christmas only comes once a year, which seems such a short time to the older folks and never ending to the youngsters.

There will be two weeks' vacation this year.

MUSICAL TREAT.

An entertainment to be given at the Lee school house, December 28, at 8 o'clock p. m. Following is the program: Romeo and Juliet,.....Belini
Foot and Peasant,.....Suppe
Tancredi,.....Rossini
Will be rendered by piano (four hands) two violins and a cornet. Mr. Byron Ypsilanti will play a quadrille and other beautiful solos. The Glee Club party by the Ladies' Glee club will surely make you laugh. Admission, 25c.

EVERYTHING READY FOR PARCELS POST

System Will Be Installed on January First, at Which Time Stamps Will Be on Sale.

Postmaster Wakeman announces that everything is in readiness for the installation of the parcels post system. There will doubtless be some little confusion until patrons become thoroughly familiar with the provisions of the law. Following are some of the things to be remembered:

After January 1st all fourth class mail matter (merchandise) sent through the mails must bear a Parcel Post Stamp. Ordinary postage stamps will not be accepted.

Packages will be received for dispatch not exceeding eleven pounds in weight nor greater in size than 72 inches in length and girth combined, nor in form or kind likely to injure the person of any employee or damage the mail equipment or other mail matter, and not of a character perishable within a period reasonably required for transportation and delivery. Parcel post stamps will be placed on sale January first.

The new parcels post stamps are a work of art. They are red in color and are much larger than the ordinary stamp. They represent a life of activity, and show plainly that Uncle Sam believes in hustling. The one cent stamps bear a picture of a postoffice clerk at work, the two cent stamps a likeness of a city carrier, the four cent stamps a likeness of a rural mail carrier, the five cent stamps a mail train, the 10 cent stamps a mail steamer and the 25 cent stamps represent the manufactures.

This system will tend largely to bring the manufacturer and the consumer in closer touch and will make "market days" less of a dread. The telephone and parcels post simplifies commerce to such an extent that we will be able at no far distant day to dispense all together with the laborious task of having to "go to town" whether we can spare the time or not, but can simply give our order to our favorite merchant over the phone and he will deliver our goods in time for dinner.

EXTENDS WELCOME.

Having purchased the Racket store business from Mr. Weston we desire to extend a welcome to the old customers, as well as new, to make our store your headquarters. We will endeavor to conduct the business along the same lines as has been done heretofore. Come in, and let us get acquainted.

J. V. SMITH,
Prop'r the Racket store.

FIRST SHOT IN THE ALLEGAN OIL FIELDS

Three Thousand People Witness Unusual Sight at Allegan Oil Well

120 QTS. OF NITROGLYCERINE

Regular Oil Pumping Outfit Will Be Installed and Oil in Paving Quantity is Assured.

Allegan is all excitement over the discovery of oil in her vicinity. The indications have long been apparent but the first real shot was made two weeks ago by the Independent Torpedo Co., of Findlay, Ohio, for the Northern Oil and Gas Co. About 3000 people were attracted to the place and the proceedings were very interesting. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the method of shooting a well we take the following from the Allegan Times:

"Friday the explosive, which was brought from Portland, Ind., by automobile, was taken to the well and warmed up by escaping steam. The 120 quarts used was placed in six shells, each shell holding 20 quarts. These shells were let down in the well by windlass, a baling being attached to each shell like that used on a hook and when bottom was reached the hook usually drops out of the bale of its own accord, but three times during Friday afternoon trouble was experienced and it took several minutes to disengage it. The last shell lowered was the one that was exploded first and this explosion caused the others to be set off. To the top of the last shell a disc was attached and to this disc a steel rod was fastened. At the end of the rod two large waterproof caps were attached. When the weight, or "goddevil" as the experts call it, was let fall it struck this disc and drove it downward and the caps struck an iron or steel piece fastened near the top of the can, exploding the nitrolycerine.

"Nitrolycerine will not explode unless confined. It may be thrown against a building without harm but we would not advise anyone to try it. The empty cans were taken several hundred feet away and exploded by fuses being attached to them. This was necessary to comply with the law.

"The well is 1,340 feet deep. Two veils of oil-bearing sand were struck. The first was found at a depth of 1,286 feet and this vein was estimated to be three feet in thickness. The second vein was found at a depth of 1,316 feet and is estimated at about eight feet through it, being of more than the average thickness. To "shoot" both veins at once it was necessary to attach a long tin tube to the bottom of the last shell reaching from the bottom of the lower veil to the one above it.

"There was 900 feet of oil and water in the well Friday morning. A portion of this was baled out before the shooting.

"The nitrolycerine was brought to Allegan by auto from Portland, Ind., and arrived here Friday morning. The auto, when two miles north of Sturgis, became stuck in the sand, and not a farmer for money, marbles or chalk would pull it out when they learned what the load consisted of. The driver had to walk into town, leading the load unguarded, and secured help.

"After pumping for a number of hours it was found that the well is certainly a fine one, they are certain the yield will be from 12 to 20 barrels of oil per day. Pumping was stopped Monday morning and a regular oil pumping outfit was sent for and as soon as it arrives, oil in Allegan in big and paying quantities and of high quality is assured. Hurrah for Allegan and oil."

NOT SO BAD AS IT LOOKS

Charles Varney, junior, was hurt on the ice the first of the week. A game of hockey was in progress and Charles happened to be lying face downward, trying probably to see the fish, or possibly resting on his face, when someone landed on his head. The explanation of Rev. C. E. of the situation is this: "Young Charles thought his nose would stand the strain, but the ice was the strongest." The contest over, Dr. Maxwell got busy with adhesive plaster and decorated the young man; anyway his nose occupies the center field where it should, instead of following its own inclination.

The hurt is not really very serious, but he could probably have selected a more pleasant pastime had he known what was to be. Hockey, thou art a snare.