

THE GREAT MISSIONARY EXHIBIT AT LOS ANGELES

VISITORS AT M. E. GENERAL CONFERENCE GIVEN GLIMPSES OF NATIONS.

IN CHARGE OF IOWA MAN

S. Earl Taylor, Formerly Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., at Muscatine, Superintendent of the Exhibit—Many Specially Interesting Features.

(By Mrs. Anna Lee Mahlin, special correspondent for the Courier at the Methodist general conference.)

Los Angeles, Calif., May 31.—The general conference of 1904 will be distinguished from its predecessors in that for the first time in the history of the church a very extensive exhibition of the missionary operations of the church was shown as an accompaniment to the regular sessions of the conference. This exhibit not only surpassed all preceding exhibits made by the missionary society, but without question it was the largest and most comprehensive denominational exhibit ever made in the United States.

The missionary exhibit idea was first worked out in an elaborate way by the Missionary society in connection with the great convention at Cleveland, Ohio, in October, 1902. The effectiveness of an educational exhibit in promoting missionary interest and in teaching the best methods of promoting missionary interest gained immediate recognition. Similar exhibits to that shown in Cleveland were made in connection with the International Convention of the Epworth League held at Detroit in July 1903, at the Philadelphia convention in October, 1903, at the Iowa and Illinois conventions in the months of February and March 1904 and at the San Francisco convention in April 1904. In addition to all these demands for smaller exhibits to be used at District League conventions became so urgent that twenty-five traveling exhibits were prepared, which have been doing good service in various parts of the country.

Previous to the Cleveland convention exhibit extensive exhibits had been made in connection with the convention of the student volunteer movement for foreign missions, and in connection with certain denominational gatherings other than Methodist Episcopal, culminating in the exhibit prepared for the Ecumenical Missionary conference at New York in 1900 under the direction of P. B. Besant, national secretary of the student volunteer movement for foreign missions.

In Great Britain the exhibit idea has been used very extensively and with great success by the Church Missionary society; the exhibits having been so elaborated that they have come to have an exalted status in the cultivation of missionary ideas, addresses and speeches being made as supplements to the exhibit rather than the exhibit being a side feature of some conference or convention. Such an exhibit is shipped from city to city, the largest halls being called into use for its display, and a force of constructors, exhibitors and speakers accompanying it. Such an exhibit displayed in the largest cities and attended by hundreds of thousands of people has come to be regarded as one of the most economical, practical and effective ways of reaching large numbers of people with the missionary message thus brought home through eye and ear, and reinforced by attractive literature which may be carried away.

Greatest Exhibit Ever Seen.

The exhibit at Los Angeles surpassed all previous exhibits held under the auspices of the Missionary society in almost every regard. Those in charge of the exhibit had the benefit of large experience gained in connection with other exhibits. The long period during which the exhibit was to be shown justified a more elaborate display, and the place secured—the old Chamber of Commerce building—was by far the best place that up to the present time has been found available for such use. Los Angeles is the center of the most energetic promotion of publicity with reference to the attractions of southern California, and for years an exhibit has been maintained continuously under the auspices of the chamber of commerce of the city, and for the better exploitation of this display of fruits and flowers the old chamber of commerce building was especially constructed but was later outgrown. This building, having an available floor space of 23,000 square feet, and with light from three sides and from extensive skylights, and situated less than three blocks from Hazard's pavilion where the general conference sessions were held, was most generously given free of rent, to the open door emergency commission to be occupied during May by the exhibit, and through the hall and balconies and the central area way of this building there coursed for the first ten days of the general conference, or up to the date of mailing this article from Los Angeles, an average of 6,000 visitors daily by actual count, an attendance causing constant surprise and remark.

The main exhibit hall in the old chamber of commerce building is almost square, and on each side of this hall and extending completely around it is a wide balcony. On the Broadway side of the building on the main and balcony floors of the hall are a series of office rooms, and on the fourth street side a space is set apart for a few such office rooms, the central section, however, being left open, thus making the balcony of double width, and with a corresponding depth in the main hall below. The roof, directly

over the enclosure made by the four-sided balcony, is of glass, thus flooding the hall with light. On the main floor, out from under the balcony, the space was devoted to exhibit alleys on either side of which were displayed the conspicious literature of the missionary society, and especially of its young people's department, the literature of the Woman's Foreign and the Woman's Home Missionary societies, attractive samples of the work of mission and Bible study classes, samples of help which have been found most useful in promoting missionary interest, and books and papers from mission presses and publishing houses, together with Bibles in many languages, furnished by the American Bible society.

The Great Missionary Map. Opposite the stairway entrance to the main hall, and completely hiding the gallery on the east side of the room, was hung the great missionary map of the world, the largest of its kind in existence, and made of mounted back of the platform in Carnegie music hall in New York City during the ecumenical missionary conference in May, 1900. This map was easily the most prominent feature in the exhibit, and with its spread-out hemispheres and Scripture passages of world import, spoke messages to every visitor.

Surrounding the hall, both underneath and about the balcony, were constructed the booths representing the various countries. These booths were furnished with banners, curios, costumes, samples of handicraft, and other articles suggestive of the occupations of war and peace in the various lands. Missionaries, so far as it was possible for them to give the time, were in attendance upon these various booths, and now and then, following megaphone announcements from the balcony, these missionaries would give fifteen-minute talks concerning the country from which they came, using some article in the booth as a point of departure for the conversational address. Occasionally these missionaries would speak in costume. Invariably an interested crowd gathered at the booth immediately upon announcement that such a talk would be given, and the more interested of the audience would remain after the talk was over to ask questions.

Glimpses of Every Land. The missionaries were ably supplemented by volunteer workers from the Los Angeles churches, who speedily learned the names and significance of the various articles in the particular booth served, and so were able to answer the questions of the thronging visitors. In addition to the booths devoted to Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Burma, Africa, Mexico and South America, Hawaii and Bulgaria, there were others devoted to the American Indians, to the Woman's Foreign Missionary society, and to the Woman's Home Missionary society.

A number of special features lent interest and variety to this main arrangement of booths and exhibit alleys. Such, for instance, were a Chinese altar of worship with joss sticks burning and with image and tablets in place; an Eskimo carving walrus tusks with a pocket knife, Indian Zenana with two women in costume grinding at a mill; a display of historical portraits pertaining to the development of the Missionary society; the cobbler's hammer of William Carey used by him in 1751, and loaned for this exhibit by Dr. Mursell of Edinburgh; a corner devoted to pictures of work among the Japanese and Chinese of the Pacific coast; an exhibit of photographs of early Jesuit missionaries to North America; an illuminated corner devoted to lantern slide views, under the direction of L. F. Swartout of Ludington, Michigan.

The center piece on the main floor was a superior exhibit of Bibles in many languages, together with several features of missionary interest, such as the "smallest Bible in the world," made by the Oxford University Press for the Paris exposition; part of the diary of James Chalmers, who suffered martyrdom at the hands of New Guinea cannibals three years ago, etc. Close by this center piece stood the curious table made by the boys in the Kolar Institute, Kolar, India, and presented to the General Conference.

Visitors Made Comfortable. For the first time in connection with such an exhibit under Methodist auspices, provision was made for refreshment tables. Back of the great map a cafe in the balcony was conducted by the Los Angeles Japanese Mission, thus affording a convenient lunch room for hundreds of visitors. An even more interesting refreshment feature was the Japanese tea room, where delicate Japanese maidens, in their own attractive Japanese costumes, served tea to visitors for a consideration. This tea room was decorated by the Japanese themselves, and was after the manner of a Japanese garden with hanging wisteria clusters and a wealth of cherry blossoms, a running fountain, playing golf, and a sober and dignified bronze stork.

Rest rooms appropriately decorated, and with rockers and divans, were in charge of the Woman's Foreign and Woman's Home Missionary societies and the deaconesses. An assembly hall properly darkened made possible occasional lantern slide lectures. Every afternoon at 2:30 o'clock a program with special speakers, and usually with musical features, was carried out in the Exhibit hall. In these programs bishops, missionaries and missionary secretaries spoke from time to time, and missionaries and natives, or natives alone, sang gospel or national songs, sometimes in English and sometimes in the strange tongues of mission lands.

Provision was made from time to time for special days when appropriate programs were carried out. On one day pupils of the city high school filled the aisles to overflowing; on other days pupils of the public schools swarmed about the booths; one evening, the Christian Endeavors of the city had the right of way, and another time an

Epworth League day provided for the Methodist young people; the members of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce were the special guests one night, the members of the General Conference committee on missions acting as hosts; and another evening the Chinese and Japanese Christians of the city were present. This was of peculiar interest to the few American visitors present, among whom were those from Muscatine.

The missionary exhibit, which is now closed, was under the special charge of S. Earl Taylor, formerly Y. M. C. A. secretary of Muscatine, to whom we are indebted for many courtesies and who furnished the foregoing account of the exhibit. In a future letter will appear something relative to the strange oriental people seen at this exhibit.

WHERE IS HER HEART? Has Miss Alice Roosevelt Fallen in Love at St. Louis?

St. Louis, June 1.—Has some one in St. Louis stolen Alice Roosevelt's heart? All the power of an X-ray machine in the German section of the Educational building at the World's Fair has failed to reveal it.

The machine showed that the other members of Miss Roosevelt's party had hearts. It was a most successful experiment, save in the case of Miss Roosevelt.

Fails to Locate Her Heart. If the President's daughter has a heart, the X-ray machine can't locate it. Three thorough tests failed.

It was a joke that Miss Roosevelt enjoyed as much as any member of the party, but withal it is a joke that can't be explained. The fact is, that the X-ray machine was unable to produce results and the time of the Roosevelt party was taken chiefly thereafter in speculation as to who is the fortunate man.

Miss Roosevelt Kept Very Busy. From early morning until late last night the life of Miss Roosevelt was a round of the greatest activity.

At the Boer war exhibit she permitted herself to be photographed seated between Generals Cronje and Viljoen. Announcement was made by the exposition management last night, that the winners of the A. A. U. senior national championship Olympian game contests at the Stadium Saturday will receive their medals from the hands of Miss Roosevelt.

MAY A GOOD MONTH

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH ACCORDING TO OBSERVATION WAS 62.5.

Clear, Fair and Cloudy Days Were About Equally Divided—Highest Temperature Recorded Was 87—Lowest Was 42.

May was not such a bad month according to the report of the local United States weather observer. Cloudy, fair and clear days were about as evenly divided as would have been possible without running into fractions. The advantage was with the clear days for there are said to have been eleven of them with ten each of the fair and cloudy. The amount of the precipitation for the month was nothing to be compared with the same month one year ago. Three and nine hundredths was the total water fall this year.

The warmest day of the month was May 22, when the mercury went soaring up to the ninety mark. Eighty-seven was the exact point registered. There were a number of eighties in the list. The coolest day was May 13 when the average for the day was 49. The average temperature for May 22 was 74. The average temperature for the month was 62.5.

Table with columns: May, Max., Min., Mean. Rows 1-31 showing daily temperature data.

Real Estate Transfers.

Real estate transfers furnished by Lowenberg & Co., real estate agents, 177 South Court street.

GIRLS BACKWARD

SMALL NUMBER OF MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

Ottumwa Femininity Declines to Accept Added Privileges Which Leap Year Offers—County Clerk H. W. Michael Issues 26 Certificates.

Get busy, girls, you know the country needs the money and further, the year of 1904 is the last for some time in which you are privileged to enjoy (distaste, perhaps would be more correct) the prerogative of having your choice of the ruder article. Many a bashful youngster is anxiously awaiting the crucial moment when you will pop the question, so again, girls, get busy.

The month of May, with its full thirty-one days, has passed and the marriage license record in the office of County Clerk H. W. Michael accounts for only the small number of twenty-six certificates sold. This number is frightfully small, and indeed it must be rather disheartening to the ever laborious Daniel and his love essenced arrow.

Clerk Michael is hopeful of better business this month, which is proverbial the month of brides.

Beware of Ottumwa's femininity, she who hesitates is lost.

List of Licenses. The following is a list of marriage licenses issued during the month of May and the date upon which the issuance occurred:

- May 2—Isaac T. W. B. Brewer and Miss Nellie Bell Richardson.
May 3—John Q. Harriman and Miss Ida Medley.
E. A. Bartlett and Miss Bertha M. Berry.
Fred Tore and Miss Ella Relford.
Wm. G. Yeager and Miss Dora E. Fisher.
May 5—John Powlson and Miss Armina Armstrong.
May 7—Charles Argenbright and Miss Stella Shettlefield.
May 10—Thomas Crane and Miss Margaret E. Tosh.
May 11—David P. Jones and Mrs. Sarah J. Jones.
Harry Latta and Miss Mabel O'Bryant.
Andrew J. Wind and Miss Ida Mae Ward.
Kine Gross and Miss Myrtle Hobbs.
Charles Ervin Meringer and Miss Bessie Bell Hobbs.
Benjamin Badgley and Mrs. Emma Rodgers.
May 17—Fred G. Rupert and Miss Alice May Johnson.
May 18—Charles F. Pember and Mrs. Mollie E. Vedder.
Claude C. Fisher and Miss Violet May McDonald.
May 19—Edward I. Jones and Miss Roxie M. Shaffer.
May 21—John H. Farnsworth and Mrs. Fannie M. Walker.
May 23—Henry A. Nenman and Miss Mary Agnes Lanning.
Hugh E. Abbott and Miss Eva Bass.
May 24—Herbert Millard and Miss Bessie Sales.
May 25—Elias F. Machmer and Mrs. Amanda E. Fullerton.
May 27—George A. Pickeral and Miss Charlotte T. Robinson.
May 31—Weaver West Ninemires and Miss Edith Foster.

BLAKESBURG.

Blakesburg, June 1.—Mrs. Fowler widow of Jos. Fowler or "Judge" as he was familiarly called, died Saturday morning after a brief illness. The funeral services were held Sunday evening at the Baptist church, conducted by Mr. Baird, of Foster.

Mr. Phillip of Quincy, Ill., was in attendance at her mother's funeral. Married, George Pickeler and Miss Lottie Robinson, also Homer Millard and Miss Bessie Sales. Both weddings occurred Sunday afternoon.

THE IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE

Publish an Interesting Louisiana Purchase Exposition Folder.

Avoiding the usual lines followed in preparing a railway folder, the Missouri Pacific—Iron Mountain System, sends out and epitome of art and literature, representative of the St. Louis World's Fair. In the company's usual map and time-table folders will be found full information regarding time, equipment, facilities and routes of travel via the great Southwest System, but in this supplementary folder it is attempted to give a succinct account of the leading features of the fair, a legible and comprehensive map of the grounds and nearby attractions, a correct bird's-eye view of the great show, together with representations of a few of the architectural and sculptural features, the latter being so numerous that any description finds its greatest difficulty in a veritable embarrassment of riches.

On one title page, under the heading "Iron Mountain Route," is given the subject, "The Apotheosis of St. Louis," a colossal equestrian statue of the Louisiana Purchase exposition, where in that Knight of the Crusades, St. Louis, is taken for the central figure and made the subject of a composition that unites many diversifying figures in a picturesque ensemble.

heroic female figure, representing the Spirit of the Twentieth Century in the person of the City of St. Louis. She is unfolding an endless scroll on which are the significant dates "1803" and "1904," and on either side of her, emerging from the body of the pedestal, are two ideal youths, Genius, with outstretched fingers, guiding her and inspiration whispering to her.

The idea evolved is, in a way, the dream of the Middle Ages come true, embodying the spirit that found and acquired America and woke the western continent to undreamed of glories.

The folder shows a large, beautiful reproduction of the main feature of the fair, "The Cascades and Festival Hall." This is a faithful reproduction in colors of a celebrated oil painting.

Other features of the folder are a new and correct map of St. Louis, showing principal places of interest, street car facilities, location of World's Fair grounds, etc., in four colors. The ground plan of the World's Fair is comprehensive and indexed, showing location of every building, places of amusement, refreshment stands, booths, route of intramural road, lagoons, street car entrances, shuttle trains, depot—in fact, every detail in a working drawing that is in the twelve hundred and forty-two acres of the fair. This folder can be obtained free of cost by addressing, H. C. Townsend, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, St. Louis, Mo.

MANY ARRESTS

CHIEF GRAY AND FORCE HAVE A BUSY MONTH WITH LAW BREAKERS.

Total Number of Arrests Were 213—Intoxication the Favorite Charge—Fourteen Sick and Injured Cared for by the Department.

Chief of Police John W. Gray and his force of policemen made 213 arrests during the month of May and cared for fourteen sick and injured. The intoxicated ones head the list this month with a total of 111 and is followed in second place by the vagrants who number but 50. The disorderly houses listed number 16. There were 9 arrests for larceny and 7 for disturbing the peace.

- The detailed report is as follows:
Intoxication . . . . . 111
Vagrancy . . . . . 50
Disturbing the peace . . . . . 7
Larceny . . . . . 9
Assault and battery . . . . . 3
Malicious mischief . . . . . 3
Sodomy . . . . . 1
Carrying concealed weapons . . . . . 2
Breaking and entering . . . . . 2
Keeping saloon open on Sunday . . . . . 1
Inmates disorderly houses . . . . . 4
Disorderly houses . . . . . 16
Total . . . . . 213
Sick and injured cared for . . . . . 14

FLORIS.

Floris, June 1.—A. Knedler and his granddaughter, Miss Ollie Knedler, of Floris, spent about a week visiting relatives and friends in the vicinity of Libertyville, returning to Floris Friday last. They report a very pleasant time.

Rev. C. Springer returned from Libertyville Friday of last week and on Sabbath conducted memorial services at the M. E. church. The services were well attended considering the rain which came down incessantly the most of the day.

Dr. and Mrs. Stevens are planning to visit a much needed vacation and soon take a much needed vacation and visit the world's fair.

The ladies of the Baptist church in Floris had a social gathering at the Christian hall Saturday evening. Ice cream, strawberries and cake were served. The attendance was quite good. The Floris band discoursed some very nice music which contributed much to the interest of the occasion.

My pa, he shakes his head an' sighs
An' says he doesn't see
Where I got all my careless ways,
That seem jes' born in me;
An' ma, she laughs, an' laughs, an' laughs,
Till pa's face crimson grows,
An' then she says, "Tis very queer."
But, somehow, ma, she knows!

My ma, she knows 'most everything
'Bout boys and 'bout they like.
She's never scoldin' 'bout the muss
I make in my hair and 'bout the 'buss;
She says she wants me to be good
An' conquer all my foes,
An' you jes' bet I'm goin' to be,
'Cuz my sweet ma, she knows!

There is nothing that is too true, but
there is much that is too bad.
The Methodist girl is so sinful she
permits her eyes to dance.

REORGANIZE SYSTEM

RURAL ROUTE SERVICE TO BE READJUSTED ABOUT JULY 1.

New Regulations Will Cause But Little Change for Carriers From Ottumwa Postoffice—Will Interfere Somewhat With Mail Order Business.

The Ottumwa rural route carriers will not be very greatly affected by the recent orders which have been issued for the reorganization of the rural route system. A few of the carriers who have worked up considerable mail order business among the patrons of their lines may be affected by the order which limits the carriers to doing only those favors which may be asked by patrons. None of the local carriers have developed this business to any extent and consequently they will not be at much loss because of the order.

The rural free delivery service is practically to be reorganized July 1. On that date the number of divisions in the United States will be reduced from six to six; additional route inspectors will be employed, and routes designated as rural mail agents; and the new schedule of pay for carriers and the new regulations relating to the handling of merchandise will become operative.

With the reorganization of the division quarters will come a reassignment of men who have heretofore been known as rural agents and route inspectors. These employees have been performing practically the same kind of service—investigating routes petitioned for and congress has in the recent session directed that they shall be known as rural agents. After the first of July 183 of these rural agents will work under the direction of six division inspectors, investigating proposed routes, or twenty-four more men than the department has ever before had engaged in this class of work.

Every carrier in the country who covers what is known as a full route will receive \$60 a month of 720 a year, beginning with July. Carriers who cover shorter routes will not get the maximum salary. The schedule of pay may be varied when the circumstances warrant, will be as follows:

- The Schedule.
Routes of not less than twenty miles, \$720; routes of less than twenty miles and not less than sixteen, \$620; less than sixteen and not less than twelve miles, \$520; less than twelve and not less than eight miles, \$420; routes of eight and not less than four miles, \$320.

The official instruction to carriers, in reference to the new prohibition on carrying merchandise for hire, and against acting as agents for any body, will probably be sent out early in June, so that carriers may become familiar with them before the law goes into effect. It is announced at the department that it is proposed to enforce the law rigidly. Carriers will be permitted to do small favors for patrons along the routes when the patrons request it, but that is all.

While appropriation for the rural free delivery service for the coming fiscal year is \$20,773,700, or 64 1/2 per cent greater than for the current year, it will not enable the department to establish as many new routes as it has put in this year. Ninety-seven per cent of the total amount available for the fiscal year will be utilized in paying salaries to carriers.

It is announced at the department that the amount available for the extension of the service will be used as far as it will go, promptly after the beginning of the fiscal year. With the assistance of additional rural agents, the department has decided that it will be established at the rate of 600 per month.

OBITUARY.

Martha Elizabeth Hall, wife of Jacob G. Allright, was born in Wapello county, Iowa, August 11, 1849, and died at her home in Liberty township, May 24, 1904, aged 54 years 9 months and 13 days. She was married to Jacob G. Allright Aug. 6, 1875. To this union one son was born, Hubert, who with his father, still survive.

Mrs. Allright professed conversion about twenty years ago at a meeting held at Bethel by Rev. A. W. Elsas and united with the Methodist Episcopal church. The deceased has been in very feeble health for a number of years but her last severe illness lasted but a few days. She leaves a husband and son and a number of relatives and friends to mourn her departure.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. Springer at Bethel church and she was laid to rest in the Bethel cemetery.

Rebecca Todd Mulford was born in Detroit, Mich., Nov. 6, 1834, and died at her home in St. Louis, Mo., May 24, 1904, aged 69 years 9 months and 13 days. She was the daughter of William Todd, a merchant tailor, and Sarah Todd. She was united in marriage with Nelson Mulford, July 4, 1851. Two children were born to them, Sarah Ada and George Mahen. Her husband was killed in the civil war in July, 1863. She is survived by her two children, Mrs. Emil Fecht of Ottumwa, and George of Detroit. One sister, Mrs. Mary Godfrey, three grandchildren and one great grandchild. She resided in Detroit all of her life except most of the past twelve years which were spent in Ottumwa with her daughter. She was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends. She united with the church at the age of 15 and was always a consistent and devoted Christian, being at the time of her death a member of the Congregational church here. She had been failing in health for the past three years and during her last illness she won the loving sympathy of all who knew her by her patience and Christian bearing. Her loved ones mourn the loss of this faithful and devoted friend and mother.

FUNERAL OF JOHN PELHAM.

Services Conducted From the Kirkville Methodist Church, from Wednesday's Daily. The funeral services of the late John L. Pelham, who committed suicide Monday morning by shooting himself through the head with a revolver, were conducted from the Methodist church at Kirkville this afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. D. F. Stiles officiating. Interment was made in the Kirkville cemetery.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE SCHOOLS

STATE SUPERINTENDENT RIGGS SAYS HE IS NOT TRYING TO FORCE PLAN.

Will Not Insist on Any Community Adopting His Pet Scheme Unless It is Agreeable to the Patrons of the Schools Affected.

[BY LEON BROWN.] Des Moines Bureau of the Courier. Des Moines, June 1.

State Superintendent Riggs went to Greene county today to visit with the authorities of Dawson township upon their invitation for a conference with respect to rural school consolidation. Before leaving, he said that above all things he wished it understood that he was not trying to force school consolidation upon districts which are disposed against it. He is not using the power of his office toward that end, despite his great personal interest in the idea and his loyalty to the proposition.

A practical man in Wayne county recently wrote to the superintendent in an open letter published in a newspaper, and a copy of which he mailed to Mr. Riggs, questioning the advisability of school district consolidations and insisting that the superintendent had no right to be forcing this policy on the people of the state for an education.

"I am engaging in no campaign to force the idea on the people of the state," said Mr. Riggs. "I believe in it thoroughly but I am not using my office to convince school authorities against their will. Their are no county movements toward consolidation, that I know of. The visit which I am about to make to Greene county was advertised in some of the newspapers as being undertaken with a view to inducing the schools of the county to consolidate; this is not the case. I am going up there at the invitation of the authorities of a single township to discuss the matter of their schools consolidating. I hope that something definite will be achieved there, as there was in the three districts now permanently allied to Albion, Marshall county, where the county boy and girl have just as good a chance for an education as has the city boy or girl. But if the people up there do not want school consolidation, I am sure I shall not urge it upon them."

Effect on Social Life.

One of the arguments which has been used against the school consolidation proposition is that it will destroy certain centers of social and church activity and life in the rural districts.

"That is hardly the fact," said Superintendent Riggs today. "The mile which surrounds a rural school house is by no means the radius of a social or church center. The fact is that influences of that character in rural life extend to a much larger circle. The township more often is the social and church center than the single school house as now constituted. Social gatherings, church services and general political meetings are more often held in the central school house of the township than in the mere restricted district school house. I should say that the social life of the rural community would be broadened and expanded rather than restricted by the school district consolidation and the maintenance of commodious central school buildings with assembly rooms, etc."

This fact will appeal to every person who has ever lived in the country. In almost every township there is a building known as the "center" school house. It is here that the general community meetings are held, social, religious, political and other kinds. The spelling bees are held here and the Sunday school and here are organized those marvelous dinner parties which meet on the lawn in the summer evenings and consume a barn yard full of fowl.

Ministers Are Liberal-Minded.

The liberality of the present day church could hardly be better illustrated than in this city where the members of the Ministerial association composed of all of the church pastors of the city is busily engaged in arranging a picnic to be held at Des Moines in honor of the World's Fair in honor of a Methodist minister who is about to depart for St. Louis where he will assume the pastorate, not of a Methodist church, but of a Congregational church.

Dr. Lewis T. Guild of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church of Des Moines is the man. He balked on the five year rule of the Methodist government and decided to enter another denomination where he might build up a church and give his life to one people and their spiritual education, as well as his own development in a single field where his energies would not be sapped by the mere matter of getting acquainted with the people.

All of the preachers of the city and their wives will join in the picnic to be given next Monday evening. There always has been decided liberality among the pastors of this city—more it is thought than in the average community. Nevertheless neither the Catholic, the Unitarian nor the Hebrews cannot become members of their association.

DOWN THE RIVER ON A RAFT.

Man Descending Mississippi on Fragile Craft Has His Troubles. Davenport, June 1.—Jesse Bebbot, a man from up the river, who is riding to the St. Louis world's fair on a raft made of three railroad ties, is having a varied experience hereabouts. At Moline, he lodged inside the windmill and was arrested. His paddle is a piece of fence-board. He says he expects to put his craft on exhibition at the fair when he reaches St. Louis.