SECOND PART. **The Indiana State Sentinel.** PAGES 9 TO 12.

ESTABLISHED 1822. INDIANAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1894--TWELVE PAGES. ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

GAS'S DEADLY WORK

The Residence of Lewis Kuechler Demolished

And One of His Children, a Girl, Instantly Killed.

Five More Members of the Family in the Wreck.

WAS A NIGHT OF HORROR.

It Is a Miracle That All Were Not Instantly Killed,

As the Brick Building Was Almost Torn to Pieces.

The Work of Rescue Was Prompt and Effective.

The Saloon and Residence of Lewis Kuechler on Madison-Ave. Is Wrecked by an Explosion of Natural Gas and the Entire Family of Six Is Buried in the Ruins—One of the Children Is Taken Out Dead—The Other Members of the Family Will No Doubt Survive—The Work of Rescue Was Prompt—Cause of the Explosion—Description of the Scene.

Natural gas is an invaluable servant, but a terrible master.

A family of six persons, consisting of a father, mother and four young children, hurled into space in the dead of night is the fearful horror for which it is responsible. One child lies cold in death and that the rest of the family escaped is a miracle.

At 12:53 o'clock p. m. Wednesday the and dwelling hous of Louis Keuhler, situated at 485 Madison-ave., was totally destroyed by the explosion of natural gas and the entire family buried in the ruins.

Without a word of warning came the catastrophe and without a moment of forewarning death and destruction were hurled into the sleeping family and they were crushed beneath a mass of debris that was all that was left to locate the spot where but a moment before had stood a home.

The explosion was heard throughout the city, but none dreamed of its frightful origin. Various causes were assigned, but even the wildest imagination could not conceive of such a disaster.

The family retired to their beds at 10 o'clock, the usual precautions having been taken in the way of attending to the fires, never dreaming that there would be such a terrible awakening with death and desolation on all sides.

The scene of the disaster was the center toward which hundreds rushed when the news became known and a terrible sight was presented. Where had stood the house was a mass of ruin and debris that beggared description. The building had been a two-story structure, the front part of which had been of brick and the rear portion of wood. Instead of the front part there was nothing left but a confused pile of brick and splintered wood, while the yard and street was almost blockaded with the ruin. The walls had been blown in every direction and the roof, with the partitions and floors, had fallen below, filling the cellar and making a tangled wreck below which was buried the family.

The force of the explosion had been toward the front and bricks and pieces of the building were strewn for a distance of 200 yards in every direction, but the street and the front received most of the wreckage.

Officers Crannon and Shafer were the first to reach the scene and heard pitiable groans and cries for help from beneath the debris. Behind the pile of brick and wood stood the jagged remains of the wooden part of the house, which was almost totally destroyed, but the walls were still standing and the roof had not fallen in, although threatening to do so at any moment. Within the space of five minutes more than a hundred persons were assembled on the scene, among the crowd being a dozen policemen, who took charge of the work of rescue and exerted their best efforts to get the buried family out as soon as possible, as every moment probably meant a human life. The cries had ceased and there was a fearful dread that the destruction of the family had been complete.

For an hour willing hands tore at the wreckage in desperate haste, the rescuers never stopping, although there was momentary danger that the upturned roof and floors would fall over and add to the confusion and disaster. After a half-hour of the hardest kind of work a little arm was uncovered and the work of rescue was increased in energy. Then a little white and curly head was seen and in a minute a little boy, scarcely recognizable beneath the plaster and dust, was dragged out. He was alive. The next was a corpse and so the work proceeded. It was a terrible sight and hearts of strong men quailed at the spectacle. How the other members of the family escaped with their lives is a wonder. Tons of brick, mortar, heavy beams and flooring, as well as the remains of the furniture, were hurled together in the wildest confusion and made a heterogeneous mass of wrekage that seemed to preclude all possibility that human life could survive beneath it.

It was due solely to the way in which it had fallen and the cushion made by the bed clothes that one of the family escaped a fearful death. As it is, there is a home in ruins, a family deprived of all its posessions, one of the children a corpse and the injuries of the others not yet determined.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

Gas Escaped from the Service Pipes—Arrangement of the House.

The accident was caused by natural gas escaping from the service pipes and filling up the cellar, from which sufficient escaped after it had accumulated to catch from the stove which was burning in the saloon, thus causing the explosion. The cellar was a large one, and from the force of the explosion it must have completely filled before the gas found its way above into the saloon and to the fire.

In the house at the time the accident occurred were eight persons: Louis Keuhler, aged fifty-six, his wife, Emma, about fifty years old, their four children, Julius, Rosa, Louis and Charles, aged respectively about seventeen, fifteen, twelve and nine; Hugo Zweicker, a printer who works at the Baker & Randolph establishment, and Theodore Schreiber, a bookkeeper formerly employed at the South Side foundry.

The two latter were sleeping in the rear of the house in the frame part and were only shaken up by the shock and disturbed from their night's slumber. The rest of the family occupied rooms immediately over the saloon. The rooms of the house are peculiarly arranged. The second story was cut up into a number of small rooms, but there was no hallway or corridor to serve as a passage between the different rooms and to reach the front rooms, one of which was occupied by the husband and wife and the other by the daughter Rosa and the son, Charles, it was necessary to go through all the rooms from the head of the stairway.

One of these partitions was the cause of much delay and suspense in the work of rescue. When the explosion occurred all the persons in the front part of the house were stunned and fell beneath the roof and debris. Mr. and Mrs. Keuhler were hemmed in between the south wall of the foundation and one of the falling partitions, and it was some time before the rescuing party could ascertain their fate. The two sons, Julius and Louis occupied a room in the brick part of the house in the rear of the room in which the daughter slept. They were more fortunate than the other members of the family. The floor seemed to have parted and the front half was torn to atoms almost by the force of the explosion, while that part which formed the floor of the boy's room fell intact with the ruin, the walls forming a shield which protected the inmates from danger. They were slightly stunned, but did not lose consciousness and were able to find parts of their clothing and escape unaided.

The more danger attended those in the two front rooms. Rosa was taken out, after a short search, with life extinct. She was crushed and bruised badly, a number of bones being broken. It was at first thought that Charles was dead when the big fireman carried him into the neighbor's house, but it was soon seen that he was only rendered unconscious by the shock. He was bleeding at the mouth from a slight blow. In a short time Dr. C. R. Schaefer had him up and in a bath-tub, reveling in the comforts of a good, hot bath.

It was some time before the parents of the children were brought out to open air. Mrs. Kuechler was first to make her appearance, walking and crawling unaided from the wreck. Her husband was soon after carried out, and soon revived in the pure air. They were taken into a barber's shop, which was next door to the saloon, and in a short time recovered their senses enough to realize what had happened. Only one of their children, Julius, was there to console and comfort them, and with true parental instinct they knew that some of them were dead. They asked for their children in pitious tones, while friends attempted to pacify them by telling them that the children were safe in the house of a neighbor. But the story was incredible to the parents, and the scene was a pathetic one.

At this time Lottie, another daughter, who lives with a married sister, the wife of Fred Fessler, a saloonkeeper opposite Schmidt's brewery, on McCarty-st., came running frantically into the room and, throwing her arms around her mother's neck, wept bitterly, crying "Thank God for mother." But she suddenly remembered her brothers and her sister and wildly demanded to know of them. She was told the same story as had been told her parents, but she paid no attention to the friends who tried to console her and, breaking from their arms, ran across the broken bricks and timbers of the wrecked building and into the house of Leonard Mueller, where she had been told her sister Rosa was.

She was met on the porch and told the truth. She had expected it, but almost swooned. She was then conducted to her brother, lying in the rear room of the Mueller house. He was just getting the kinks out of his intellect and was washing the lime and brickdust out of his eyes. She kissed him through a half-inch of dust. She was not satisfied until she had seen each member of the family and was rightly informed of the situation, then she became herself and set about looking after the comfort of the living. Her parents were sent in a carriage to the home of her brother-in-law. The children were provided for by Mrs. Mueller.

The building, which was almost a total wreck, was owned by a man named Schwenge, a saloonkeeper further out on Madison-ave.

TO THE RESCUE.

Removing the Kuechler's from the Wrecked Building.

The sound of the explosion could be heard for miles and in the center of the city it caused a great deal of excitement. The policemen at first supposed that safe-crackers were at work and made a hurried search through a number of buildings before they received information concerning the explosion.

As soon as the truth was known the officers and five fire companies hurried to the scene. The front of the building facing on Madison-ave. was slightly raised and it was here the work of rescue was begun. The firemen and policemen worked their way under the demolished building, which threatened to fall every minute. Nearly all the people were found close together in the front part of the building.

The first person taken out was the eight-year-old boy, Charlie. He was held down by a number of heavy timbers, and it was some little time before the searchers could reach him. He was covered with dust and at first glance appeared to be badly injured. Such was not the case, however, and in a short time he was able to sit up.

The next person reached was the twelve-year-old girl, Annie. A heavy piece of timber lay across her neck, which was removed with difficulty, and a large number of bricks were piled about her. As soon as her body could be pulled from the torn and twisted timbers it was found that she was dead. The heroic band of searchers carried the lifeless form from the wreck and took it to the residence of Leonard Miller, next door. The girl's neck was broken, and it is believed that she died without realizing what had happened.

Mrs. Kuechler was the next person found. Like the others, she was pinioned down by the mass of brick and mortar. Some difficulty was experienced in reaching her on account of being in another room. The firemen had to cut through a partition to reach her. She is a large woman, and as she was in a fainting condition it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be taken from the demolished building. Her first words were, "Where are my children?" She was hysterical, but her friends finally managed to quiet her by saying that everybody was safe.

"Is everybody accounted for?" exclaimed some one in the crowd.

"Yes, everybody is out," answered one of the policemen.

Presently there came a shout from the interior of the building. "They have found another one!" exclaimed somebody.

In a few moments a number of firemen, carrying the form of a man, made their appearance. He was dressed in his night clothing and was covered with dust. He was dazed and was unable to comprehend what had happened. He was carried into the barber shop next door and stimulants administered. In a short time he came to himself and when the dust was brushed from his face and eyes it was discovered that he was the head of the household, Louis Kuechler. He was not badly injured and was able to sit up and drink from a bottle which some one gave him.

THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

SECRETARY BICKNELL RETURNS FROM A TOUR.

He Visited the Northern Penitentiary and the Northern Insane Hospital with a Committee—More Convicts Than Ever Before in the State—Improvements Being Made—Peculiarities of the Insane.

There are now more convicts confined in the Indiana penitentiaries than ever before in the history of the institutions. Secretary Bicknell of the state board of charities has just returned with a committee of the board from a visit to the northern prison. Eight hundred and eighty-six prisoners are now confined there and the number is on the increase. The southern prison has about 650. The secretary was puzzled to account for this increase. The hard times may have had some effect, but it is a fact that the majority of the commitments are old-timers—men whose faces are familiar to the officers of the prison, having served previous terms. Still the hard times may have figured in their return. Men who have always been above suspicion find it a hard matter now to secure employment and thousands in this and other states are idle. Under these conditions it is doubly difficult for an ex-convict, no matter what his intentions regarding his future life may be, to obtain work of any kind. This may have been a reason for many returning to their old habits and mode of living who would, under better conditions, have become good citizens. The natural increase in the population also causes a proportionate increase in crime.

The committee of the board of charities was much pleased with the progress of the improvements in the northern prison. The new dining-room has been completed and is a substantial and well-constructed building. It is two stories in hight, the upper story being designed, as was the old structure, for the chapel. Work on this part is still on—that is, in the interior. The external part is completed, but the inside is just being finished and furnished. The new hospital is also about completed.

The prison now has an ample water supply and an excellent protection against fire. Heretofore there was practically no safeguard against fire and the fires which the prison has had have proved destructive. A water-works plant, such as would be used in a small town, has been put in. It has a stand-pipe 122 feet high, two large pumps and a thorough system of mains and hydrants with equipments for fire protection. The water comes from driven wells and is pure.

Mr. Bicknell talked with a number of Indianapolis prisoners, among them Lemon E. Reinhold, a man who was at one time quite well known in this city as Constable Reinhold. He was at one time employed on the People and afterward practiced law among the justices of the peace. He was sent up for seven years for burglary, for entering the residence of Hilton U. Brown of the News. He is employed in the woolen mill, is a good prisoner and will get the benefit of all his good time. He is in excellent health and has increased twenty-five pounds since his confinement. He talked cheerfully of his condition.

The committee also visited the northern hospital for the insane at Logansport. Here improvements are also noted. The last legislature appropriated $20,000 for the erection of a new assembly hall in the institution and this has been completed. The state is divided into four districts for the care of the insane. It was the intention at the time the districts were made that they should be in size proportionate to the capacity of the four institutions, but it soon became evident that the northern hospital had more territory than it could accommodate, and this appropriation was made, not because the assembly hall was particularly needed, but in order to increase the capacity of the hospital. The institution is erected on the cottage plan, there being a number of buildings, each of which has its dining room. One large building contains the kitchen and the assembly room above it. This old assembly room will now be used as a dining room and the old dining rooms will be turned into dormitories, thus increasing the capacity of the asylum by about one hundred, making the capacity all told about five hundred and twenty-five. This places this institution on an equal comparative basis with the others in the state.

While there the secretary was attracted by the peculiar mania of the man Collins, who was recently adjudged insane at Delphi on account of some threatening letters which he wrote to Governor Matthews. He is apparently intelligent and well-balanced upon all subjects but the one which caused his commitment—he says there is an invisible but all-powerful electrical influence which people in high authority are able to exercise over any one they may see fit. He thinks Governor Matthews is exercising this power over him, and that he is unable to resist it. It is his controlling power and he cannot escape it. "Why," he said, "Didn't it compel me to mortgage my farm a short time ago? I did not want to mortgage it, but this influence, wielded by the governor, commanded me and I could do nothing else." The secretary told him that many physicians have studied the very subject and all had come to the conclusion that there was no such power as he claimed was being exercised upon him. "Well, young man," he replied, "the physicians don't know. I have studied this thing for four years and I know more about it than any other living man." On other subjects the man seemed perfectly rational.

The members of the committee returned to the city Wednesday well pleased with the condition of the two institutions visited.

ARE FEELING GOOD.

The Democratic Editorial Association Meets

And Officers Are Elected for the Ensuing Year.

THERE IS PERFECT UNITY.

Prospects for Democratic Success Never Better.

Resolutions Are Adopted Covering Many Points.

The Fourteenth Annual Midwinter Meeting of the Democratic Editorial Association Occurs in This City—The Leading Editors of the State Express Themselves—Address of Welcome by Governor Matthews—Resolutions Adopted—It Was a Business Meeting.

The fourteenth annual midwinter meeting of the Indiana democratic editorial association, although one for business only, was productive of grand results. From all parts of the state came the brilliant exponents of democratic principles, each and every one of them prouder of their party, more confident of success in the coming struggle and more enthusiastic over the record of the past and the prospect for the future than ever before.

PRESIDENT C. W. WELMAN.

These are the men who are in direct touch with the masses throughout the state and are therefore in a position to know the feeling of the people upon state and national questions. If there is disaffection, discouragement or restlessness, they are acquainted with it, for it is first of all brought to their direct notice; if there is any tendency to separate from the lines laid down and pursued by the national administration, they know it; on the other hand, if there is throughout the state the most gratifying unanimity and desire to co-operate with the national and state governments they are in a position to know it, for it is largely to their united as well as individual efforts that this is true.

Fifty editors of fifty of the leading papers in the state assembled Friday as a body in the rooms of the Hendricks club. Among these men there was absolute unity of interest and perfect harmony. They are all working along the same line with the same object in view, advocate the same principles and regard the future of the democratic party with the same degree of hopefulness. They know that the state of Indiana is today solidly democratic; that the people are with the national congress in its efforts to aid the masses by the speedy passage of the Wilson tariff bill and the income tax measure; that the people know that this is for their interest and their's solely, and that they are going to vote this way at the coming election. This was the unanimous expression of the visiting editors yesterday and grander news than this could not have been brought to the capital by the moulders of public opinion throughout the state.

It was the largest and most successful meeting ever held by the association, and this was gratifying. The reports from all over the state were most satisfying. In no locality is there the least defection. The democrats of Indiana are united as never before, for they realize that now is the time to stand by the party standard, when the enemy has been put to flight and for the first time in thirty years there is a clear field for the practical demonstration that the principles of the democratic party are identical with the interests of the people.

The following editors were present at the meeting which was called to order at 10 o'clock by the president:

J. J. Gorrell, Pulaski County Democrat; C. W. Welman, Sullivan Times; S. B. Boyd, Washington Democrat; Isaac R. Strouse, Rockville Tribune; J. M. Keeney, jr., Crawfordsville Star; S. S. Boots, Greenfield Herald; A. J. Dipboye, Columbus Herald; John W. Barnes, Logansport Pharos; Marion C. Walden, Vevay Times; J. M. Higgs, Connersville Examiner; B. F. Louthain, Logansport Pharos; R. H. Hartford, Portland Sun; C. A. Korbley, jr., Madison Herald; J. C. Gorman, Owensville Gleaner; Louis Holtman, Brazil Democrat; J. O. Behymer, Tipton Times; J. O. Henderson, Kokomo Dispatch; Allen W. Clark, Greensburg New Era; L. G. Ellingham, Winchester Democrat; F. D. Haimbaugh, Muncie Herald; R. E. Bragg, Batesville Herald; F. A. Arnold, Star-Press, Greencastle; F. A. Haimbaugh, Peru Sentinel; J. E. McDonald, Ligonier Banner; W. Bent Wilson, Lafayette Journal; A. A. Sparks, Mt. Vernon Democrat; B. F. McKey, Lebanon Pioneer; S. E. Swain, Hammond News; W. H. Boswell, Noblesville Democrat; J. A. Rathbrock, Monticello Democrat; Peter Waltrath, Logansport; H. E. Henderson, Kokomo Dispatch; P. A. Allen, Bluffton Banner; G. H. Hazen, Booneville Enquirer; J. F. Mitchell, Greenfield Democrat; G. H. Puntenny, Rushville Jacksonian; H. A. Barnhart, Rochester Sentinel; William D. H. Hunter, Lawrenceburg Register; J. B. Stoll, South Bend Times.

BUSINESS MEETING.

Resolutions Adopted and Officers Elected—President's Address.

The visitors were welcomed to the hospitality of the city and the Hendricks club by Mr. Myron D. King, president, and the business of the meeting began. At the outset the following letter was read from the Hon. John G. Shanklin of Evansville, and was received with loud applause. Mr. Shanklin said:

"I receive and read daily most of the democratic papers of the state, and from them it is gratifying to see that there is no division of opinion on those vital measures to which our beloved party is sacredly pledged. As if by one impulse, the democratic press of Indiana has stood by the administration, and the party leaders in congress in their work of economic reform, as illustrated so grandly by the action of the house of representatives on Thursday last. The Wilson bill does not embody the highest democratic aspirations, but it is a long stride away from the vicious system of prostituting the taxing power to personal uses, and marks the beginning of an era of enlarged liberties in which the sacred principles of the revolutionary fathers, let us hope, will again become our guide and shield. The class legislation of the last quarter century has resulted in an oligarchy which must be overthrown if the fundamental principles of equity among men is to survive the mercenary spirit which enters the hour. Democracy alone can subdue this tendency toward plutocracy and reawaken in the hearts of the people that devotion to country which kindled the fires of the revolution and has animated our American soldiery on every battlefield and on every occasion where the flag of the republic has been unfurled. Nothing shall ever divert me from laboring with my democratic brethren of the press for the restoration of the democracy to its inheritance, which is the control of every department of the national government."

Another letter was read from Mr. G. W. Shanklin of the same city, after which a proposition was read and considered from the managers of Spring Fountain park at Warsaw, offering to donate a lot to the association if it would build upon it a club house and hold its midsummer meetings there. The proposition was declined. This brought up the question of deciding where the coming midsummer meeting should be held, and West Baden secured it without opposition, the time being fixed at June 8 and 9.

The Resolutions.

Upon motion the following committee on resolutions was appointed: Messrs. J. Gwinn, A. S. Chapman and M. H. Ingraim. Several resolutions had been referred to the committee without reading. It reported later in the session as follows:

"Resolved, That we earnestly commend the spirit manifested by Senator Voorhees as chairman of the senate finance committee in bringing about speedy action on the pending bill for the revision of the tariff in accordance with the demands of the people, emphasized at the ballot box.

"Resolved, That we hereby commend the action of the democratic state central committee in unanimously re-electing the Hon. Thomas Taggart as its chairman.

"Resolved, That we deem the action of the committee in setting a late day for the state convention wise and conservative to the best interests of the party in the state.

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the association that there should be a close and confidential relationship existing between the state central committee and the association during the coming campaign, and with this end in view we recommend that the president of the association be empowered to appoint at any time a committee to act in conjunction with the central committee.

"Resolved, That we approve the action of the eleven democratic representatives in congress from Indiana in casting their unanimous vote in favor of the Wilson tariff bill."

In regard to the libel law the meeting passed the following resolution as recommended by the committee:

"Whereas, One year ago this association prayed the general assembly for relief from the iniquitious libel law that now disgraces the statute books of the state; and,

"Whereas, When a measure was up for consideration touching this matter so important to the press of the state, several members of the house as well as the senate took occasion to impugn the dignity of the press; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this association emphatically condemn such conduct as uncalled for and inexcusable; and that we resent such utterances as unbecoming members of the general assembly and as indicative of a want of appreciation of the power that made it possible for them to sit in the legislative halls of Indiana."

All these resolutions were recommended by the committee with the most hearty unanimity as expressive of the united sentiment of the assembled editors.

Governor Matthews's Address.

At this point Governor Matthews entered the hall and was loudly welcomed. He was called upon for a few remarks and responded as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Association—I came to your meting for the pleasure of seeing and hearing you and not to be heard. But I shall take my friend's call for a few words and literally construe it. I hardly know what to say to you who daily are considering and discussing events as they occur and surely better posted upon these than am I.

"It is gratifying to meet so many of you, representatives of a power that has accomplished more for the great reforms in public affairs and public service and the success of democratic principles than all the canvasses and campaigns of speakers could possibly secure. We feel, and justly feel, a pride in the democratic press of the state and are glad at all times to acknowledge the obligations due you from our party. In so far as our state affairs are concerned and its democratic administration we are in the position to not only go before the people and ask, but in justice demand their support and indorsement. The pledges made are being carried out, we are paying and will pay the state's debt, and never before has there been a more complete and equitable assessment of all the property of the state for taxation purposes.

"As to our national administration the outlook is bright and hopeful, and the pledges and promises made the people are being redeemed. We promised the repeal of the infamously unjust federal election law, and this has been done. We promised the repeal of the Sherman bill purchasing clause and this was done. We promised tariff reform and in the Wilson bill this will come. It may not have been all that many of you would desire, but it is a step in the right direction and may be all that could be secured under present conditions.

"I yield to no one in the administration of President Cleveland, but he has always been greatest when enunciating pure democratic doctrine or performing true democratic acts. We want to keep him in this line and true to the faith that is in us. I am a believer in the force and truth of the old saying of 'trust in the Lord and keep your powder dry.' To you, gentlemen, belongs the duty of seeing that our president, our senators and our congressmen shall be loyal to the democratic creed. Our hopes are with you, and with this secure, we have nothing to fear. I am carrying on this hasty and unexpected talk to greater length than I intended. I thank you for your most cordial reception."

The New Officers.

The address was enthusiastically received. The committee on nominations, consisting of Messrs. J. E. McDonald and J. J. Gorrell, who had been appointed by the chair as soon as the meeting was called to order, made its report as soon as Governor Matthews had concluded and the report resulted in the election of the following officers for the ensuing year:

President—C. W. Welman, Sullivan Times.

First Vice-President—S. P. Boyd, Washington Democrat.

Second Vice-President—A. A. Sparks, Mt. Vernon Democrat.

Recording Secretary—F. D. Haimbaugh, Muncie Herald.

Corresponding Secretary—J. W. Keeney, Crawfordsville Star.

Treasurer—W. Bent Wilson, Lafayette Journal.

Executive Committee—Louis Holtman, Brazil Democrat; A. S. Chapman, Madison Democrat; J. B. Stoll, South Bend Times; J. Rothrock, White County Democrat; Ben A. Eaton, Indianapolis Sentinel.

Delegates to the National Convention—J. E. McDonald, Ligonier Banner; F. A. Arnold, Greencastle Star-Press; D. A. Jennings, Salem Democrat; J. J. Gorrell, Pulaski Democrat; L. S. Ellingham, Winchester Democrat.

Alternates to the National Convention—J. W. Barnes, Logansport Pharos; Josiah Gwinn, New Albany Public Press; F. A. Haimbaugh, Peru Sentinel; J. W. Higgs, Connersville Examiner; J. W. Adams, Columbia City Post.

In accordance with the resolution passed the chair then appointed the following committee to act in conjunction with the state central committee: S. B. Boyd, Washington Democrat; J. R. Strouse, Rockville Tribune; G. H. Puntenny, Rushville Jacksonian; H. A. Barnhart, Rochester Sentinel; J. O. Henderson, Kokomo Dispatch.

President Welman's Address.

The new officers were then duly installed and C. W. Welman of the Sullivan Times, the new president of the association, made the following address:

"Gentlemen of the Association: I thank you sincerely for the honor you have conferred upon me by making me your president, and for the consideration I have received at your hands in the past. I assure you that I fuly appreciate this evidence of a continuance of your good will and confidence. We meet at the beginning of a great political campaign under circumstances that are encouraging. The democratic party in Indiana is united, harmonious and determined. The republican party is sailing under false colors and hiding behind a refuge of lies—trading upon the misery of the people caused by their treachery and mal-administration of public affairs. To believe they will be successful in the coming campaign is to question the intelligence of the people.

"Let us examine the grounds upon which we stand. The democratic party has been in complete control of the state government in Indiana for some time, and is therefore responsible for recent legislation and the administration of state affairs. How have we acquitted ourselves? Well, we have to thank a democratic legislature for giving us our splendid educational, benevolent and penal institutions, the pride and glory of the West, and democrats for their successful management; we point with pride to the enactment of the Australian ballot law, insuring to every elector a right to vote unquestioned, untrammeled and uncoerced; to the enactment of the school book law, protecting the people against iniquitious extortion and increasing the effectiveness of our superb school system, itself of democratic origin; to the enactment of the new tax law, by which rich corporations and accumulated wealth is made to bear a portion of public burdens; and last, to the statesmanlike business administration of Governor Matthews and our other state officials. We have no Michigan scandals in Indiana. Our chosen servants have been faithful and efficient, and we go to the people with clean hands, feeling assured that the judgment will be, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servants.'

"How is it in national affairs? We are making history now, and notwithstanding the fact that a remark of this sort, the other day when in conversation with Mr. Russell Harrison, brought the pointed rejoinder, 'If you are making history now, I wish you would stop it,' I repeat, we are making history now and the history we are making seals the fate of the republican party. The high protective policy of that party, that has brought this government into bankruptcy and the people to the verge of ruin, was fastened upon the country in time of rebellion and internal strife and has been perpetuated by an appeal to sectional hatred and the animosities engendered by the war. The republicans have traded upon the patriotic sentiment of the people, as they now appeal to the jingo sentiment in regard to Hawaiian affairs.

"The election of Grover Cleveland in 1892 and the passing under democratic control of all branches of the federal government marked a new era in the history of this country. The party is pledged to certain reforms and is going about the fulfillment of its pledges in good faith. The Sherman law, a cowardly makeshift and a delusion, has been repealed; the federal election law has been wiped out; the Wilson bill, more democratic than we dared to hope for, has passed the house by a large majority, and in less than two months will become a law. With it the whole tariff system is revolutionized. The necessaries of life and the materials of industry are left untaxed, the sugar bounty robbery is wiped out and a tax is laid on incomes, thus lifting at one stroke the burdens of federal taxation from the shoulders of the poor to those of the rich. 'Oh, yes,' but our republican parrot says, 'Secretary Carlisle is compelled to issue bonds in time of profound peace.' Yes, be it said to the eternal infamy of the republican party, he is, but only on account of the criminal extravagance of a corrupt republican administration and the enactment of the iniquitious McKinley law that diverted the streams of revenue from the public treasury to private coffers.

"'Oh, but why didn't Mr. Carlisle coin the seigniorage instead of issuing bonds?' our parrot is ready to say. For the very good reason that there is no law permitting him to do so, and pending the passage of some such law, he must have money to carry on the government. There is no doubt of the early passage of the Wilson bill, and no doubt that congress in its wisdom will enact a law for the coinage of silver in accordance with the declarations of the Chicago platform.

"With all these facts in our favor and such leaders as Daniel W. Voorhees in congress and Thomas Taggart at the helm here, does anybody doubt that we will carry Indiana this year? Gentlemen, I thank you."

This concluded the regular business of the meeting and an adjournment was taken.

Expressions of Opinion.

The afternoon was spent by the members of the association in discussing the situation in all parts of the state in an informal manner. All the congressional districts were well represented and full reports were made. In the adjacent Ninth district most flattering conditions are reported. Said Editor W. Bent Wilson of the Lafayette Journal:

"We have been in the minority heretofore, but that day has now passed, I think. The republican party in the Ninth district is divided as never before, and the bitter factional fight now being waged there cannot be patched. The party which fondly embraces the A. P. A. has now found out that it has a dangerous ally, and is trying to let loose. It is a good deal like the man who caught the tartar. They can't let go, although the better element of the party is in open rebellion. The Courier at Lafayette is raging at the state committee and refuses to recognize its actions, loudly calling upon the counties to work co-ordinately and independently of the state organization. They never before were so badly torn up. The people all over the district realize that the republican central committee is but a tool to advance the interests of the salary-grabbers, and are justly indignant. The democrats are with the administration to a man and there is no thought of the least deflection. Congress will have the Wilson bill passed within a short time now and then the people throughout the state will appreciate the glorious benefits which will accrue to them. There is no danger of their ever again voting upon themselves the iniquitous burdens of war taxes."

Editor John B. Stoll of the South Bend Tribune was down from the Thirteenth district. "Our district is all right and is with the state committee, state administration and the national administration to a man. The panic is now fast fading into a memory, and the cry that it was precipitated upon the country by the democratic party is now looked upon as ridiculous. There can be no political capital made out of that now. Factories are starting up all over the country even before the action of congress upon the Wilson bill, and as soon as this measure has been passed the business of the country will be regulated according to the new conditions and commerce and trade will go on as before with the improvement that the people will not as in the past be burdened by the weight of war taxation. No power in the world can ever make the people of Indiana vote this upon themselves again. The income tax measure is one that seems to have been framed expressly for the people of this state as 999 men out of every 1,000 will be directly benefited in being freed from a large share of taxation, which they have been wrongfully bearing for years. The Thirteenth district is all right."

From over in the Sixth came reports that were most flattering. Said F. D. Haimbaugh of the Muncie Herald: "We are in the minority in our district but the complexion of the Sixth is changing very rapidly. Every factory in Muncie is now running at nearly its full capacity with but one exception, and this one is now stopped for reasons that have nothing whatever to do with general conditions. The proprietor of the largest window glass factory in the city is now out in an enthusiastic manner for the Wilson tariff bill and is advising all his workmen to vote for it and support it. Two large factories are now nearing completion and will be operating in a few weeks and everything looks bright. With the passage of the Wilson bill the result will put the republicans on the defensive in our district, and its benefits, together with those that will accrue from the income tax feature, will give the people such a demonstration of the benefits of the bill that democratic victory is assured."

And so said all the rest. There was not a complaint. Wheat looks well and the prospects for good crops this year were never better. The income tax measure and the near prospect of the passage of the Wilson bill have put farmers in the best of spirits. The panic is past, reconstruction has advanced, the factories are starting up all over the state, the suspended work on the new ones has been resumed, the democrats are everywhere rejoicing, the result of the meeting of the state central committee has met with the heartiest approval, all are working in harmony, there is not a sign of any dissatisfaction to be seen anywhere and democratic victory all over the state this year is as nearly an assured thing as anything in the future can be. It is no wonder that the democratic editors of the state left Friday afternoon for their homes feeling good and in a humor to congratulate everybody.

REPORT ON STATE BANKS

IS MADE BY THE BANK DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

It Shows the Number of State Banks Organized During the Year, the Number of Failures—Two Trust Companies, Both of This City, Have Been Incorporated.

The annual report of the bank department of the state auditor's office has been printed. It is for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1893, and shows that during the year the following state banks have been incorporated, making a total of eighty-seven in the state: Monroe county state bank of Bloomington, Citizens' bank of Clinton, Garrett banking company of Garrett, State bank of Indiana at Indianapolis, Citizens' state bank of Knox, Logansport state bank, State bank of Lowell, Union loan and trust company of Richmond, Parke bank of Rockville, State bank of Veedersburg, Williamsport state bank of Williamsport.

The financial panic of last spring compelled the following banks to close their doors and their affairs are being wound up: State bank of Churubusco, Clay county bank of Clay City, Farmers' and Merchants' bank of Covington, Farmers' and Merchants' bank of Fairmount, Farmers' and Merchants' bank of Geneva, Farmers' bank of Otterbein, Commercial bank of Oxford, Bank of Russiaville, Bank of Spiceland.

The Delaware county bank at Muncie reorganized as a national bank and the Citizens' bank at Knox sold its business to a private bank. These changes have left eighty-seven banks operating under state law at the date of this report.

These failures are the first that have occurred since the enactment of the present state bank law in 1873, and were largely owing to alliances with financial schemes, the practicability of which were always doubted by this department, and which has made all the effort that it could to prevent them. The law, however, does not give the auditor of state sufficient authority to stop practices by banks which seem to him unsafe. The failure of these banks, with two or three exceptions, will not cause loss to depositors.

The report shows that the savings banks, of which there were five at the close of the year, are in a perfectly solvent condition, but suffered, like all other banks, in the withdrawal of deposits during the spring and summer. Whenever necessary, the provisions of the law under which they are operating and their by-laws, requiring notice of withdrawals, were taken advantage of, thus preventing a sacrifice of their securities.

Two trust companies have been organized under the law passed by the last general assembly providing for their incorporation. They are the Indiana trust company and the Union trust company, both of Indianapolis. Statements of their condition are submitted, showing their exact assets and liabilities at the close of the fiscal year.

Threatening Workmen.

A fine condition indeed we have reached when the law makers of the land are threatened that if the demands of selfish greed are not met that the innocent workmen of the land will be made to suffer.—Muncie Herald.

Taggart's Re-Election.

The re-election of Mr. Taggart as chairman of the state democratic committee is a tribute to his superior ability and it may be said has raised the hopes of the party in this state.—Kokomo Times.