

ESTABLISHED 18

LEON, IOWA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1914.

VOLUME LXI, NO. 11.

SWIFT'S PLANT BURNED

Leon's Big Poultry Plant Burned Saturday Afternoon the Loss Being \$80,000 to \$100,000.

For the second time the big poultry plant of Swift & Co. in this city was totally destroyed by fire, last Saturday afternoon, with a loss estimated by manager J. P. Barrett of from \$80,000 to \$100,000 on the building and contents. On the morning of February 25, 1904, the first plant erected here by Swift & Co., was destroyed, the loss at that time being about \$25,000, and when they rebuilt the plant they greatly enlarged it, adding a creamery department.

present at these houses. A number of the foremen were also transferred to the other branch houses.

Much speculation is being indulged in as to whether Swift & Co. will rebuild the plant in this city, but everybody is hoping that they will, as it was the biggest employment of labor in Leon, the pay roll for labor alone being more than \$40,000 a year, an average of about \$800 a week. The plant here did a big business, something like three million dollars a year. Last spring plans were prepared for a big new building just north of the one burned, the new building to be three or four stories high, and constructed of concrete and steel, but the directors decided not to make the improvement until next year. They will probably erect a fire proof structure on the site of the burned plant, as we understand they have abandoned building any more frame plants. Nothing could be learned here in regard to the insurance on the burned plant, as it is all carried by the Chicago offices of Swift & Co., but the loss is probably pretty well covered by insurance.

When the alarm was given assistant manager Frank Coleman, who was in Swift & Co.'s plant at Creston when it burned about a year ago, hastily gathered the books and records together and placed them in the two safes in the office. After the fire was over the contents of the big safe, containing the most valuable records was found to be intact, except that the backs of the big books were charred, but the books and papers in the smaller safe were burned to charred paper.

The most serious loss to Leon

one having crawled under the building and set the fire, but it had not made much headway when discovered and a few buckets of water extinguished it. Had it burned the oil tanks and storage house would have burned, as well as Bowsher's implement warehouse and other storage buildings.

Mayor Farquhar placed special police on duty Saturday night to watch for suspects, but nothing was discovered. Should the guilty parties be located they will be severely dealt with. A detail of firemen remained on duty at the fire house all night Saturday, ready for any emergency.

HIGH POINT FARMER SUICIDES Grant Dorsey, Well Known High Point Farmer, Hung Himself Last Friday.

The second suicide in Decatur county within a week occurred at the farm of Grant Dorsey, a well known farmer living in High Point township last Friday morning, when Mr. Dorsey took his life by hanging himself. For some time Mr. Dorsey has been in very poor health, and this fact is the only theory advanced for his taking his life.

He arose early last Friday morning and went to the buggy shed near the house and hung himself with a small rope. His family missed him about 4 o'clock, and one of his sons found him hanging in the shed, so it is not known just how long he had been dead. Dr. Lyons, of Garden Grove, was at once notified and hurried to the Dorsey farm. Mr. Dorsey's body being still hanging to the rafters of the shed when he arrived. He cut the body down and notified coroner Layton, giving him the facts in the case and the coroner decided it was not necessary to hold an inquest.

The deceased was about fifty years of age, and leaves a wife and eight children. He was a good farmer, quite well to do, and his death is deeply regretted.

Funeral services were held at the home on Sunday, interment being in the High Point cemetery.

Died From Injuries Received at Insane Hospital at Clarinda.

Elzie Rex, the young farmer of Center township, who was before the insane commission last Wednesday and ordered taken to the state hospital at Clarinda for treatment died at the hospital on Friday, and there are very peculiar circumstances connected with his death, and a thorough investigation is being made, it being claimed he died from injuries inflicted by an insane patient at the hospital. Mr. Rex was in good health, except that his mind and body were affected for a few weeks the result of worry over a land trade. Deputy sheriff Bob Craig took him to Clarinda Wednesday afternoon. His body was shipped to Garden Grove, arriving there on Sunday, and a letter from the officials at Clarinda gave natural causes as the cause of his death. An examination of his body revealed a big bruised place over one eye, and finger marks on his throat, and there was also a cut on his lip. Funeral services were held at Palestine church on Tuesday, and then his body was not interred but was taken back to Garden Grove, and shipped from there to Clarinda accompanied by his brothers and other friends, who took a number of witnesses with them, and they will insist that a coroner's inquest be held and the case thoroughly investigated. It is reported that Mr. Rex was placed in a big ward with a number of other insane patients and that one of the insane patients attacked him and inflicted injuries which caused his death.

New Postmasters Appointed in Decatur County.

Official announcement has been made of the appointment of six postmasters in Decatur county the past week, four democrats and two republicans, the appointments following the civil service examinations held some time ago, and the new postmasters will take their offices as soon as their bonds are approved. The following is a list of the appointments: Weldon—Mrs. Ora Mitchell, republican. Grand River—Miss Helen M. Griffin, democrat. Davis City—Burriss M. Howell, democrat. Woodland—Mrs. Minnie Woolman, republican. Pleasanton—Earl Moore, democrat. Van Wert—Mrs. Maggie Edwards, democrat.

Reporter Will be Late Next Week.

The Reporter goes to press regularly each Wednesday just after noon, but next week we will be a day late, as it is impossible to secure any accurate election returns in time to go to press at the usual time on Wednesday and the paper will go to press some time Thursday instead of Wednesday, so don't be disappointed if you fall to get your Reporter Thursday morning. We prefer to wait and give the full returns of the election.

Marriage Licenses.

- Ernest T. Landphair, Pleasanton. 31
Cora Frisbie, Saline, Mo. 28
King Landphair, Pleasanton. 21
Katie Robb, Saline, Mo. 20
Lert McConnell, Grand River. 26
Nan Hanner, Decatur. 26
A. D. Willis, Davis City. 62
Mary A. Latta, Davis City. 66
Mrs. F. N. Hansell and Mrs. C. A. Horn entertained a number of lady friends at the Hansell home Monday afternoon.

A STATE-WIDE DECISION

A VOTE FOR CONNOLLY FOR SENATOR IS A VOTE OF APPROVAL OF PRES. WILSON



A VOTE AGAINST CONNOLLY IS A VOTE AGAINST WILSON

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

Court Convened Monday Evening and Adjourned Tuesday Evening Until the Day After Election.

The October term of the district court convened Monday evening on the arrival of Judge Maxwell from Creston, but adjourned on Tuesday evening until Wednesday morning, Nov. 4th.

The grand jury drawn for service at this term of court is composed of Chas. F. Goode, foreman, M. S. Hullinger, W. S. Throckmorton, Harry Weldon, A. C. Dunham, H. L. McClaran and T. J. Griffin, and they have considerable business to investigate at this term of court. Mrs. J. P. Barrett was appointed clerk of the grand jury and Frank Rhoades grand jury bailiff. W. H. Bobbitt was appointed court bailiff.

Nothing was done in regard to the trial of the case of State vs. Earl Riley, it being passed over until court convenes next Wednesday. If it is tried at this term there will not be many other cases tried at this term of court.

The following cases were disposed of before court adjourned Tuesday evening.

CRIMINAL. State vs. Harry Wright, dismissed on motion of county attorney. State vs. Arthur Campbell and Birdie Bennett, dismissed on motion of county attorney.

LAW AND EQUITY. P. H. Young vs. C. E. Young et al. Report of sale and deed to C. M. McGulre approved.

Mary J. Bennett vs. Anna Dancer et al. Report of sale and deed to Mary J. Bennett approved.

George Hamilton vs. Bessie Hamilton, decree of divorce granted.

W. A. Ramsey vs. George Hale et al. Decree quieting title.

H. R. Layton vs. John W. Barrett. Default and judgment for amount of note and order for sale of attached property.

R. B. Stone vs. Farmers Ins. Co. Settled.

John Rumley vs. Farmers Ins. Co. Settled.

Garfield McDowell vs. T. J. Hill. Settled.

S. Varga admr. vs. Ernest Elston. Default and judgment on note.

S. Varga admr. vs. C. O. Roland and Ernest Elston. Judgment for \$487.30.

S. Varga admr. vs. C. O. Roland. Judgment on note in two cases.

M. Shippy vs. Grace Weable et al. F. Varga appointed guardian ad litem for minor defendants.

A. Nilsson vs. Ida and H. O. Boor. Transferred to Clarke county for trial.

America Cornett vs. Clark Lewis et al. Judgment on note.

Blanch Negus vs. Daniel H. Negus. Decree of divorce granted.

Estes & Covington vs. O. P. Jamison. Judgment on note.

J. Switzer vs. H. D. DeKalb. Confession of judgment confirmed.

executor with bond of \$500. special administrator authorized to sell personal property at public sale.

Estate of Grant T. Dorsey, Mary I. Dorsey appointed administratrix with bond of \$2,500.

Guardianship of Sarah M. Akes. C. L. Akes tenders resignation as guardian and Hester A. Akes appointed guardian with bond of \$1,500.

Guardianship of Alice Brann. Amos P. Olsen appointed guardian ad litem, Stephen Varga permanent guardian with bond of \$400.

Political Advertisement.

H. L. Northrup, whose announcement appeared in this paper for member of the board of supervisors to succeed himself is a product of Decatur county, having been raised in the town of Garden Grove, was born in 1876 and has been a resident of this county all his life. His parents were pioneer settlers of Decatur county. His father, the late A. C. Northrup served three years in the war of the rebellion, having enlisted in Co. L, 3rd Iowa Cavalry.

Harvey, as he is familiarly known is a self made man. He was educated in the Garden Grove schools. He is a thorough business man, conscientious, honest and honorable. By his clean business ability and industrious methods, he has accumulated two fine farms in Decatur county. He is also interested in the mercantile business with his brother.

He is a stock buyer and his dealings with the public have gained for him a reputation that money will not buy, for honesty, truthfulness and a square deal. Mr. Northrup's experience of the past two years as a member of the board makes him a valuable man for the place and he ought to be, and no doubt will be, returned. The indications are that he will have the undivided support of all the voters of this part of the county, regardless of politics.—Garden Grove Express.

To the Voters of Decatur County.

I wish to make the following statement and ask that you read it carefully, that my position may be fully understood by the voters of Decatur county. If elected to the office of county treasurer I will enter the office without any strings on me whatever. I will conduct the office to the best of my ability, always guarding the best interests of the people, without preference or fear of persecution or hope of reward. However, I have heard that there have been some reports circulated to the contrary for campaign gush. I assure you that all business connected with the treasurer's office will be conducted on a just and equitable basis.

respectfully, J. W. Wasson, Democratic candidate for county treasurer.

Laundry—I have taken the agency for Weem's laundry. Leave your packages at my barber shop. C. E. Henderson.

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

Items Taken from the Files of The Reporter Published a Quarter of a Century Ago.

Ed Daugherty traded for the Sam McCroskey stock of goods at Decatur City, and had placed J. R. Conroy in charge of the store.

Hamlin's Wizard Oil Co. was playing a week's engagement at the opera house.

Miss Grace Curry returned from a visit with friends in Chicago.

Corn was selling at 18 cents a bushel and beef cattle were \$2.00 a hundred.

Mrs. Zoia Cherry, of Aston, was visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beck.

Wm. Detrick departed for Galveston, Texas, to visit his two daughters living there.

Mrs. Marion F. Stookey and daughter Dot were visiting with her sister, Miss Cora Brooks, in Omaha, Neb.

Mrs. Bessie Detrick Brannan, of Kansas City, was visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Detrick in this city.

Miss Helen Young returned from a five months visit with friends at Centerville, Bloomfield and Oskaloosa.

Miss Mayme Penniwell, who has been at Baker City, Oregon, for the past year, returned home last Monday. She has a host of warm personal friends here who are glad to welcome her back, for she is one of Leon's best and most accomplished young ladies.

Chas. E. Chastain left Monday for Centerville, where he will spend a few days and then go to Roachdale, Indiana, and after spending some time there will go to Owingsville, Kentucky, to visit relatives and friends. His son Ernest went with him and they will return next spring.

Geo. P. Campbell Honored.

Geo. P. Campbell, the well known Davis City Odd Fellow, was signally honored at Burlington last week at the Grand Encampment, being elected as Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment, the highest office in the order. Mr. Campbell has been a member for many years and is one of the leading Odd Fellows of Iowa. His election to this high office is one of great honor both to him and Decatur county.

Death of an Old Decatur County Resident.

J. W. Spargur, who for many years resided at Davis City, died at his home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on Sunday, Oct. 17th. The deceased was the stepfather of Charles Peniston of this city.

Mules For Sale.

I have twenty-four head of good mules for sale. Will sell them by the span or all in a bunch, and will make good terms. C. M. Akes.

WOULD DECATUR COUNTY VOTE A TAX OF \$20,000 TO \$50,000 FOR A PARK IN LEON?

Would Decatur county vote a tax of \$20,000 to \$50,000 to enlarge the Court House grounds in Leon and convert them into a beautiful park? Let those who favor such a proposition raise their right hands.

If not, why should we vote a tax on the property of this county for this amount to make an 83 acre park at Des Moines? A vote for Governor Clarke is an endorsement of this proposition.

Views of the Burning Plant.



Photo by Cherrington.

electric light wires but fortunately was discovered by two of the employees, and the box in which the fire was burning was dumped into a water barrel. The matter was reported to the Chicago office, and on Saturday morning orders were received to have the entire building rewired, but they came just too late.

The fire department were promptly on the job with several streams of water, the pressure being good, but owing to the inflammable construction of the building, it all being frame except the basement walls, the flames spread rapidly and soon the entire building was burning and filled with smoke. In the building when the fire started there were about 6,000 head of live chickens. An effort was made to release them, but only about 1,200 got out, the balance being burned, together with about 3,000 head of dressed chickens, many cases of eggs, a large quantity of butter and other manufactured products.

The fire was a fierce one and attracted a large crowd of people to the scene. A large quantity of ammonia was in the building, it being used in connection with the cold storage and ice plant, and everybody was warned to keep away from the building on account of the danger from these tanks exploding, and when they did finally explode with a terrific noise everybody got back farther, but no one was injured, although some of the fire boys were dangerously close, fighting heroically to save the residence of Charles Gable, just south of the plant, and although the roof was on fire several times they succeeded in saving the building with only slight damage to the roof. The contents of the house were all carried across the street as everybody thought the house would surely burn.

Manager J. P. Barrett and his office force were busy right after the fire getting business matters in shape, and occupied as temporary offices, the ladies' retiring room in the depot. Orders were received the first of the week transferring the office force for the present to Creston and Ottumwa, as the business of the Leon plant will be conducted for the

right now is the throwing out of employment of a large number of men and women, just as the busy season and winter is coming on. The working force was being increased, and in a few weeks they would be employing from 150 to 200 persons.

During the fire the territory for several blocks around was covered with the chickens which were turned loose, and most of them were recovered, although there were probably more persons in Leon who had chickens for dinner Sunday than for many years. A few parties captured quite a lot of the escaped chickens, and in some instances it was necessary to call an officer to gain possession of the chickens.

Four Fires Within Eighteen Hours.

The Leon fire department certainly had their hands full of work last Saturday and Sunday, as there were four fires within eighteen hours. The boys had been on duty Saturday from the time the alarm was turned in a few minutes before 4 o'clock at the Swift & Co. plant, keeping down the burning ruins of the big plant. Saturday night about 10:30 o'clock a vacant house owned by Jap Celsor on south Main street, the third house north of the depot, was evidently set on fire, the fire starting in a closet where a lot of papers had been piled up. The firemen however soon had it under control although the interior of the house and the roof was considerably damaged. Shortly after midnight the old two story house in southeast Leon owned by Ancil Barry, which had been partially burned three times in the past couple of years, was found to be on fire. The house was occupied by J. A. Kerr, whose goods were stored in it, but he slept in a small shanty just south of the house. The firemen and neighbors carried the household goods out, but the building was so badly damaged that it is beyond repair. Sunday morning about 10 o'clock the fourth fire, without question the work of an incendiary, was discovered, a granary owned by Talbot & Co., just west of the Standard Oil Co.'s tank station. A quantity of oil soaked waste taken from the boxing of a freight car was used to start the fire, some