

# THE COPPER ERA.

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## Where Pythian Order Was Born.

The Knights of Pythias of Calumet, Mich., are figuring on the purchase and removal to Calumet of a building which probably has a greater interest to Pythians as such than any other structure in existence, says the Chicago Record. This is nothing more less than the old school house in which Justin H. Rathbone, the founder of the order, wrote the ritual of what was destined to become one of the most popular secret orders in the United States.

The school house still stands in a little village of Eagle Harbor, some 15 miles north of Calumet and nearly at the tip of the Keweenaw peninsula. In the early days when the activity of its copper mines in the immediate vicinity made Eagle Harbor something more than the hamlet it is now, the father of the Pythians was a school teacher and while not engaged in an attempt to inject wisdom into the minds of the pupils conceived the idea of a society the friendship of whose members should be like unto the friendship which existed between Damon and Pythias. He carried out his conception and in his leisure wrote the ritual of the order. Having no better place to perform the work he did it at his desk in the little school house.

Today there is another school house where the children of Eagle Harbor pursue their studies and the one made famous by its association with Rathbone is in a dilapidated condition. Title to it is held by a man named Kuntz, a resident of the Harbor, who offers to sell it for \$200. It is probable that the negotiations now under way will lead to its falling into the hands of those who will fully appreciate it on account of its associations. Moved to Calumet and restored to something like its former conditions it will become more valuable histori-

cally as time goes on and an object great interest to all members of the order who may visit the place.

Fifteen miles off the railroad and inaccessible as it is now it is still visited by hundreds of Pythians every year. The owner takes pleasure in showing these visitors the schoolmaster's desk at which the ritual was written. Incidentally Mr. Kuntz was a resident of Eagle Harbor in the days when Rathbone was its schoolmaster and has a clear personal recollection of the man who afterward came to be revered as the founder of the great order.

## The Poll Tax Law Unpopular.

"One of the most vicious laws on the statute books of Arizona is the poll tax law passed by the last territorial legislature, that requires of an American citizen that he pay for the privilege of voting, the only weapon a poor man has to assert his independence." So said a prominent Bisbee man to a Herald representative. Inquiry brought to light that this is the opinion of many citizens of Bisbee. "There is no law that can deprive an American of the rights and privileges granted him by the constitution," he continued, "and no court in the land would uphold such an act as the one now in force in Arizona. There should be other ways of compelling a man to pay poll tax, and when a price is placed on the right of franchise, it is time to call a halt."

A law of a similar nature was passed by the Nevada legislature two years ago. The act was tested in the courts of that state and declared unconstitutional. It is understood that a test case will be made in the courts of Arizona.

There are many persons who would gladly pay their poll tax if no compulsory methods were used. They do not like the idea of paying \$2.50 for a privilege that the constitution declares

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cannot be denied them. For that reason Cochise county's registration is not over half what it would be, in the estimation of many citizens, if the poll tax law was not in operation.—Bisbee Herald.

The British War Office has issued a list of British casualties in South Africa since the beginning of the war. The total losses, exclusive of sick and wounded, has been 29,706, of which the killed in action were 254 officers and 21,403 non-commissioned officers and men; wounded 70 officers and 610 non-commissioned officers and men; missing and prisoners 65 officers and 2,624 non-commissioned officers and men; died of disease 133 officers and 43,420 non-commissioned officers and men; invalidated home 844 officers and

18,433 non-commissioned officers and men.

The oil fields of Mohave county near the Colorado river have been examined by an expert and pronounced, as far as geological formations go, superior to the California fields. The Miner says test wells will be put down as soon as the heat of the sun has been reduced by the cool winds of September.

Uncle Sam spends each year on his government \$550,000,000 not including the extra outlay occasioned by our late war and the new accession of territory. In 1800 he spent \$12,509,000. In four years he now spends more than the entire wealth of the nation in 1800.

Telephones were invented in 1861.