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OFFICIAL PAPER OF ALLEN COUNTY

SANTA AND THE CHILDREN

The Iola Churches Celebrated Christmas Evening For the Benefit of the Little Folks

While the Christmas spirit is more or less omnipresent at this season the very heart of good fellowship and kindliness is found in the Sabbath Schools, where the hundreds of little children, eager eyed and tremuously expectant, await with a beautiful trust the certain coming of Santa Claus, the friend of the child. Older folk have lost the ability to thrill at the thought of Claus Cringle, but the memory of that memorable day in Bethlehem fills their hearts with as near the feeling of hope that inspires the children as anything can. So the Christmas cheer on Christmas Eve is practically universal throughout this great Christian nation, and in all of Iola's churches that night there were gatherings of old and young people who imitated in an humble way that greatest example of giving, the gift by the Almighty of a Savior of the world.

AT THE REFORMED CHURCH.

Mr. H. Klaumann, as usual, was chairman of the committee on decoration, and the result is that the Reformed church presented a most beautiful appearance when the happy children and the no less happy grown-ups assembled there to get their presents and to listen to a pleasing program. The tree was in the middle of the room with arches of evergreens extending from it to the four walls, making a very striking and beautiful picture.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The most elaborate preparations were made by the Christian church people, the music and drilling of the children being in charge of Miss Annie Laurie Norris, who is peculiarly fitted for the task as it is in line with her profession. A cantata, "How we Waited for Santa Claus," was given by the choir and school children. The curtain rose on a home scene with six small Misses arrayed as old dames, knitting. Then a brigade of boys entered and drilled, after which Miss Nellie Reed, as nurse sang a lullaby, rocking a baby, tiny Ruth McDowell, in her arms. It was very pretty. While the gathering awaited the coming of Santa Claus Jack Frost entered and put them all to sleep, when Miss Ollie Jones sang a solo. Santa entered and awoke the children with a song and distributed the presents and treats. Numerous well drilled choruses and songs made the program a musical treat.

AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

A large Christmas tree at the Baptist church was loaded down with presents and an abundance of candies, pop corn and nuts was provided to serve those who received presents and those who do not. The children gave a program of recitations and solos and choruses. Miss Clara Harris presiding at the organ.

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.

A literary program was rendered by the children of the Sunday School at the Methodist church, the choir assisting with several numbers. A platform was erected for the choruses and drills to be given on and evergreen decorations were lavishly scattered about. All present were remembered with a slight remembrance and the evening was enjoyably spent by a crowded house.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The windows and every available corner of the Presbyterian church were tastily decorated, the front being adorned by two graceful Christmas trees. The scholars gave a dainty little progam of songs and recitations which they had learned and it was all very pleasing. Santa Claus managed to get around during the evening despite numerous engagements elsewhere and he did the very proper thing by treating the entire crowd.

AT THE U. B. CHURCH.

At the United Brethren church a house took the place of a tree. In the corner glowed a fire place and the school children recited and sang before the house. At the proper time a telephone was rung and a message sent Santa Claus to come and he dropped down the chimney and appeared through the fire place, bringing a load of presents. During all this a furious snow storm raged in front of the house.

Opera House Prospects.

Can it really be possible that the dream of years is to be realized, and an opera house built here! Not a "New opera house"—for that pre-supposes that there was an old one—but an opera house. The cry has been raised repeatedly that one was in contemplation, but the echo of the cry did not die sooner than the agitation.

Col. W. D. Saphar in his travels has been spreading the news of a town of 7,000 well-to-do people living without an opera house. At last he has interested W. H. Wigton, of Falls City Neb., and that gentleman writes favorably. He says:

"I cannot come for at least thirty days, but I feel confident that if the people of Iola want a good opera house we can accommodate them. Speak a good word for me and in thirty days or so I will come down and look the ground over."

The chances are that some local stock must be taken, but the REGISTER has overheard several men declare their willingness to invest $100 in such an enterprise. So here's hoping.

Roy West is Alive and Well.

Roy West, the nephew of Homer Fowler who disappeared one morning early in December without saying a word as to his plans or intention of leaving, thus allowing the family to fret and worry for fear he had been killed or had committed suicide, is well and alive. Mr. Fowler received a letter from him Christmas morning dated at Butler Missouri. The letter is short and unsatisfactory, tells nothing and is loosely put together. He had evidently heard of the worry he caused here for he begs pardon rather incoherently for "it" as he calls his disappearance, says he has a job at $14 a month and wants his clothes sent to him. Mr. Fowler, while deeply relieved to know that the young man is not murdered or dead by his own hand, feels indignant at his thoughtless course and promised to write the youth a letter that will make him wish for a second or two that he had never been born. It was a thoughtless trick of a careless young man and should be a warning to other boys who think nothing of disappearing without notice.

For Sale.

Bourbon county Kansas farms. Southeast ¼ of section 6—25—22, 160 acres, all in grass, about 40 acres good farm land. 40 acres fair, balance pasture or meadow. West ½ of section 5—25—22 320 acres. 180 acres good farm land, 140 acres under cultivation, balance good pasture and meadow land, new four room house, barn, well etc.

North ½ of section 7—25—22 320 acres. 80 acres under cultivation, balance in grass, considerable of which can be farmed, six room house, good barn, cribs for 5000 bushels of corn, orchard and very fine stock water. South ½ of section 7—25—22, 320 acres. 160 acres under cultivation, balance meadow and pasture land.

North ½ of section 24—25—21, 320 acres. 120 acres under cultivation, balance pasture. 5 room house, cellar, well, barn, corn-cribs, orchard etc. Good stock water. South ½ of section 24—25—21, 320 acres. 80 acres under cultivation, balance pasture. Good water. The above land is from 1½ to 2½ miles from Bronson on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. For prices and terms write to D. A. Mulvane, Topeka, Kansas or see D. E. Earl at Bronson Kansas.

D. A. MULVANE.

L. Hobart Brings Suit

L. Hobart has stopped work on the building which he intended erecting on the site of the burned Alhambra restaurant and has brought suit against H. Klauman and A. W. Beck because he says their buildings overlap his land.

His petition says the Beck building is erected right on the line, is constructed of poor mortar and rock, is damaged by the fire and bulges out some nine inches over onto his lot, being dangerous and asking to have it abated.

The Klauman building he says is built from ten to twelve inches over on his lot and is also faultily constructed and dangerous owing to the effects of the fire. He asks to have it condemned and abated so he can proceed with his building, the delay laying him liable to loss from breach of contract with his builders.

Death of William Preston.

William Preston, who for several years has been an invalid and as made his home with his son, Marion Preston, west of the river, died Christmas day. Mr. Preston was well along in years and was widely known as he had lived in the county for a long time, winning friends by the virtue that was in him. The funeral was held from the son's residence Thursday at eleven o'clock.

Paid Dear for his Leg.

H. D. Blanton of Thackerville Tex., in two years paid over $300.00 to doctors to cure a Running Sore on his leg. Then they wanted to cut it off, but he cured it with one box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Guaranteed cure for Piles. 25 cts. a box. Sold by Evans Bro's Druggist.

MR. IRA E. PATTERSON.

One of Iola's Progressive and Up-to-Date Business Men—Something of His Life and Business.

There is much in the plumbing line that is yet in its incipiency in Iola. But with the more enlarged ideas of our citizens with reference to their homes, which are not only being built as shelters for themselves but for the generations to follows, they are adopting the services of the plumber more generally. Especially is this the case since natural gas has been used in our city and since we were assured of water works. Our citizens recognize the wisdom of the plumber's handiwork, not only as relates to cleanliness and

comfort, but also as to its bearing upon the health of the family. As these ideas have advanced with the people there comes a demand for fine, artistic work in this line that must be met. The plumber of today, if he would be successful, must be a thoroughly practical man at the business, one who understands it in its every details and he must be an honest man as well. That Iola has such a plumber in the person of Ira E Patterson there can be no question.

This gentleman has been a resident of Iola for so long a time that the greater part of our people know him—they know him as an honest and straightforward man, one who takes great pride in his work. He enjoys the reputation of turning out first class work; work which is done upon honor; work which is fully guaranteed and for which only a living profit is charged. Mr. Patterson's motto is to excell. His endeavor is to make every job of better than the previous one, and the quality of the materials used is of such a character that his conscience does not trouble him. He has done a great share of the fine work in Iola one of his best sales being the plumbing and gas fitting for the new Northrup block.

Besides doing all kinds of plumbing, gas, water and steam fitting, he does hot air, hot water and steam heating, furnace and ventilating work. His work is all done upon the best and most approved scientific sanitary principles, and is fully guaranteed Mr. Patterson also manufactures galvanized iron store fronts, cornices, crestings, finial sky lights, street lamps, roofing, guttering, spouting and other sheet metal work. He deals in hardware, builder's supplies, lamps, fixtures, plumbing goods, wind mills and pumps and hot air furnaces. He keeps his stock up to the fullest requirements of the trade, and always makes his prices very reasonable. He has a well appointed and equipped work shop, and employs none but thoroughly proficient workmen. He has built up a large patronage, and as he is strictly straight and honest has no trouble in retaining his customers.

Ira E. Patterson is a native of Henry county, Illinois, where he was born March 30, 1865. He was raised on a farm and early in life learned the carpenter trade. He became a resident of Iola eighteen years ago. His first avocation in our city was that of a clerk in a grocery. He then engaged in the mercantile business on his own account. In 1885 he began working at his trade, in connection with which he did contracting and building. In 1895 he engaged in the present business, which he has since conducted with marked success. In October, 1888, Mr. Patterson was married to Miss Susie B. Waters, ta most estimable lady, this union being blessed with three bright and intelligent children. Both Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are consistent members of the M. E. Church. They are also members of the Knights and Ladies of Security, while Mr. Patterson belongs to the Sons and Daughters of Justice, and to the A. O. U. W. and Odd Fellows orders. He is a straightforward and honorable citizen and business man and a credit to our city.

New Songs Not Catchy?
New Play Too Droll?
New Opera Too Long?

Why, what on earth ails you? Is it Indigestion? Get a bottle of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. It keeps you straight the year around. I buy it at Chas. [illegible] Iola and Kinne & Son, Moran.

FIRE IN HUB STORE.

Display in Window Caught and Was Completely Burned—Fire Was Confined There.

About 11 o'clock Saturday night, after the most of the shoppers had left the street, the fire bell sounded an alarm and there was great consternation when it was learned that the fire was in the Hub clothing store on the south side of the square in the heart of the business district.

It seems that some of the display in the west window had caught from the gas jet and the dry clothing flashed up viciously, the smoke rolling darkly, and the entire conflagration showing clearly from the front. The fire department responded quickly, having but a half a block to go and the hose was carried inside the store and played toward the front. The flames were thus confined to the window, but everything in it, valued at about $150, was destroyed. The smoke and chemicals damage the other goods near the front to an extent which Mr. T. W. Kitchen, he proprietor, estimates at about $400. He carries $6,000 insurance and so will recover his entire loss.

Street Railway Men Here.

The old project of building an electric street railway in Iola which was born something like two years ago, has not been allowed to drop out of sight. A number of men interested in that business have written here from time to time inquiring into the progress of Iola and the adjoining towns. Among these was Mr. F. V. Crouch, of Carrollton, Missouri, and today he and Mr. L. Lindsay, of Los Angeles, California, are here, looking the prospect over again. Late Northrup took them out over the country, showing them Iola, Gas City, Lanyonville and LaHarpe, all scattered along six miles of country, all growing and destined to double and treble in population. Mr. Crough has already expressed himself as favoring the road, but he thinks the time hasn't come for it, as there are not enough people to make the road pay. Their visit here, however, is promising and a frequent inspection of this neck of the woods will do no harm.

KANSAS CLIPS AND COMMENTS

Even the Prohibitionists can see no evil consequences in liquid air.

The Fin de Siecle club of Chanute has but a few days in which to rustle up a new name.

Eldorado society promises to be interesting. The Times advises all the girls to carry razors.

Full page adds are thicker in Kansas papers now than two line locals were a few years ago.

Instead of looking up in religious fervor on Christmas Salina people will look for downs at a foot ball game.

ElDorado people are letting Miss Morrison rest while they decide whether or not Judge Shinn who tried her was once tried for murder.

Just how easy the late election was is illustrated at Osborne where Alvin Williams, the Republican nominee for county commissioner, died at noon on election day, but beat his opponent out just the same.

The Atchison Champion figures it out that the way women manage to wear such big hats nowadays is because they had ancestors who carried cubs on their heads.

Abilene's joints are closed and the city dads are wondering if the hiatus in the stream of drinks down the guzzler's throats isn't going to shut off the electric light current.

While A W Chickadonz of Thayer, and his dog were chasing a chicken they both grabbed at the same time, but the dog grabbed Chickadonz instead of the chicken. The name did it doubtless.

An Atchison man who has "sworn off" starties his bibulous friends when asked by them to take a drink by saying that he will "take a cake of soap." Wouldn't that quench your thirst?

"May I print a kiss upon your cheek?"
She nodded sweet permission:
They went to press
And I rather guess
They printed a large edition.
—K. U. Weekly.

So undulating is the macadam on Main street, Ottawa, that a boy and sewing machine were jolted from a wagon jogging along. The father "took a few stitches" in the boy on the machine and drove on.

The Olathe papers have a jolly time. No sooner were they through booming the street car connection with Kansas City than it was time to warn the public not to run to the city to buy things, but to patronize home merchants.

Since its latest drubbing Democracy is so shriveled that it is on the point of crawling into grandfather's hat, Ben Harrison having recently differed from President McKinley on a point of law. But the Emporia Republican is watching and noting the scheme.

A show entitled "Two Married Women" is scoring in western Kansas. The manager of the Salina opera house wired his fellow manager at McPherson: "I played Two Married Women last night. Great fun. Recommend heartily." And if the message had gone astray what trouble it might have caused in a Salina house.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

SOME OF THE THINGS CONGRESS IS DOING IN THE SHORT SESSION.

Several Important Measures Which Are Now Under Consideration—A Gay Social Season as Well as a Busy Time at the Capital.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—It would seem that the closing will be as important and interesting as were the opening days of President McKinley's first term at the White House. When President McKinley was inaugurated March 4, 1897, the country was in a condition of commercial paralysis, and the people threatened a revolutionary movement against Spain. After the work of the extraordinary session of congress called by President McKinley for the enactment of a new tariff law and the authority which brought us war with Spain and the long train of exciting events which gave to our country the greatest prosperity ever enjoyed by any people in the world and within 90 days of actual fighting brought us perfect success in arms and the acquisition of Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines, it would seem that there was little more for an administration to do in order that it might be crowned with the greatest possible success. But it appears that President McKinley's first four years of administration have much more in store.

* * *

The second term of a congress is always brief. It opens on the first Monday in December, takes ten days of holiday recess and must, by limitation of the constitution, expire at noon on the 4th of March. This gives only about ten weeks for actual work. There are all the great appropriation bills to be passed yet and some of the most important legislation that has been proposed since the advent of President McKinley. The great tariff law of 1897 has performed wonders in bringing prosperity. It secured protection to home industries, and the commercial reciprocity provisions made it possible for the president to find many new markets for American products. The currency bill fixed the gold standard and placed us among the foremost of the civilized countries. The national banking act perfected our financial system and refunded the government debt on the lowest interest basis enjoyed by any people on the face of the globe—2 per cent.

And now there are before congress two of the next greatest measures for the future prosperity of our country ever proposed—the merchant marine and the Nicaragua canal bills. If the government will only secure the establishment of a number of new steamship lines to our old and all of our new markets, securing steady and reliable sailings and low freight rates, we will not only hold all of the markets we now have, but will be able to enlarge them and increase our exports, which, remarkable as it may appear, were larger during the past three and a half years than during all the previous existence of our republic. It has become necessary, however, in order to hold our great export markets and keep up prices for the products of the factory, the mill and the farm of the United States, to provide for the shipment of our surplus on the bottoms of American registered steamships.

* * *

The same Republican principle that secured the adoption of the present tariff law and the financial bill which fixed the gold standard and secured the greatly enlarged circulating medium and brought about the refunding of the national debt at 2 per cent promises to secure the adoption of the merchant marine bill, which will undoubtedly open up many new markets and give our farmers and manufacturers great advantages. The principle involved in the upbuilding of the merchant marine is identically the same as that involved in our American system of tariff protection. It is said that from 10 to 20 times more people will be directly interested in the building of new lines of merchant steamships and their maintenance than were interested in certain articles protected by the tariff bills of 1883, 1890 and 1897, which protected the "infant industries." The tin plate, the plate glass and the beet sugar industries were established and fostered entirely by the large duties imposed upon them by Republican tariff laws, and it has been proved by 30 years of experience—organized efforts constantly made ever since the civil war—that our own lines of steamships cannot be established or maintained except through government support until there have been found for a period of years steady markets for our products, markets which will give profitable employment to our steamship lines.

* * *

After the adoption of the merchant marine and the Nicaragua canal bills the Republican party and the Republican administration and congresses will have faithfully fulfilled all of the promises made in the platforms adopted at St. Louis and Philadelphia and the subsequent presidential campaigns. There is little doubt of the early final adoption of the merchant marine bill. The adoption of the Nicaragua canal bill has all along depended upon the ratification of the treaty with England, providing for the neutral and peaceful control of the proposed waterway.

Washington will not only be a very busy place until the 4th of March, on account of the very important measures before congress, but it will be a gay place socially. Lent will make the season short, scarcely more than six weeks in duration, with the Christmas holidays deducted, but the reinauguration of President McKinley promises to be the most brilliant and most largely attended of any ever held. J. B. M.

BIG PROFITS FROM OTTERS.

Some Pelts Secured in Northwestern Waters Bring $500 Each—Shooting the Animal.

The most beautiful stretch of ocean beach to be found anywhere on the Pacific coast of the United States is the wide expanse of spotless and glittering sand which lies between Gray's harbor and the Quinault river. There may be seen an unbroken area of 20 miles in length and at low tide from three to five miles in width which would make a moonlight playing ground for the fairies, says the Portland Oregonian.

There are many tower-like structures at regular distances of perhaps a mile each, which excite the curiosity of the many coast line steamers plying between San Francisco and northern ports. These are the towers or shooting boxes of sea otter hunters. They are built of tall, slender poles, generally four in number, sunk to a great depth and fixed securely in the sand and surrounded by a small box covered with a roof to protect its occupants from the burning sun. Cleats securely fastened to the poles from bottom to top afford the hunter means of ingress and egress.

The hot sun which blazes fiercely on this wide expanse of white sand during the months of July and August heats it almost to a burning point, and the waters of the incoming tide, rolling and curling over this hot sand, become deliciously warm. This is the playing ground of the sea otter, the place where they come to spend their holidays.

They leave their homes in the far off rocky islands, where there are no coral beaches, and the green waters are cold and deep, and come here like people to a watering place, to spnd the summer months in rolling and tumbling about in this warm water in a perfect ecstasy of delight. They leap and play about in the foaming breakers and polish their beautiful skins by hugging the sandy bottom and allowing the ocean swells to drive and throw them about as they will.

Although sea otters have the timidity which is natural to all wild animals they are better able to protect themselves than any of the other animals which have their homes in the sea. The swiftness of their movements makes it possible for them easily to catch any kind of small fish, and thus they can appease their hunger with the daintiest food.

No shark can catch them; they could be 20 feet away while Mr. Shark was turning on his back, and if the shark were directly beneath them they could throw themselves five feet in the air like a kaleidoscopic ball, while the ugly monster was snapping his jaws. The hunter is in his box, the tide is coming in and, with a powerful field glass to assist his practiced eye, he eagerly scans each coming roller. He has been here every day for a week, and his rifle has lain untouched by his side. To-day something may happen.

All at once he starts and mutters a little ejaculation; he sees something. He will soon know what it is, for the swells are coming swiftly and the distance between himself and the object he has seen will be quickly lessened. Yes, there it is again; there is no mistake. It is an otter, not more than 600 yards away. The hunter lays down his glass and there is $500 or $600 worth of beautiful shining fur plainly visible to the naked eye.

The man in the tower picks up his Sharp's rifle, inserts a 120-grain cartridge in the chamber, and there is a wicked, wistful gleam in the keen eye of the hunter as he raises his weapon for the first shot. There is a flash, a recoil and a report, which is scarcely distinguishable in the roaring of the breakers to the man who holds the gun. Ammunition is no object, and, with lightning rapidity, he loads and fires his piece. The otter will not be more than ten feet away from where he was when the hunter pulled the trigger when he gets there, and that hunter can hit a bounding deer at 300 yards twice out of five shots. The otter is enjoying himself in the dangerous company of murderous bullets, which are doing their best to find him.

Another huge breaker brings him within 200 yards of the blazing rifle. A quick recoil of the heavy gun turns the hunter half round; there is an unnatural splash which tells the man something has happened. He strains his eyes; no need of his glass to see there is blood in the water, and this tells him that there is a big hole somewhere in that $500.

No need to shoot again; no otter could bleed like that and not be washed ashore. The hunter lays down his heated gun; there will be no more otters in sight to-day. He sees his game almost opposite his tower; it is drifting helplessly toward the shore. That skin is his and its possession means that he will have everything he wants for another year if he does not fire a single shot.

With a yell of delight he flies toward the shanty on the bluff to tell his mother and the half dozen or so of other little half-breeds what has happened, and they all come trooping down the beach as fast as their legs can carry them.

The tide is going out now and the blood of the otter stains the sand which has lured him to destruction, and the ebbing ripples tenderly caress for the last time the pretty animal which has been their playmate all its life, and the sea will moan for the free-born thing which has always had a home in its bosom.

Some way or another the news spreads quickly and other hunters and crowds of Siwashes come trooping toward the dead otter from all directions.