

DWIGHT.

The "Star and Herald's" First Annual Review of the Business Interests of Dwight.

The City, Schools, Churches and Business Interests Receive the Attention of Reporters.

The Livingston," Hagerty Block and Other Business Houses and Private Residences Illustrated.

A tin can nailed to the top of an oak post, the post set into the ground very near the locality of the Pearre property, originally marked the site of Dwight.

THE LOCATION. Dwight is situated in a fine farming community on the Chicago & Alton and Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railways.

The Chicago & Alton Road, which in its infancy extended from Joliet to Alton, was conceived and built by Henry Dwight, of New York City, from whom the town was named.

Each of these men had been surveyors and engineers on the Hudson River Railroad, and on the completion of that road came West, surveyed and laid out the Alton.

Our Public Schools. The first school house was built in Dwight in the fall of 1855 at a cost of \$275 and served for three years as a school house, church and public hall.

EARLY SETTLERS. The village of Dwight, in its early days was settled very largely, if not wholly, by New York people.

During this period, the growth of Dwight was slow. Crops were bad and very little was done to induce settlers to locate at this point.

1862 to 1866. During this important period Dwight suffered very largely in the reduction of its population by the enlistment of an unusually large number of its citizens into the army.

1867 to 1880. During the years following, a new impetus was given, not only to this locality but to the whole country, by the return of the soldiers from the war.

we have redeemed this country so far as its agricultural situation is concerned. By the most universal adoption of tile drainage, we now grow larger and better crops and with more certainty, than at any other previous date since the town was settled.

These last seven years mark an era of the greatest prosperity this village and township has ever known. We have all our land under cultivation, while we have had some short crops, yet we have not during that time had any practical failures. The general condition of our farms all show solid progress. They have increased in value and are now considered by capitalists as excellent investments.

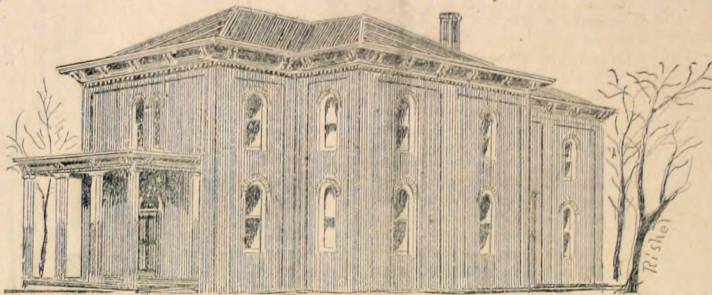
To those seeking homes either in the village or near the town. We have a market of easy access, either north, south, east or west. Our mail communication is excellent and answering every purpose for every business.

We have not made any attempt in this short historical account to boom individuals, trades or businesses but have attempted only to make a plain statement of facts.

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THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.



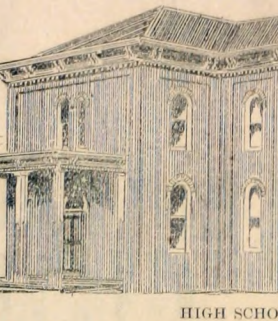
HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

Houston, Minnie Hollmeyer, Lily B. Conrad, Amanda Hubbard.

The high school has a museum connected with it which contains many objects of interest.

The attendance of non-residents is very large which attests the fact of the schools being popular and well-managed.

The following gentlemen have served as directors: D. McWilliams, J. B. Travis, Nelson Cornell, Geo. Whitlock, Oren Gould, Robt. Young, Henry Eldredge, Chas. Newell, Walter Baladen, S. Ramsey, J. Strong, Dr. Hagerly, W. Sims, John Sherrill, J. McMillan, A. Gould, S. Witt, J. Diffebaugh, E. Baker, A. McKay, J. Gore,



WEST SIDE MEAT MARKET.

O. W. Pollard, C. J. Judd, R. P. Morgan, B. A. Buck, J. C. Lewis, Geo. S. Baker, Jno. Leach, Jno. C. George.

Board of Education elected in April 1890, under the new law: Pres., John C. George; clerk, Geo. S. Baker, John Leach, L. J. Trunnell, N. Mickelson, John Geis, John Dennehe. In December, 1890, President George resigned and Dr. M. Palm was elected to the office without opposition.

Following are the names of the graduates of the high school:

- Class of 1880—Alice Eld edge, Charles Rhodes, Charley Follis.
Class of 1881—Alice Battenbury, Alice Paul, Edith Kneeland, John McWilliams, Anna Baker, Fred Wood.
Class of 1882—Mary Marshall, Frank Thiola, Nora Goodman, John H. Smith, Laura Thompson.
Class of 1883—Jennie Cadwallader, Ella E. Baker, Annie E. Fox, Jennie E. Ferris.
Class of 1884—Mary Long, Frankie Wilson, Minnie Ahern, Ella Conant, Mary Cusick, Frank L. Smith.
Class of 1886—Cora Adams, Eugene George, Vera Koehnlein, Samuel E. Houston, Louise McWilliams.
Class of 1887—Lilly B. Conrad, Julia O'Malley, Mary O'Malley, Nellie Weedon.
Class of 1888—Jennie Cadwallader, Lilla Koehnlein, Aura Gallup, Alice Perry, Anna Dunlop, Luella Stevens, M. ante Lower.
Class of 1889—Dwight C. Morgan, Louise de Clercq, Bessie Buer, Nellie Jeffies, Fred Smith, Charlie Vickory, Nellie Doberty, Henry Wood.
Class of 1890—John E. George, Walter O'Malley, Jeannette Koehnlein, Alice Long, Della Pearre, Mary Conrad.

the Rock River conference. A Methodist church was at once organized, consisting of six members only.

Sensible of the need of a better place in which to worship, as the town was growing and its membership increasing, the society, in 1858, erected a building at the corner of Prairie avenue and Waupensee street, which four years later was enlarged. This structure was used as a church for some

ing been appointed to this station for the third time. This flourishing society, which entered upon its career of usefulness thirty-five years ago with a membership of six persons only, viz: David McWilliams, Isaac Baker, Isabella Baker, Jeremiah Travis, and Simeon Lutz and John Routzong, has in its growth kept pace with that of the village and surrounding country.

The M. E. church of Dwight has a model Sunday school with twenty-five officers and teachers, and upon its list of members the names of 325 scholars are enrolled. Its library is one of the very best.

Congregational Church. The First Congregational church of Dwight was organized in Giersen's hall, Jan. 12, 1866, with the following charter members: Jonas Brewer and wife, H. Eldredge and wife, Mrs. S. M. Wright, Samuel Cutler, Mrs. H. M. Cutler, Miss S. Alden, Miss S. A. Snyder, Mrs. Mercy C. Armstrong and Mrs. Rebecca Snyder.

It is made easy of access by two flights of steps on the outside and the same number on the inside. The original cost of the edifice was \$16,000, a very large sum, the population of the village at the time of its erection considered. Since its construction expensive repairs in two instances have been made.

Prize's Crop Bureau. It goes without saying that there is not another village of the same number of inhabitants which is better known all over the length and breadth of the United States, to say nothing of the commercial centers of Europe.

Mr. S. Thornton K. Prime has for many years been a successful writer for the press, not only for this country but abroad. In 1880, he conceived the idea of concentrating into some practical form the results of a very extended acquaintance and correspondence he has for years enjoyed, with the representative farmers, millers, grain dealers and commercial Boards of Trade of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The majority of the correspondents, however, reside in the great surplus grain growing states of the Union. Mr. Prime has brought the standard of his work to the highest degree of perfection. His reports published in the leading papers of the country, are looked for and watched for with the greatest interest, and there is no factor which has a greater effect upon the market than "Prime's Crop Reports."

St. Patrick's Church. The organization of the above society in Dwight dates back to the "sixties." The parish at that time was a part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, but in 1877 the new diocese of Peoria was formed and the Rt. Rev. J. L. Spalding became its first bishop.

It was attended formerly by clergymen from other places, there being no pastoral residence here and the Catholics not very numerous, but since 1870 it has had its resident pastor. The following clergymen have been at some time connected with St. Patrick's parish: Revs. L. Dunn, M. Hanly, J. Halpin, N. F. Reconvier, A. Belanger, S. B. Hedges, and P. B. Moore, the present incumbent.

Methodist Episcopal Church. The history of the Methodist Episcopal church of Dwight, as to the period covered by it, is almost co-extensive with that of the town in which it is located. In the early part of the year 1854 Messrs. R. P. Morgan, Jr., James C. Spencer, John Lathrop, J. and K. W. Fell, as original owners, gave to our city its name and donated its streets and alleys to the public.

On the second Sunday in June of the year following a small congregation gathered in the upper part of a newly-built store, owned and occupied by Mr. David McWilliams, and enjoyed the pleasure of listening to the first sermon preached in the locality, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. A. D. Field, a prominent member of

terprise was inaugurated which resulted in the completion of a fine parsonage. These church and parsonage properties are well insured and are free of all incumbrances. In the fall of the year 1862 the bishop presiding at the conference held at Galesburg was requested to have this charge severed from the "Mazon Circuit" and the same provided with a resident pastor. From that date this enterprising church has not been pastorless for a day.

The ministers who have in succession been sent to this charge are Revs. O. W. Pollard, A. W. Harris, L. Deitch, E. D. Hall, J. G. Evans, James W. Haney, George M. Irwin, M. V. B. White, E. B. Hall, B. F. Tallman, C. O. McCulloch, B. A. Cool, E. A. Wilson and H. K. Metcalf. The Rev. F. W. Merrill is the present pastor, hav-

Hay Press Works are situated in the southern part of the city, near the Alton railroad, and cover over an acre of ground, and utilizes over 10,000 feet of floor, and is one of the institutions of which the people of Dwight are justly proud. Mr. Spencer is the patentee of the press manufactured by him. The first two or three presses made were constructed entirely by hand in one of our small wagon shops about seven years ago. These presses proved to be a success and a small shop was soon built and machinery introduced for their manufacture. His business has gradually increased until an abundance of the best wood and iron working machinery made has been introduced. The entire plant is heated by steam and presents a well kept and managed appearance. Mr. V. S. Wright, the superintendent, has entire charge of the factory, and there is nothing from the clerical work of the office to the minutest detail of any department that he is not familiar with.

Danish Lutheran Church. The Danish Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's congregation was organized the 14th of March, 1876. The church was built the same year, and Pastor Rosenstand was called to be the first minister of the congregation. He was in charge until 1878, when he resigned, and Jao Holm was called, who was pastor of the church till he went back to Denmark in 1881. Then Th. Lyngby became pastor of the church and was here about a year and a half. Then he resigned and the congregation was without a minister a short time, till Pastor L. Hansen was called in the year 1883. He remained here until 1887, when he moved to New York state, and the pastor now in charge, N. P. Simonsen, was called. The congregation commenced with 64 members and now there are 74.

German Lutheran Church. The German Lutheran congregation was first organized in Dwight in the year 1867 under Rev. Schlepsiek. Their church was built the same year. Their membership was then 15 and at present is 42. Rev. Schlepsiek served the congregation till the year 1883. His successor was Rev. Frederking, who is still here. Services are held every alternate Sunday.

German M. E. Church. This society has a neat building on the corner of Washington and Delaware streets, where services are held regularly, and the society is in a flourishing condition. Revs. Brose and Lintner preach every other Sunday.

Prime's Crop Bureau. Besides furnishing the leading newspapers of the country with weekly reports, Mr. Prime's chief work is that of giving, either by mail or wire, private crop information to the leading grain operators, millers and Boards of Trade of the country.

J. A. Spencer's. The material is taken in the rough and as it is finished goes to the erecting room, where the presses are put together, then to the paint room, and then it is ready for shipment. The press is called the "Alligator," and is guaranteed to press three tons more hay a day than any other portable press with the same amount of help, or no sale, and freight refunded.

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