

ILLINOIS LAW-MAKERS.

On the 26th, in the Senate, bills were introduced as follows: Authorizing boards of education or trustees of schools to adopt a uniform system of text books, and procure the same at first cost; providing that before an engineer shall be allowed to take charge of a locomotive he shall be required to pass an examination as to his qualifications, and to have had a certain amount of experience; amending the fish and game laws by providing that sportsmen and constables shall be ex officio game and fish wardens. Senator Wells' bill, making Labor Day the first Monday in September, and Lincoln's birthday, legal holidays. Senator Fuller's bill, allowing cemetery associations to procure free from taxation additional ground, exceeding twenty acres, for burial purposes only, was passed. There was an exciting scene in the House when Mr. Merritt, of Sangamon, presented a resolution to place Illinois' various exhibits at the World's Fair under the direction of a commission consisting of one member from each Congressional district. This resolution was construed as an attack on J. Irving Pearce, of the Sherman House, of Chicago; Lafayette Funk, a Bloomington banker; John Bunn, a Springfield banker; and other non-congressional members. The Speaker, Board of Agriculture, who has assumed to exercise all authority in regard to the Illinois exhibit.

In the Senate, the 27th, several committees presented reports, which were adopted. Senator Newell's bill to facilitate the settlement of suits at law in certain cases by a tender of judgment was passed. Senator Leeper's bill reducing the legal weight of a bushel of sweet potatoes from fifty-five to fifty pounds was passed. Senator Sheets' bill for the preventive discrimination by life insurance companies was passed. As soon as its passage was announced Senator Crawford, of Cook, gave notice that he would hereafter make a motion to consider the vote by which the bill passed. In the House many bills were introduced, but none disposed of. The Speaker appointed the following additional members to the committees of the House: Labor and Industrial Affairs, Leese and Lyman, of Cook; Revenue, O'Donnell and Cherry; Appropriations, Craig and Tice; Mines and Metallurgy, Johnson and Tice; Finance, Caldwell, Karaker, Lehman, Riekert, Reavill, Bassett, and Sheridan were present. A message was received from the House announcing the appointment of delegates on the part of the House to the Commercial Congress, to be held in Kansas City. The Senate then adjourned.

The House proceedings on the 31st were largely devoted to the consideration of a bill to regulate the traffic in baking powder. It provides a penalty for any person who shall knowingly sell or procure the sale of any package or can of baking powder containing any ammonia unless labeled legibly and distinctly in the English language: "This baking powder contains ammonia." Another section substitutes "alum" in place of ammonia. A number of other bills were introduced. The last roll-call was heard in the Senate on the Dearborn Park Library bill and the right to sell concessions at Dearborn Park to the Public Library Association has been granted the Soldiers' Home.

"Docking" horses' tails is now contrary to law. Senator Bass' bill on that subject being passed. The penalty provided is a fine of from \$25 to \$200 and imprisonment not to exceed one year. Senator Hagle's bill passed on the 31st. It provides a bill equally convenient to the court and giving the plaintiff the right to select the one in which notices of attachment shall be filed. Senator Evans sent up a bill compelling the manufacturers of baking powder to label all product containing alum. The label must be printed in letters not less than half as large as any other letter on the can, and shall read: "This baking powder contains alum." The penalties provided are fines from \$20 to \$100 and imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than two years.

Spontaneous Speaking.
Monsieur Paul de Remusat relates that once, visiting his friend Monsieur Thiers, who had not yet become President of the French republic, but was one of the most noted orators of Europe, he found the great statesman seated at his desk, busy with paper and pen. "You come just in time," said Thiers. "I am just finishing the speech that I am to deliver in the Corps Legislatif tomorrow. I will read you some passages, and you may tell me just what you think about it."
It was, perhaps, Thiers' most famous speech—his great impeachment of Napoleon III, and his policy. The young man listened with interest, and after the reading ventured to say that, while the address was a remarkably strong one, he missed something of the easy, natural, perfectly simple method which was one of the orator's characteristics. "You are right," said Thiers. "I haven't put in the negligence yet."
Taking his pen, he proceeded to add a touch of negligent ease here and there, changing careful expressions to careless ones.
"Now it is spontaneous!" he said.
Monsieur Thiers once wrote to Sainte-Beuve:

"I have spent my life in public assemblies, and have been struck by one thing: the moment a speaker begins to make what we call phrases the audience begins to smile disdainfully and cease to listen."
Some Superlatives.
The longest railroad is the Canadian Pacific.
The height of the highest pyramid is 486 feet.
MAMMOTH cave in Kentucky is the largest cavern.
FARMOUNT PARK, Philadelphia, is the largest park in the world.
The deepest coal mine in the world is near Toumay, Belgium; it is 3,242 in depth.
The largest library is the Imperial at Paris, which contains over two million volumes.
The Eiffel tower in Paris is the highest structure in the world, nearly 1,000 feet high.
The longest suspension bridge is that between New York and Brooklyn. It is 5,989 feet long.
The highest active volcano in the world is Popocatepetl, Mexico. It is 17,784 feet high.
The deepest hole ever bored into the earth is the artesian well at Potsdam, which is 5,500 feet deep.

AFFAIRS IN ILLINOIS.

ITEMS GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

What Our Neighbors Are Doing—Matters of General and Local Interest—Marriages—Deaths—Accidents and Crimes—Personal Pointers.

FOLLOWING is a report of the crop condition for the counties named:
Adams—Wheat is in excellent condition; in a few localities the fly is damaging; conditions are favorable for a large fruit crop.
Bond—Wheat and grass looking good; weather conditions generally favorable.
Clay—Wheat prospects perfect, no insect injury; fruit all right so far; rates excellent for wheat and grass.
Hamilton—Spring appears backward; fruit prospects good, rain most too cold for trees to get started. Weather good for wheat and grass.
Kendall—Grass and grain apparently in good condition, but making no growth. Trees covered with ice recently, but no damage.
Lozan—Weather unfavorable for spring work; very little plowing for oats done; wheat looking well.
Marion—Have had but one clear day since the 17th. Wheat looks well, but few oats sown; ground too wet for plowing; fruit buds developing rapidly, notwithstanding the low temperature.
Sangamon—Conditions favorable. Farm work delayed by wet weather.
Schuyler—Prospect for fruit and wheat still favorable. There is some complaint of damage to wheat by the fly.

ALEX. HOLSTEIN of Moline elected from his stomach a reptile six inches long with twelve clusters of tentacles, from each of which projects a leg. It has a backbone like a centipede. It will be sent to Chicago for identification.

Mrs. CARRIE LYON, wife of Dr. E. D. Lyon, a dentist at Chicago, is under \$10,000 bail for putting a bullet through one of her husband's ears during a domestic squabble.

ROBT. W. MAJORS of Quincy, train baggage man on the C. B. & Q. is arrested charged by Postoffice Inspector Fitz with robbing the mail. The Inspector hid in a chicken coop in the car, and saw Majors ransack the mail all the way from Galesburg to Camp Point. Majors made a full confession. He has long engaged in the robberies, and invested the proceeds in Kansas land.

JOHN SULLIVAN, a Vandalla old soldier, drew his pension, \$48, and disappeared. Foul play is feared.

THREE children of W. H. Walker, of Carlyle, ate poke root. One died, and the other two are likely to.

ALBERT M. SMITH, Chicago policeman, with a sick wife and child, became despondent and suicided.

C. VAN ALLMAN, of Olney, township tax collector is short \$1,463. Bondsman put up the amount and took Van Allman's implement store and lumber yard.

THE West Chicago Street Railway Company was censured by a Coroner's jury for the death of Mrs. Alice Miller, who was run down by a grip-car.

W. A. HUESING, of Rock Island, was stopping at the Brevoort, Chicago. He was sick, and by mistake swallowed an eye lotion containing belladonna. He staggered to the office, told what he had done, and fell senseless. The hotel physician barely saved his life.

A boy about 15 years old was instantly killed by a Panhandle train at Chicago.

JOHN HAVEL and his son Joseph were driving across the Northwestern Railroad tracks at Chicago when their wagon was struck by an incoming locomotive, and it is thought their injuries are fatal.

AN Albany, N. Y. Thomas Williams, a Chicago jewelry drummer, while making the rounds of the disreputable resorts with three companions, was assaulted by them, taken to the hospital and died. An autopsy revealed that the ferule of an umbrella had been driven through his left eye and penetrated three inches into his brain.

ANDREW GENOVSKY, of Chicago, who was run over by a Chicago & Grand Trunk train, died.

A 6-MONTHS-OLD child of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, of Chicago, was accidentally suffocated in bed.

SENATOR BOGARDUS introduced in the Senate a bill of general interest to every swine raiser in the State. It provides that it shall be the duty of the State Board of Live Stock Commissioners to causes to be eradicated by State veterinarians all outbreaks coming to their knowledge of contagious diseases among swine in the State. When any contagious or infectious disease is found to exist among swine the State Veterinarian or his assistants shall cause the healthy hogs to be removed from the diseased hogs, and shall establish such quarantine of the premises as he or they may deem necessary to prevent the further spread of the disease. Post-mortem and microscopic examinations shall be made and powers given to slaughter diseased animals. It shall be the duty of any person having swine which he suspects to be infected with any contagious disease immediately to notify said board, and to remove the carcasses of all hogs that die from such diseases to be buried or buried within twenty-four hours after death. It also provides that it shall be unlawful to dispose of the carcasses of such dead hogs or to ship or to remove them.

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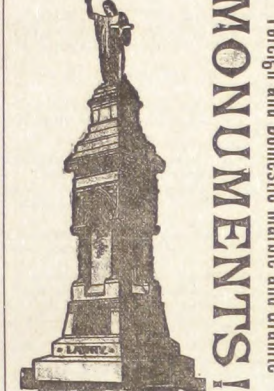
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\$60,000.00 a year is being made by John H. Geis, of Dwight, Ill., who has been making it for over 20 years. He has a secret recipe for making it, and he has a large stock of it on hand. He is now offering it for sale at a special price of \$2.50 per box, and he is willing to give a free trial to anyone who will send him a box. The recipe is as follows: Take 1 lb. of saltpeter, 1 lb. of nitrate of soda, 1 lb. of potassium nitrate, and 1 lb. of charcoal. Mix them together and burn them in a retort. The result is a black powder which is used for making fireworks. John H. Geis is a well-known chemist and has a large number of other inventions to his credit. He is now offering his secret recipe for making black powder for sale at a special price of \$2.50 per box. He is willing to give a free trial to anyone who will send him a box. The recipe is as follows: Take 1 lb. of saltpeter, 1 lb. of nitrate of soda, 1 lb. of potassium nitrate, and 1 lb. of charcoal. Mix them together and burn them in a retort. The result is a black powder which is used for making fireworks.

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