Dwight Star and Herald.

DEVOTED TO LOCAL AND COUNTY INTERESTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

Dwight's Candidate Beaten After a Creditable Canvass.

The republican county convention met at the court house in Pontiac, Thursday, at 2 p. m. The chairman of the county central committee, Alex McKay, called the meeting to order and made a few appropriate remarks, and secretary Sims read the call. N. J. Myer, of Epparas Point, was elected chairman and H. J. Clark, W. G. Dustin, C. A. Stuck and Al. Fraley, of Fairbury, were elected secretaries. Mr. Myer made a short speech, which was received with applause, especially when he referred to President Harrison. Committees on credentials, permanent organization, and resolutions were appointed. The former reported the permanent organization as above, and the credential committee reported all towns fully represented but Germanville, which ir entitled to one vote. The committee on rosolutions, Major Judd chairman, reported resolutions adopting and endorsing the state and national platforms; instructing the members of the legislature to favor legislation for good roads; and resolutions of sympathy to James G. Blaine and family on account of the death of Emmons Blaine.

While the committee on credentials was, out, orators were in demand, but Captain Avery was the only one that responded, and his remarks created considerable enthusiasm. After the committee reported, the fun commenced.

Romberger, of Dwight, and Bangs, of Chatsworth, were appointed tellers.

For states attorney, McDowell, Ball and Brown, of Pontiac, were placed in nomination, McDowell winning on the second ballot. Brown run well and Ball had many friends.

The interest of this convention centered on circuit clerk, there being five candidates—Pontiac against the field—five to enter and one to start. Shroyer, Lacey and Lyons were placed in nomination by members of the Pontiac delegation; Smith by Dustin, of Dwight; and Clow by Stewart, of Forrest. The first ballot resulted in a slight lead for Shroyer, Smith second, Clow third, Lacey fourth and Lyons last. Smith went ahead on the second and demonstrated that only Smith and Shroyer were in it. The third ballot Smith reached his highest notch, 64 and Shroyer 67. It it was finally settled on the sixth ballot, Shroyer receiving 80 votes, 79 being necessary for a choice.

Of course there is lots of "ifs" afterwards, but Mr. Sawyer had the closest call any candidate ever had in any convention. If the Saunemin delegation had come to Smith on the last ballot as they said they would instead of holding off one ballot, Smith would have received 82 and the nomination. One thing is sure there is no man in Livingston county to-day, that is more popular than Frank L. Smith, and he can have a nomination in the future if he desires it. He made a good, fair, honorable canvass, and only spent about three weeks canvassing and was almost a total stranger at the start. He made a wonderful showing and gained the respect of the delegates from everywhere and made the candidates who were well acquainted in the county, turn pale. Frank got left, but he is "in it" just the same. He wishes to return his sincere thanks to his many friends who worked and stood by him to the last.

Zeph Winters, of Pontiac, and John Zimmerman, of Fairbury, were placed in nomination for coroner, Zimmerman winning hands down

The present surveyor and Mr. Erb were placed in nomination for that office, the former winning by a small majority.

Messrs. Straight, Gower, Walker and Swan, were placed in nomination for representatives the two former being easy winners.

Mr. Strawn introduced a resolution instructing the delegation to the district convention to vote for Borgardus for senator, and Straight and Gower for representatives. C. L. Romberger of Dwight was chosen a delegate.

The candidates all returned thanks.

CONVENTIONALITIES.

Odell went completely back on Smith only giving him one vote. Dwight has always stood by their candidates, Hoover and Hunter getting their delegation and a warm support afterwards, and there was no excuse for their going back on their near neighbor, and it is impossible to see what they expect to gain by it. Those of them came to members of the Dwight delegation afterwards and claimed that one vote for Smith, which showed plain enough they didn't do right.

Sure enough John Zimmerman had been laying awake nights to get the coronership nomination and he got it.

Broughton, Nevada, Reading, Sunbury, Round Grove, Dwight and Fairbury, voted solid for Smith at one time with several scattering votes on the outside.

About thirty republicans from Dwight were in attendance, and cheered for Smith on every ballot.

Col. Parsons was not a delegate but he got in his work just the same.

Coming home on the train the members of the fire department sold thirteen tickets.

A grand ratification meeting was held in the evening at Pontiac which was largely attended. H. K. Wheeler, republican candidate for congress, was the principal speaker, and made a fine address. Speeches were made by Chris Strawn, Geo. Patton and others.

Ex-Congressman L. E. Payson will stump the ninth district this fall.

Committeeman Merritt, of Fairbury, is a very pleasant gentleman, and did a fine piece of political engineering when he brought the two factions together in Fairbury, and gave them both representation in the delegation.

Postmaster Bradford was around with the United States male. He had his baby boy in a cab.

The democratic convention will soon be called. Geo. Franzen, a former employee of this office, was sizing up his chances for nomination for the circuit clerkship. George stands a good show.

Editor Brydia, of the Fairbury Record, was present, and seemed to enjoy the fun.

If the republicans of Dwight wasn't "in it" this time, they had a good time anyway.

Smithy, old boy, come again.

The Dwight delegation came home with their colors flying, if they didn't get much. Hurrah for John Zimmerman!

A BAD WRECK.

Engineer Bellows, of Lacon, Killed, and Fireman James Reeder, of Dwight, Badly Hurt.

Wednesday evening as the freight on the Streator branch of the Alton, which is due here at 9:30, was leaving Evans, 35 miles west of Dwight, it ran over a cow, causing a disastrous wreck, in which Billie Bellows lost his life. Word was received here about 6 o'clock, and a train was made ready as soon as possible and the road surgeon, Dr. Conway, accompanied by Dr. Milton Keeley as assistant, were taken to the spot. Mr. Reeder's wound, which consisted of a badly cut and crushed foot, was dressed as soon as the physicians arrived. In an interview with Mr. Reeder and others, the following account was gleaned:

When the cow was struck by the engine, instead of being thrown from the track it rolled under the wheels. The engine immediately left the track, running on the ties a short distance, then crashing into the bank on the left side of the road. Both engineer and fireman stayed by their post. When the engine struck the tender turned over, falling on the cab, and it is supposed killed the engineer as it went over, and pinned the fireman by his left foot. The box car in the rear of the engine was thrown on top of the tender. When help arrived, which was in a very few moments, both of the imprisoned men were standing with their backs against the boiler. Life was extinct from Engineer Bellows, and he was not caught in any way by the debris. For two hours and a half Jas. Reeder was held in that terrible position, where one wrong move by the anxious people to help him would have buried him into eternity. After the rescue, he with the remains of his faithful partner, were taken to Wenona. The remains of Billie Bellows were taken in charge by the Knights of Pythias and Masons, and prepared for burial.

Jas. Reeder was brought home Thursday morning, and we understand is getting along very nicely.

Billie Bellows was a great favorite along the Alton line, being liked by everybody. He leaves a wife and three children.

There was another man on the engine who made his escape by leaping, although he was hurt, but not seriously. He was a resident of Wenona.

The funeral of Wm. Bellows will take place at Lacon to-day, and will be attended by a large number of friends from Dwight.

Death of Mrs. J. C. Lewis.

Last week we recorded the serious illness of Mrs. J. C. Lewis, and before the papers had reached their destinations Saturday morning last, that good lady's spirit had taken its flight. As soon as the sad intelligence became known in our city there was sadness in every heart, and spontaneous sympathy for the bereaved family who had lost a loving and faithful wife and mother, and the little grand children a guardian angel. Another home has been darkened by the hand of death; another noble spirit has entered the realm of brigatness beyond.

Mrs. Lewis, although in poor health for some time, had not been seriously ill for only eight days. She was stricken with muscular rheumatism which caused great suffering until finally on the eighth day the effect was so great on the heart, that it was beyond human endurance to bear the suffering, and Saturday in the early morning, surrounded by relatives and friends, she breathed her last.

The funeral was held at the residence Monday afternoon, Rev. Cole, of the Congregational church preached a short sermon. The attendance was very large, almost the entire village and surrounding country paying their last tribute to the deceased lady. After the ceremonies the solemn march was taken up to Oak Lawn, the City of the Dead, where the remains were laid beside those of a departed daughter. All who knew them on earth, know there is a reunion in heaven of mother and daughter.

Mrs. Lewis leaves a devoted husband and daughter, Mrs. Bertie Doherty, of her immediate family, and Mrs. Hattie Fox, a sister, and many other relatives in Michigan and the east, some of whom attended the funeral, and her little grandchildren, whom she never tired of pleasing, and friends by the score who will mourn with the afflicted in their hour of sorrow.

Mrs. Lewis, at the time of her demise, was 52 years, 8 months and 28 days of age, her maiden name having been Pamelia Jenne Chamberlain. Her younger days were spent in New York state. She was happily united in marriage, over thirty years ago, to J. C. Lewis, and after the war, the young couple, full of hope, came West to seek their fortune and settled at Dwight. Mrs. Lewis has always been a helpmate to her husband and an inspiration to him to succeed in life which she has done. Their married life has been one of happiness, and during the last illness, the devoted husband hardly left the bed side of his wife, and when the final came, his grief knew no bounds. Their only daughter was overcome and prostrate with grief. Expressions of sympathy are heard on every side, and the entire public is extended to the bereived family.

The floral offerings, at the funeral, were very fine, among which were a beautiful pillow; a star; a Maltese cross; crescent on base, with roses and ferns, numerous boquets, and cut flowers in profusion.

The family wish to return their sincere thanks to the public generally for their kindness and consideration during their trying hours.

We are indebted to Rev. H. M. Cole for the following kind words regarding Mrs. Lewis' death:

Miss Parmelia Jane Chamberlain was born in Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 27, 1839. When she was six weeks old her mother died. In three years her father married again and by this second marriage three children were born: Hattie, now Mrs. Henry Fox, Fonne, now Mrs. Whiteman, living at Port Huron, Mich., and William, who married the daughter of Wm. Ketcham, and now resides in Horton, Kansas.

William visited Dwight recently and found Mrs. Lewis in comparatively good health. He attended a family reunion at the home of Mrs. J. C. Lewis and Mrs. Wm. Ketcham, little thinking of the sudden gloom that should come to these households.

For several days her sufferings were intense and the best medical aid that could by procured was provided, but the time had come for

"Rest for the toiling hand,
Rest for the anxious brow,
Rest for the weary, way-worn feet,
Rest from all labor now."

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were married when quite young, and their home, though humble, was built of hearts that beat as one, and the pure love she gave on the wedding day grew into a noble and true devotion that deepened with years.

In 1863 Mr. Lewis enlisted and entered the regular army; was taken sick with typhoid fever and confined to the hospital at City Point, Va.

Mrs. Lewis left her home without delay, joining her friends where she was going, and by heroic and patient effort reached Washington, D. C., and secured an interview with President Lincoln, for Mr. Lewis was seriously ill and must be brought home if possible. After waiting in Washington for five days she saw the needful, the charge was granted, an order being sent to Secretary Stanton to that effect. So one knows how Mrs. Lewis secured the pass, but she could not remain at home while her husband was suffering in an army hospital, whatever the difficulties were.

In March, 1865, they came west and lived in Cincinnati a few months, then moved to Dwight, Ill., and located.

Being a Presbyterian, Mrs. Lewis became a very useful and prominent worker in the Presbyterian church of Dwight, then with her husband joined the Congregational church three years ago.

Two years ago they buried their daughter Sadie, then eight years old, who was loved by all who knew her; and now the family is called to mourn the loss of a mother, wife and friend.

The funeral was largely attended by friends of the deceased at their residence. Selections of music were rendered by Mr. Ely, Miss Adams, Mrs. Evans and Rev. Cole.

The joy of her life was in rendering service to others, and she will be greatly missed by the Woman's Relief Corps, daughters of Rebecca, and Ladies Benevolent Society of the Congregational church, of which she was an active member.

It was impossible for the relatives of Mrs. Lewis from the east to attend, as they did not receive word in time. Among the relatives of Mrs. Lewis who were present were Mrs. Whiteman's son and two daughters, from Port Huron, Michigan, and Mrs. Chamberlain, from Horton, Kansas.

We are satisfied that Mrs. Lewis, the friend of our affection, is not dead, but "gone unto that school where she no longer needs our poor protection, and Christ himself doth rule."

FOURTH OF JULY.

Something About Old Times in and Around Dwight.

In the early days in and around Dwight there was any amount of patriotism but not many to display it. A few settlers who had wended their way from the east were scattered around on these vast prairies, and it took an occasion something like the Fourth to bring these noble prairie fire fighters together. It was indeed hard work in those days to eke out a scanty existence in this new country, with no home market for anything, and no way of transporting agricultural products to the east. But all these hardships did not keep these new comers, who were fighting for their future, from remembering that they were under obligations to their forefathers for the free country which they enjoyed and that the Fourth Day of July was the day that the Declaration of Independence was signed and the vast country taken forever from the almost iron grasp of foreign monarchies.

Probably the first celebration ever held in this immediate neighborhood in Illinois, was in 1854, which a number of our oldest residents still remember with pleasure. Of course the small boy didn't enthuse with the firecracker, cannon, etc., for those things were not heard of here then; of course there were not many flowery and eloquent orations delivered, but for genuine enjoyment and honest appreciation of Independence Day and love of country, could not be beaten. The celebration in 1854 took thd form of a picnic in what was then known as Reeders Grove, now Geiger's Grove, out near E. B. Stevens' farm. On this occasion most of the early settlers turned out and made things lively. Mr. Geo. Conant was there and made the lemonade and probably made a speech before night; E. B. Stevens took a prominent part; Mr. Reeder, father of Lee and Jas., Reeder, John Henry, John Scott, Jas. Martin, Erastus Stevens, Henry and George Cutler and the elder Cutler, Parker Earl, and many other pioneers from the German settlement and surrounding country were present and took part in the festivities. There was what was considered then a large crowd present, and there was no fun got away from them. Many of them have since passed away, peace be to their memories, and a few are still with us. The girls then present have either had their years numbered by death or are now aged matrons, surrounded by large families, and have certainly accomplished much toward the high moral tone of our community, and advanced the cause of civilization generally. Their influence for good, can be seen in our midst constantly.

As near as we can learn, the next picnic celebration was held in the same grove in 1856. This was after David McWilliams had commenced business in his little general store, which afterwards became the headquarters for trade for miles around, and the business conducted was very large. One branch of the Baker family was here, and the oldest boys, Charlie and George, now among our prominent and prosperous business men, attended the picnic, and quite a number of the town residents. About the same citizens attended thot as did the former picnic.

These picnics were continued yearly until sometime in the sixties the first genuine boom Fourth of July was celebrated in the village. The celebrations in the village have not been regular but nearly so, and some grand times have been enjoyed in Dwight. During all these years not a fatal accident has occurred. Of course there has been numerous accidents, as there always has been and always will be on such days when powder is used, but none serious. The celebrations here were always well attended and a general good time enjoyed. Many funny and interesting anecdotes are related by the early settlers regarding their picnics and celebrations, but space forbids our repeating them at this time.

In 1890 there was no celebration in Dwight, and the town was practically deserted.

In 1891 there was probably the largest crowd ever assembled in the city The celebration consisted of firing of canons at daylight; a grand street parade, music, good speaking, games, etc., and surely an old-fashioned time was enjoyed.

In 1892 grand preparations are being made and undoubtedly a large crowd will be attracted here. The absence of saloons, and consequently very little display of roughness, attracts hundreds of people to Dwight, who dislike to attend celebrations where the principal features are drinking and what generates from drinking to extremes. The committees in charge will do all in their power to make the day a pleasant one to all visitors.

A program of the days doings is published in another part of this paper, which includes all the principal features, but there will be lots of amusements not mentioned. If the day is fine there is sure to be an immense crowd here. The beautiful, shady, east side school grounds will be open to all who wish to occupy them during the entire day for private picnics, games and amusements.

Everyone is invited to come to Dwight. The town is yours for one day in the year—the Fourth of July.

Sewerage.

At the regular meeting of the town board Tuesday evening all were present, and the judiciary committee, through Mayor Romberger, reported that the objections to the sewer special assessment were over-ruled by Judge Wallace, with the exception of objections eight and nine. The last two objections were questions of inequality in assessment, which will have to be decided by a jury. However, these have nothing to do with the validity of the assessment, and although the assessment cannot be made until after the September term of court on account of proper notice not having been published, the board can now let the contract with perfect safety. The only thing that remains to be done before the contract is let, is to secure the right of way from Messrs. David and John McWilliams to go through their farms. The right of way has already been secured from the Alton and 3-I railroads. It is said Mr. John McWilliams assisted President Thompson, of the old board, in drafting a plat of the new sewerage as it now stand, and, of course, will have no objections. Mr. D McWilliams, we think, will grant the right of way when he is convinced that there will be sufficient water to properly flush the sewers and also enough to carry the filth away after being dumped on his land notrh the 3-I road.

If this matter is not attended to without delay, the Leslie E. Keeley Co. will certainly be released from their $30,000 bonds given last year to remain here if these improvements are made. The town board has already gone to a large expense in this sewerage matter and the only way to cover the indebtedness and avoid numerous suits against the village, is to put it through and raise the money. It has gone to far to back out.

The committee to whom was referred the matter of posting street names and numbering houses reported that they would recommend the adoption of the Philadelphia system, which is 100 numbers to the block, and that the dividing thoroughfares be Mazon and Prairie avenues. For example: The first number on Mazon east will be 100 in the first block; in the second block the first number will be 200 and so on. The committee had three kind of numbers which the people can choose from. For the small sum of twenty-five cents a very nice one can be secured which we think all will take.

The new street signs, very good ones, can be secured for twenty-five cents each.

The petition of Mrs. Cornell to build an addition to the Cornell house in fire limits was not allowed.

Propositions for a new road scraper and roller are in order.

The street commissioner reported that the people were cleaning up as fast as could be expected.

The mud holes on East Mazon avenue will be drained probably.

Chas. Hearing got a hearing. He wanted to be appointed special police without compensation. No action was taken.

Hereafter all bids must be presented to the different committees at least twenty-four hours before regular meetings. Remember this or you will get left.

The mayor was authorized to appoint special police for the Fourth if he thought it necessary.

Anyone who fires off firecrackers, cannons, or anything that causes noise, during the parade on the Fourth, will spend the remainder of the day in the calaboose.

The board adournejd at the very early hour of 10:35, until next Tuesday evening, when the contract for sewerage will be let if the right of way is O. K.

Ratification.

The Pontiac democrats held a rousing ratification meeting Saturday evening. The Pontiac band was out and a large bonfire lighted up the city. Messrs. McIlduff, Norton and several other local speakers enthused, and it is said it was a rouser.