

THE REPORTER

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

D. G. GRAHAM, Associate Editor.

TERMS:

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It is reported that the Suburban Electric Company is to abandon its original intention of constructing a trolley line and will operate by compressed air, says the LaGrange News. So far as can be learned there is little or no opposition to this, but it must be remembered that a portion of the contract of the Suburban Electric with the village of LaGrange was to furnish the village with certain electric lights along its right of way. The company gave little beside. LaGrange is afraid that in a change from electricity to compressed air she will lose her electric lights.

Here is a piece of news that will rejoice lovers of civil service reform: The president is perfecting arrangements to bring within the provisions of the civil service rules all employees in the several executive offices of the government below the rank of secretaries and assistant secretaries. This sweeping transfer to the merit system would throw the mantle of civil service protection over all chiefs of divisions, bureau officers and high-grade clerks heretofore appointed under the patronage system. Next will come the fourth-class postmasters and then there will not be enough left to fight over.

"Eugene Field is dead!" Such is the message which has passed from lip to lip, multiplied by the telephone and the telegraph, until not Chicago alone, but the whole English-speaking world, is touched with a sorrow which must crown the dead poet as the best-loved man in that city. Eugene Field was a man of many accomplishments. He was an American in every sense of the term, and by his taking away, the fields of journalism and literature loses one of its brightest and most cultured writers. The friend of all ages, babies, child, youth and old age—one of few men of whom it can be truthfully said, none knew him but to love him, none named him but to praise.

It is generally conceded that figures tell hard facts. At least Dr. Bertillon, chief of the bureau of statistics of Paris, France, seems to believe that way. The eminent scientist is a firm believer in the efficacy of the anti-toxin system of treating diphtheria, and he appeals to the figures collected by his department among the hospitals of the French capital to justify him in his faith. While many other members of his profession are discussing, criticizing and condemning the serum treatment Dr. Bertillon simply arrays his figures in such a way as to set results against theories. The public will be inclined to agree with him and form its opinion of the method of treatment by the number of cures effected, rather than join in its condemnation because it is contrary to some of the abstract principles heretofore regarded as infallible.

That the course the Board of Education has finally decided to adopt in raising funds to change the heating apparatus at the north side building, is the only lawful one, is very evident. So say those who are thoroughly conversant with school law on this point. The health and well-being of the school children demanded that something be done to ensure their comfort in school hours during the cold weather months. When the heating system now in use is not adequate to warm the building during the weather we have had the past month, what can be expected of it when the mercury hovers around the zero mark? The only objection that was raised to the levying of a tax of \$1,500, was that it was in opposition to the law. Since the board has seen its mistake and took the proscribed legal method of raising one and one-half year bonds for that amount, the objection is null.

BRYAN ON CHILD LABOR.

At a meeting of the members of the committee appointed by the last legislature to investigate the child labor question, held in Chicago last Saturday, Col. Charles P. Bryan, the chairman, made the following remarks showing his accurate understanding of the subject:

"In my own district, with the great factories at Elgin and Aurora, ample opportunity is afforded to study child labor in its most advantageous phases. Suggestions for less favored localities are easily obtainable. Short hours, thorough ventilation, a fine gymnasium and reading and music rooms are features of the watch factory at Elgin. Conscientious enforcement of compulsory education is a special aid toward preventing any abuses connected with child labor. In a metropolis like Chicago this difficulty is most encountered. Here, in sweatshops and laundries particularly, children are still confined for twelve and more hours who have not received the first rudiments of schooling. Physically and mentally they are bound to be stunted.

"Child labor properly directed is a distinct benefit to a nation. Uncontrolled it is a curse. Many of the first men of the republic were graduated from this admirable school. But in most cases they overcame by stern efforts barriers that would have choked any but strong characters. The task of safely legislating so as to leave the field open for individual effort and development for child as well as man without risking the acquisition of necessary learning is difficult. How to protect the indigent parent in demanding of its offspring a reasonable amount of assistance while averting from the child the calamity of growing to maturity in ignorance is a problem which confronts the legislature and philanthropist in Illinois. Chicago in her giant youth holds a heterogeneous population hard to handle in educational matters. She is a sort of Trilby of cities—great, good and beautiful, but lacking through variety of heritage harmony of training. Where is there a Svangali of pedagogues for her development in this one direction?"

WEATHER CROP BULLETIN.

The month of October was the driest which the state has experienced for many years and was also clear, cool and windy; the temperature deficiency approximating six degrees daily, and the rainfall averaging less than one-half inch for the state. Fall plowing was given up entirely and late sown grain remained in the ground without sprouting, or if sprouted the stand is very poor and thin. Only in the northern counties is a fair condition of winter grain found, and this is generally rye. The acreage is much less than usual owing to the dryness and the fear of chinch bugs. Corn husking and cribbing has been pushed rapidly and much of the crop is gathered. The grain is of fine quality throughout central and northern counties, but poor in many of the better winter wheat counties. Pastures are generally bare and brown and stock is being fed, it is, however, in good condition, with the exception of hogs, which are in many counties badly affected with cholera. Water is exceedingly scarce and wells, springs, and streams are very low. Fires are causing damage in a few eastern counties. Much feeding and fattening of cattle will be done this winter.

NORTHERN SECTION.

Throughout the northern section the month was one of unusual dryness, the average rainfall being less than one-half inch, while the days were clear, cool and windy; the temperature deficiency being fully six degrees daily. The great dryness caused a general suspension of late plowing and made the growth of rye very slow, the fields are generally in fair condition, however. Fall sown grasses are either killed out or struggling hard for existence and pastures are short and poor; stock is being fed. Corn husking has progressed rapidly and probably one-half of the crop is in the crib. Husking from the shock, however, has been delayed owing to the dryness and high winds. Wells, springs and streams are very low or entirely dry and stock water is exceedingly scarce. Stock is doing well, better in extreme northern counties than elsewhere; hog cholera is prevalent in Henry, Stark, LaSalle, Kankakee, Winnebago and other counties and is causing much loss.

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AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

Interesting News Notes Ruthlessly Hacked from Neighboring Contemporaries.

Two Aurora people who had small-pox patients in their houses during the recent small-pox scare in that town have asked the city to pay \$1,000 and \$10,000 respectively for the privilege.

Harry Thompson of St. Charles pleaded guilty to forgery, and was Thursday sentenced to three years at Joliet. This will keep him out of mischief for a time. He was always possessed of a spirit of reckless devilishness, and was eternally getting himself or some other person into trouble.

There was an offering of 44,460 pounds of butter on the Elgin board of trade, and bidding opened at 21 cents. This advanced to 22 cents on a part of the offering and all sales made were at that figure. Some manufacturers asked 22 1/2 and others offered butter at 22 cents but found no takers.

While digging a trench Wednesday, at Fox Lake, Joseph Good unearthed an old cannon which was buried by the democrats in 1860, to prevent the republicans from celebrating the election of Lincoln. Nothing had ever been known of its whereabouts until its discovery in the accidental manner noted.

An exchange suggests that every farmer residing along a public road should put his name on his barn. If this were done there would be considerable more interest in a drive along the highways, as frequently a friend or acquaintance would be recognized as owner of a certain property. The idea is a good one, from many points of view.

Milton Hill, a farmer living near Eola, has been rather unfortunate of late. In a runaway near the C., E. & Q. track at that station last week, his good buggy was smashed to pieces and a member of the family slightly injured. He sued the railroad company and was beaten. On his return home the day of the suit, he found four fine cows belonging to him, dead along the track. More litigation will probably follow.

All of Elgin's schools have been closed for an indefinite period owing to the prevalence of diphtheria. The 3,200 pupils will be given a vacation until the disease is subdued. Several of the parochial schools were closed a week ago. A large number of houses in the city are quarantined and guarded by special officers. Miss Jennie Archibald, a teacher who attended the meeting of the Northern Illinois Association Saturday afternoon, was taken Sunday morning with diphtheria.

The Galesburg Mail says: The new engine, 590, is standing in the roundhouse receiving some slight changes in her fire box. On a recent trip down the engine did not steam well and it was found she did not burn her fire even, on one side the coal would be burned all right while on the other side it was burned but a very little. For this reason a change in the fire box was found necessary. When this is done it is thought that all difficulties will have been overcome and the engine will be put on the road again.

Washington Stowell, residing at Springbrook, on the line between St. Charles and Elgin townships, was killed in a runaway accident at Elgin, Thursday morning. Steam from a freight engine frightened his horses, and they ran, colliding with a telephone pole and throwing him out. One of the horses kicked him in the head, and the wagon wheels ran over his body, crushing in his ribs and injuring his spine. He lived but a few minutes. Mr. Stowell was 63 years of age, and came to Illinois in 1835, with his father, Seth Stowell.

Burglars were again at work in La Grange last Sunday night, making a most successful raid on the home of Mr. E. B. Martin, 504 North Stone avenue. The house is completely isolated, the nearest neighbor being two blocks away, and this point was evidently taken into consideration by the robbers, as they carried off bulky articles that would attract immediate attention if seen in any one's possession after midnight. The work was done so quietly that no one was in the least disturbed. Mr. Martin's winter overcoat and his wife's fur cloak are missing from their accustomed pegs, together with solid silver to the value of \$150 and numerous valuable ornaments and bric-a-brac.

A Valuable Find.

After years of study and labor, we have at last discovered a sure and never-failing remedy. We have tested it on patients, who have despaired of ever being cured, the results have been, in every case, wonderful. Groff's Rheumatic Cure is unequalled as a positive remedy in all cases of Chronic and Acute Inflammatory Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Sciatica, Neuralgia, especially Ovarian Neuralgia, Dysmenorrhoea and all kindred affections. It is also a valuable Blood Purifier, being especially useful in Eczema, Psoriasis, Scrofula, all Glandular Enlargements and diseases of the Liver and Kidneys. It is absolutely free from all narcotics. Severe attacks are relieved in from one to three days and a positive cure effected in from five to eighteen days. For sale by Dush & Simonson, Downers Grove, Ill.

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Table listing various grocery items and their prices, such as 12 1/2 lbs Fine Granulated Sugar \$50, 3 lbs Best Uncolored Tea 72, etc.

This assortment will not be broken and will be sold for Cash Only. W. H. COLVILLE, General and Fancy Groceries.

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S. A. LYMAN, DOWNERS GROVE DIRECTORY, CHURCHES. Methodist Episcopal—Rev. A. E. SAUNDERS, Pastor. Services Sunday at 10:45 a. m. and 7:00 p. m. Sunday school at 12 m. W. J. Herring, Supt. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:00. Epworth League Sunday evening at 6:00.