

THE REPORTER.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS. D. G. GRAHAM, Associate Editor.

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There will be a caucus of the legal voters of the Village of Downers Grove, at Thompson's hall, Monday evening, March 29th, 1897, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating the following village officers, to be voted on Tuesday, April 20th, 1897, viz: One president of village board, three members of the board of trustees, and one village clerk; also to transact such other business as may properly come before said caucus.

FREE TEXTBOOKS. Inasmuch as twenty-three out of the forty-five states have made legislative provision for the furnishing of free textbooks to all the pupils of the public schools, Illinois ought not to hesitate. The question is grave. The intent of the school law is that free education shall be in reach of all children. This intent is thwarted whenever and wherever a considerable number of children are unable to avail themselves of the schools by reason of the inability of the parents to purchase textbooks. The matter is not greatly mended by a provision that, when the parent is unable to buy, the state or city or town shall give books. For this reason the free school from its position of a right enjoyable by all to a charity conferred upon a few.

The charity element should be eliminated at once from the school system. It is in our public schools that the doctrine of the equality and rights of man is taught. No privileged class is there. The son of the man who keeps a carriage ranks in the schools exactly with the son of the man that is hired to drive the horses. The workman's child and the employer's child meet on one footing. The permanent influence of the free schools is incalculably beneficial. But the growth of cities and of states has introduced a class of scholars whose parents cannot buy books. These are by nature the peers of children of richer parents. The distinction between the boy or girl who is furnished with books by the city or county and he or she whose parents buy them is abhorrent to republican principle. All are entitled to a free education. Free education involves the free use of books. It is absurd as an economical proposition to boggle over an expenditure of a few thousand dollars for books for all pupils, while millions are spent for the erection of schools and the pay of teachers for all. And it is not in keeping with the spirit of the American constitution to create a distinctly dependent class among the children of the country.—Inter Ocean.

J. W. Worley was a candidate for collector last Saturday at the township nominating primaries, and succeeded in capturing quite a large share of the votes cast for that office, but not a sufficient number to secure for him the nomination. Had it not been customary to give a collector two terms, Mr. Worley would perhaps have received a much larger vote than was accorded him. But the fact of Mr. Prentiss having made a capable official during his first term, called to his support many voters, who for the sake of former precedent felt obliged to support him. Mr. Worley will no doubt be a successful candidate next year, should he decide to enter the race again. He has many friends who will give him a strong support.

The present village board before their terms expire are fortunately going to take some action towards improving the condition of Main street and Maple avenue. Many citizens are advocating paving Main street from Maple avenue to Warren street, but it would hardly be advisable at this time, inasmuch as sewers would also be necessary, and the board is not ready to proceed with sewers at this time. Under the plan proposed, the conditions of these streets can be greatly improved temporarily at small expense. This will be done immediately.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune Tuesday morning stated that after July 1, 1897, free delivery service will go into effect in the towns of Kewanee, Batavia, DeKalb and Wheaton. To secure this service, it is necessary that the gross receipts of an office be over \$10,000 per year, or that the population of the city be over 10,000. This being the case, how can either of the above towns qualify?

It is understood that Charles Bryan of Illinois whose father has been entertaining Secretary Gage, is slated for the mission to Denmark. Mr. Bryan is one of the most strongly indoctrinated applicants whose names have been filed at the state department, and he is considered a promising candidate for the place which is sought by the Chicago Tribune.

U. Gordon, ex-president of the sports club of Chicago, has been appointed by President McKinley as postmaster to succeed Washington Hesting. The appointment was recommended by Messrs. Mason and Callum, and will be satisfactory to the people of Chicago.

Work on the tariff bill in the House is earnest Monday, and Illinois had

the floor. Congressman Hopkins stated the republican case on protection and reciprocity, and his speech probably will stand as one of the most interesting and valuable of the session.

MOST ANY COLOR SO IT'S RED. A close observer of the B. & O. train service can not fail to notice the strange affinity which exists between smoke and cards. By a sort of unwritten law the card games on the suburban trains are invariably restricted to the smoking cars. The seasoned commuter would as soon expect to play seven-up behind the church stove during morning service, as to start a game on the train outside of smoky row. It is undoubtedly true that a more accurate and scientific game can be played if the cards are viewed through a halo of fragrant nicotine. It steadies the nerves wonderfully to have a dark blue cloud of track-walker's delight from the cob-pipe of the man in the next seat, envelope your face when you are trying to decide on the correct play.

Years ago when Billingsville was little more than a name and not a very important name either, the old settlers used to play checkers on the trains—ten minutes allowed for each move—sometimes, not often, the game would be finished when the train reached Bigtown. After the checker period came euchre; euchre succeeded euchre, and held sway for a number of years, but whilst is now king of the road and all true devotees of the card table will tell you that it is the only game worthy of an intelligent man's attention. If you master whilst you can play any other game—but you won't want to.

According to all accounts whilst is a very harmless amusement, but unless you are very confident of your ability and understand "trump signal," beware of the whilst gang. A "whilst gang" is a collection of fends who have played together every morning and night for years. Friendship and family ties are naught to them. They will slant their nearest relation or dearest friend with malicious delight. They spend all their time figuring how to get the odd. Sparks didn't know this a week ago, but he knows it now; plenty.

Elderkin, Bitters, Sawyer and Green are about the warmest gang on the seven-seven. Green, owing to a little difficulty with the conductor, has been riding on the early train for the last few weeks, so Elderkin asked Sparks to take his place one morning. Sparks had never played on the train, but he had often played at home and at little card parties, so he accepted the invitation. Elderkin and he were to be partners. This was unfortunate for him as Elderkin enjoys the reputation of being the "grouchiest" player on the road and it is no more than just to say that he deserves it.

The first deal passed off very well. Sparks had six trumps and by a happy accident led into Elderkin's hand, so that old campaigner scored three good and forgot to criticize his partner's play. Sawyer looked mournfully at the landscape while Bitters dealt the cards. Sparks was so elated that he failed to return his partner's trump lead. The score was tied and as the crestfallen amateur shuffled and dealt, Elderkin in tones of righteous wrath said, "Young man! do you know that it is estimated that there are over 1,000 men tramping the streets of our great cities in rags and wretchedness, who might have been rich and respected citizens today, and all because they didn't return their partner's lead of trumps!"

At the close of the next hand Elderkin held another "post mortem," pulling the tricks to pieces and inquiring of the unhappy Sparks, "What made you do that?" "Don't you know better than to trump my ace?" "Out in Missouri they hang men for less than that." ("Thought you could play whilst!") Under the vindictive glare and scathing sarcasm of his partner and the ill disguised amusement of his opponents, Sparks became hopelessly muddled. The game seemed a horrid nightmare to him and as the deal went round his errors increased and every known and unknown canon of Hoyle was broken. Elderkin's commentaries were something awful to hear.

The climax came as the train passed under the L. S. & M. S. viaduct. Sparks took a trick and glanced nervously at his hand, saw that he had a single diamond and three trumps. A sudden inspiration flashed across his clouded brain. He could lead the diamond and then come back with trumps. This brilliant strategy might save his reputation.

Out came the diamond, Elderkin took the trick and promptly returned the lead. With a smile of triumph our foxy friend dropped on a trump.

Bitters gazed at the board and deliberately threw down his cards. Sawyer whistled a few bars of "I didn't think he'd do it; but he did," and followed suit. Elderkin with a few well chosen remarks concerning the future state of idiots, scattered his cards down the aisle and retired behind the morning paper, with feelings too deep for utterance.

In vain poor Sparks asked for an explanation. They couldn't hear him talk and that unhappy mortal is still ignorant that he has committed the unpardonable sin of dropping a smok.

ESTATE TRANSFERS. Braman L. O. bk 7 Lovell to John Hensperfer It 3 Same to name It add to Trauer 250 John Hens to W. J. 300 Cottage Hill 400 Frank Ackerman to J. H. 400 15 blk 8 Ayers 2d add to C. S. 13 14 Oswald Sittler to C. M. Ely 1,000

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Henry Wiley to S. L. Rathje Its 5 and 6 blk 2 Wheaton 4,500 Cora M. Sharp to Samuel Davison It 29 blk 9 Hills of Lombard 380 Jno A. Leppert to Christian Kaus Its 6 and 7 blk 1 Anderson's add to Wheaton 1,000 Amos Churchill to J. R. Smith Its 25 26 27 and 28 blk 2 Greenwood 2,000 Earl H. Prince to J. D. Horton Its 1 and 2 blk 16 Princes add to Downers Grove 800

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SOCIETIES. GROVE LODGE 24 A. F. & A. M. Meets every second and fourth Friday evening in each month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. Chas. Mochel, W. M. Bert C. White, Secretary. VENTA CHAPTER 242 O. E. S. Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month in Masonic hall. Visiting members always welcome. Mrs. Louie E. Hall, W. M. Mrs. W. S. Carpenter, Secretary. NAPEL POST 468 G. A. R. Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month. Visiting comrades always welcome. T. S. Rogers, Commander. J. M. Barr, Adjutant. DOWNERS GROVE LODGE 32 A. O. U. W. Meets in own hall on first and third Fridays of each month. Visiting brothers always welcome. A. J. Cooper, W. M. A. J. Cross, Secretary. DOWNERS GROVE LODGE 750 I. O. O. F. Meets every Monday evening in hall Central block. Visiting brothers cordially invited. John Bradbury N. G. F. R. Owens, Secretary. J. H. Heideman R. S. J. L. Windsor, C. F. W. J. Miller, President. Mrs. M. E. Stanger, Treas. DOWNERS GROVE LODGE 52 K. O. P. Meets first and third Wednesdays of each month. Visiting Knights cordially invited. Bert C. White, C. Frank R. Owens, K. of R. and S. LADIES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Library building on Curtiss street. Meet first Tuesday in each month at 2 p. m. Emma J. Miller, President. Mrs. M. E. Stanger, Treas. DOWNERS GROVE LOAN AND HOME-STEAD ASSOCIATION. John Holland, President. J. W. Rogers, Treasurer; Gay L. Bush, Secretary. EQUITABLE LOAN AND INVESTMENT Association. Downers Grove Branch. John W. Nash, President. W. H. Barnhart, Secretary.

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THE MAILS. From the east—7:07; 9:07 a. m. 12:11; 5:11 p. m. From the west—7:07; 9:52 a. m. 1:20; 5:28 p. m. C. B. & Q. RAILWAY TIME CARD. East Bound. ARR. CHICAGO. 6:50 a. m. D G Passenger 6:40 a. m. 6:55 " " 7:15 7:07 " " 7:45 7:22 Aurora Passenger 7:46 7:28 " " 8:10 8:22 D G Passenger 8:45 8:30 Aurora Passenger 9:22 9:10 D G Passenger 10:00 9:22 Mail Train 10:25 9:30 D G Passenger 10:25 11:15 Aurora Passenger 12:18 p. m. 11:30 p. m. D G Passenger 1:40 1:25 Mail Train 1:55 2:05 D G Passenger 2:55 3:15 Aurora Passenger 4:05 4:50 D G Passenger 4:45 4:55 " " 5:40 5:20 Mail Train 6:10 5:45 D G Passenger 6:45 6:02 " " 7:45 6:02 " " 8:00 9:02 " " 10:00 9:51 Through Express 10:30 10:19 D G Passenger 11:30

West Bound. ARR. CHICAGO. 6:45 a. m. D G Passenger 7:30 a. m. 6:55 " " 8:35 7:30 Mail Train 8:35 8:45 D G Passenger 9:30 8:15 " " 11:08 8:30 " " 12:07 p. m. 11:30 Mail Train 12:11 12:01 p. m. D G Passenger 1:02 12:55 Saturday only 1:47 8:30 Aurora Passenger 2:30 9:10 Milk Train 3:10 3:15 D G Passenger 4:05 4:40 " " 4:55 5:11 Aurora Passenger 5:50 5:10 D G Passenger 6:35 6:35 " " 7:05 6:15 " " 7:40 7:30 " " 8:30 8:30 Aurora Passenger 8:30 8:30 D G Passenger 11:35 11:30 Theater Train 12:03 11:30 D G Passenger 12:30

LEAVE DOWNERS GROVE ARR. CHICAGO. 7:25 a. m. D G Passenger 8:45 a. m. 8:30 Aurora Passenger 9:22 1:10 p. m. D G Passenger 10:15 1:25 " " 2:05 p. m. 3:08 D G Passenger 4:00 4:35 Aurora Passenger 4:50 4:35 " " 5:50 5:00 Aurora Passenger 5:50 5:56 D G Passenger 10:55

LEAVE CHICAGO ARR. DOWNERS GROVE. 9:00 a. m. Aurora Passenger 12:11 11:40 D G Passenger 12:55 1:50 " " 2:30 3:10 Aurora Passenger 4:00 4:40 " " 5:25 4:40 " " 7:35 4:45 " " 10:45 10:45 Theater Train 12:03 p. m.