

THE REPORTER.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

D. G. GRAHAM, Associate Editor.

\$1.50 PER YEAR STRICTLY CASH IN ADVANCE.

Entered at the P. O. at Downers Grove, Ill., as second class mail matter.

REPUBLICAN COUNTY CONVENTION.

A republican county convention will be held at the court room, State street block, between DuPage and Illinois, on Wednesday, May 5, 1897, at 2 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of placing the name of the candidate for county judge.

The basis of representation of the several towns in the county will be determined by the cast for the republican electors for president in 1896, to wit: One delegate for every seventy-five votes and one in addition thereto for each major fraction of seventy-five votes.

The several towns which can be entitled to the following number of delegates: Addison, 5; Bloomingdale, 2; Downers Grove, 1; Lisle, 4; Milton, 8; Naperville, 5; Winfield, 7; Wayne, 2; York, 7. Total, 55. Also to transact such other business as shall properly come before the convention.

Dated at Wheaton, this 12th day of April, A.D. 1897. J. H. ASHLEY, Chairman.
J. B. FROST, Secretary.

CONSTITUTIONAL-AMENDMENT BILL.

Successive attempts have shown that it is almost hopeless to secure a full expression of the people of the state on a proposition for constitutional amendment as long as this proposition is submitted in the usual way, at the tag end of the ballot.

The chief candidates and the chief issues seem to absorb the voter's attention, and, however favorably inclined he may be to revise the constitution of the state and make its constitutional coat fit the present Illinois better than the antiquated garb it now wears, in the seclusion of his Australian booth, and struggling with the mighty blanket ballot before him, he generally forgets to express any preference on the question of constitutional amendment.

Unless, therefore, the people of this state are satisfied with the present constitution, and it is inconceivable that they are, some way must be found by which the question of revision may be brought prominently before the voter. This is sought to be accomplished in Mr. Powell's bill amending the ballot act of 1891 by providing for submission of the question of constitutional amendment on a separate ballot. Once the voter finds two ballots in his hand he will mark both, and there will be no longer any room to doubt what are his views as to constitutional revision or amendment. The bill ought to pass, and then it will be possible for Illinois to get in line with the more progressive states in the matter of constitutional growth and freedom.

SELF-GOVERNMENT ATTACKED.

The fact that the fight around the Humphrey bills has been warmest in Chicago should not give the people of the towns and cities outside of Cook county the impression that the matter is solely important to that city, says the Times-Herald. Chicago has more interest in the digest of the bills than any other community in the state, but every other community has an interest in proportion to its population and wealth.

These bills strike a heavy blow at the principal of self-government by municipalities. They take out of the hands of the people the right to transact their own business in their own way and render them powerless to correct abuses or turn to advantage the progress of science. Had as are the instances of municipal mis-government that are cited by the advocates of the street railway monopoly, they are nothing to the oppression and corruption that might result from the Humphrey bills.

These measures we regard as the most dangerous step toward the destruction of self-government ever proposed in this state, and no municipality can afford to ignore the dangers that are bound to follow their adoption.

WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN.

The past week was cool, wet and cloudy, the temperature of the state averaging from 2 to 5 degrees below the normal, and rainfall running from a tenth of an inch in the north section to over two inches in the southern; one-half of the state exceeding the normal rainfall. Sharp frosts occurred on the mornings of the 10th and 11th, and one to four inches of snow fell over the north half of the state on the 10th. Farm work has been further delayed, the soil continues wet and soggy. Oats and spring wheat seeding has been prevented except in east and northeast counties where one-third to one-half of the crop is in. Gardening, potato planting and plowing have also been retarded. The poor condition of winter wheat, rye and clover is still further confirmed—much damaged, wheat seriously. Grasses are starting well, but have made slow growth the past week owing to lack of sunshine; forest trees are leafing and fruits blooming in the southern section.

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There are two bills pending in the legislature, one in the house and the other in the senate, prohibiting the coloring of oleomargarine in resemblance of butter, with a view of practicing deception upon the consumer. The dairy interests of Illinois, which are large, protest against this fraud which has proved to be very damaging to the legitimate trade, and want a law enacted that will put a check to it. Attention is called to the fact that other states have protected their dairy farms against the "oleo" fraud, but unfortunately for Illinois she is confronted with some of the richest "oleo" manufacturers in the United States. This being true may account for the fact that on different occasions in the past, members of the legislature have been persuaded to believe that anti "oleo" legislation was not in the interest of the people. The dairy people are willing for "oleo" to be placed upon the market and sold as such upon its own merits, and that this may be done free of fraud, legislation so providing is sought.

The airtight which is enjoying a jamb across the country arrived over Downers Grove fortunately at a time when an ample explanation was at hand to relieve the mysterious night errant of much of its mystery. It would be more exact perhaps to say that several ample explanations are given, any one of which doesn't give mystery the ghost of a chance. The secretary of the Aerostatical Association, of course, ought to be best posted on these ships that go in the night, and he explains the whole affair in a way that should satisfy a most exacting. The aerial craft is on its way to Washington—probably looking for a job. It has flown all the way from the western coast, and is distinctly a high in every sense of the word.

will have an opportunity to speak. The commission appointed by the government to report on the

facilities of the Illinois Steel company has reported that the Illinois company are competent bidders, and their bids have been submitted to the secretary of the navy. Congressman Hopkins took the lead in the House in procuring legislation that would permit western competition with the eastern companies in this product, and Senators Culom and Mason are taking a personal interest in the outcome. The movement will result in great advantage to the government as the price of armor plate will be reduced fully one third on account of this competition.

The trustees of the University of Illinois appear to have been victims of misplaced confidence in Altdorf, but this will not excuse them for their own gross negligence in managing the affairs of the institution. They have on their own confession permitted the treasurer to handle cash and securities to the extent of nearly a million dollars without making a pretense of examining his accounts in a business-like way, and without even assuring themselves that he had a sufficient bond in case of any disaster such as the present. The tangle seems to grow more inextricable daily and hope of an immediate settlement is doubtful.

It is with a good deal of interest and hope that the American people will watch the efforts of the commission which Mr. McKinley, acting under authority of an act lately passed by congress, will send abroad to counteract the possibilities of an international monetary system. The work of the commission will be merely tentative. It has no authority to commit the government in any way or to approve plans which may be set forth by friends of bimetallism abroad. It is merely empowered to represent this country in diplomatic negotiations with a view to ascertaining the prospects for international bimetallism.

Every well regulated newspaper will do anything honorable to please its subscribers to whom nothing is so excrecatingly gladdening as to discover in the paper a grammatical, orthographical or typographical blunder. They will walk a mile to point it out to you all unconscious that it was put there on purpose to please them and give them something to talk about. Many people prefer to doubt the statement, but nevertheless, we, all of us, strive to please.

Why are certain members of the legislature so anxious to make the libel laws as severe and unjust as they were once and to make them more severe if possible? Can it be that they think the enactment of the measures now pending in the house and senate will serve to protect from deserved criticism city or country members who may put themselves on record by their votes as boodlers.

As soon as the elements will permit of it all back alleys and back yards should be cleaned up and the refuse disposed of in some way. This wet spring will not be very conducive of good health if rubbish is allowed to remain and rot, and the authorities should see to it that the ordinance in this regard is rigidly enforced.

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