

# KILLED AT TARGET PRACTICE

## Thirty-three Sailors on United States Battleship Missouri Die at Their Posts of Duty—Officers' Coolness Saves the Vessel.

### NAMES OF THE DEAD.

- Lieutenants—W. C. Davidson, E. A. Welchert and J. V. P. Gridley.  
 Midshipmen—W. E. T. Neumann and Thomas Ward, Jr.  
 Boatswain's Mate (first class)—J. K. Peterson.  
 Seamen—W. J. Bogard, O. N. Sonder and E. R. H. Allison.  
 Ordinary Seamen—C. Rice, C. J. Killen, J. Gedris, J. F. Kennedy, J. P. Starr, J. C. Nunn and C. H. M. Franks.  
 Landmen—H. S. Cherbarths, B. J. Milligan and J. M. Roach.  
 Electrician—T. F. Rowlands.  
 Gunnery's Mate (second class)—A. Smith.  
 Chief Gun Captain—T. E. Braun.

reverberated through the charge handling room. Before the echo of the second explosion had died away the officers and gun crews in the turret and the men in the handling room were dead, with the exception of one man.

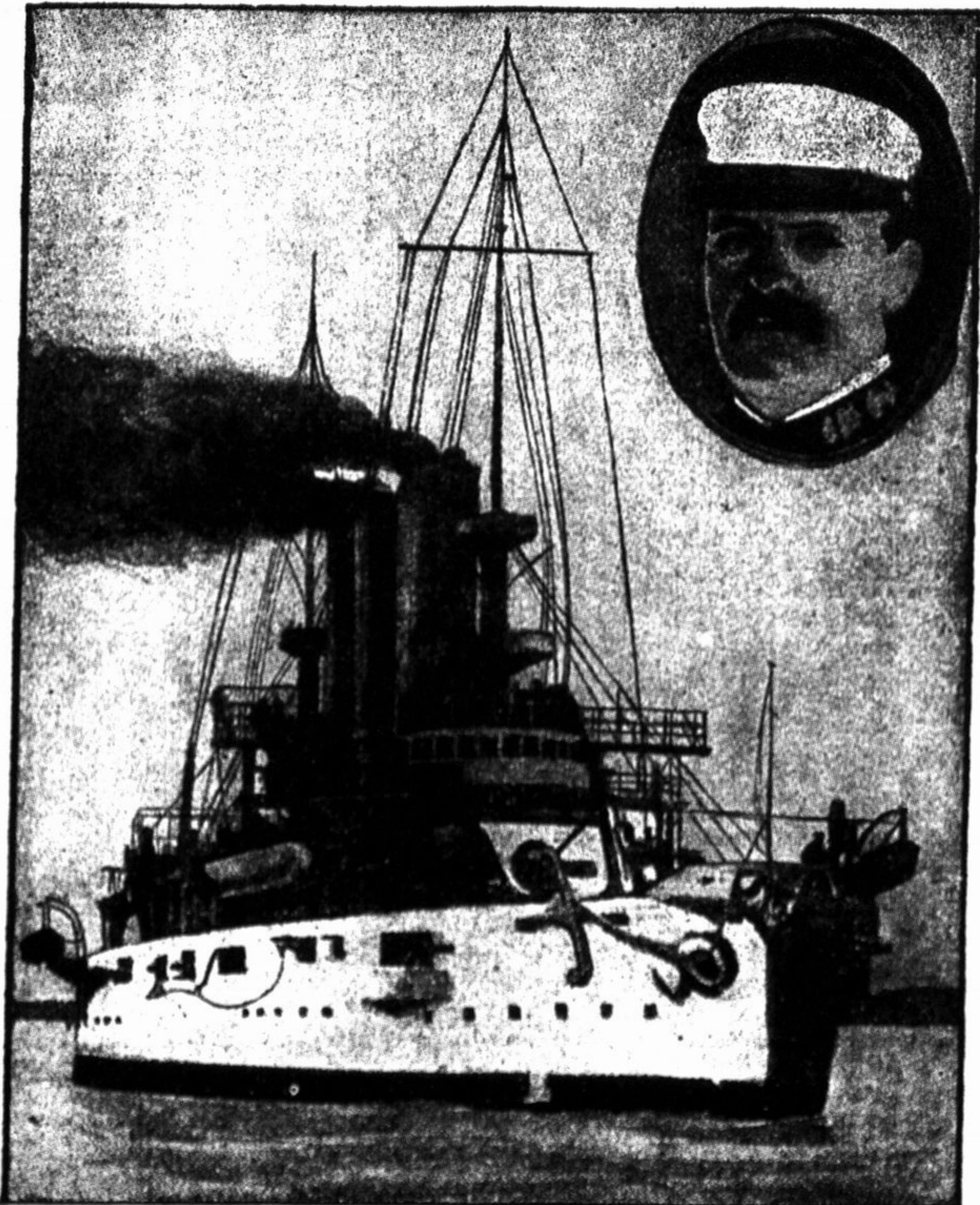
In less than five seconds after the first explosion every man on the ship was at his fire station. The most perfect discipline prevailed, although it was apparent from the smoke that belched from the turret and handling rooms that a calamity of appalling proportions had occurred.

Captain Cowles Quick to Act. Captain Cowles' first order was to flood the handling room and magazine chamber. Had this not been done upon the instant, it is believed that in the next few seconds a fate similar to that which overtook the

platoon, somewhat more fierce, occurred. This was in the handling room below, where 1,600 pounds of powder, or four charges ready to be hoisted above, had ignited. Fire quarters were sounded and every man of the ship responded, and the magazine and handling rooms were flooded with water.

Cannot Rescue Comrades. In less than five seconds after the first explosion two streams of water were being played in the rooms, and when volunteers were called for every man of the ship responded, eager to go into the turrets and rescue the crew. Captain Cowles gave his commands, and but for his presence of mind and that of the officers of the ship, the Missouri would have gone down. The second explosion occurred near one of the magazines.

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI AND ITS COMMANDER.



Thirty men, including five commissioned officers, were killed by an explosion in a gun turret of the Missouri while the ship was at target practice off the coast of Florida. Two others probably will die. Recently, while maneuvering, the Missouri collided with the battleship Illinois, knocking a hole in the side of the latter ship.

Marine Private—W. L. Shipman.  
 Apprentices (second class)—J. C. Hardy and P. R. Castler.  
 John T. Donnelly, ordinary seaman.  
 Orvel B. Moe, apprentice, second class.  
 James E. Knight, ordinary seaman.  
 Halbert Edward Elliott, master at arms, second class.

Pensacola, Fla., dispatch: Through an unaccountable accident on the new battleship Missouri, while it was engaged in target practice off this port Wednesday, five officers and twenty-eight men were instantly killed and two men so frightfully injured that they will die. Only by the perfect discipline and coolness displayed by the commanding officer, Captain W. G. Cowles, was a more appalling disaster prevented.

Not since the battleship Maine sank in the harbor of Havana has a greater calamity overtaken the American navy. The Missouri is the very latest of the big battleships of the American navy to go into commission. Recently it was ordered to the gulf for target practice. Nineteen miles off Pensacola the magnificent vessel had been engaged in this work for two days, and was achieving a brilliant record. To the intense keenness of its crew to excel is attributed the disaster which has suddenly cast a shadow over the nation.

Double Explosion. Until an official examination has been made it will be impossible to define the exact cause of the accident. Briefly, the facts are these: The Missouri was on the target range with the Texas and Brooklyn about noon. The entire crew was at gun stations. Three shots had been fired by the twelve-inch gun from the after turret. The gun was being loaded for a fourth shot. Suddenly those outside the turret heard a dull thud. A second later another muffled explosion more distant than the first

Maine in Havana harbor would have overtaken the Missouri.

The report of the disaster was sent to the flagship Kearsarge at noon. This stated that an explosion had taken place, and at first it was stated that but ten men had been killed. Later a second message was received by the wireless telegraph that the number would be more than three times the original figures.

Admiral Barker on the Kearsarge directed that the Missouri be ordered in for report and funerals of the dead, and this was answered shortly. At 3 p. m. the Missouri arrived in Pensacola bay. Immediately being sighted the official information was spread to all the naval ships and flags went to half-mast. Merchant vessels in the harbor and business houses along the water front followed the same example.

Breach is Opened. There have been several reasons advanced for the accident, one as secured from the Olympia stating that the breach of the 12-inch gun was opened too soon.

Capt. Cowles, completely overcome by the disaster, referred all newspaper men to Lieut. Hammer, the ordnance officer. The latter gave out a statement of the explosion and its probable cause.

Ordinance Officer Explains. According to him, about noon the second pointer had fired the third shot of his string. The fourth shot was being loaded, and from all indications the first half of the charge had been rammed home and the second section was being rammed home, when gases from the shot previously fired, or portions of the cloth cover, ignited the powder. The breach was open, and a dull thud gave notice of something unusual. No loud report was made, but flames were seen to leap from every portion of the turret. A few seconds later another ex-

So hot was the fire that the brass-work of the magazines was melted. Smoke and fumes of the burned powder made it almost impossible to enter either the turret or handling room, but officers and men with handkerchiefs over their faces made efforts to rescue the men inside.

Captain Cowles leads Rescue. Leading the rescuing party was Captain Cowles. The officers endeavored to keep him from going below, as men fell unconscious as they entered and had to be pulled out by their comrades, but heeding not their advice, the commanding officer rushed below, followed by Lieutenant Hammer, the ordnance officer, and Lieutenant Cleland David.

Captain Cowles caught up a dying bluejacket in his arms and staggered to the deck with him. The bluejacket, with two others from the handling room, had crawled partly from his place of duty when overcome.

More Perilous Than War. Major General Baden-Powell, the defender of Mafeking, thinks that life in cities is infinitely more dangerous than ever it was in Mafeking. If he had any doubts concerning the matter his visit to New York last year removed them.

A friend asked him how long it took for his troops to recover from the strain and hardships of the siege. "What strain? What hardships?" he asked with a smile. "Why," said his friend, "the constant strain of being exposed to shells and bullets and things." "Nonsense!" replied the general. "I felt infinitely safer in that little walled village than I have ever done since my return. It's better far to be hit by a shell than an automobile. Besides, here motor cars are more numerous than shells were in South Africa."

# ILLINOIS NEWS

Choice items from over the state, specially selected for our readers.

## ODD WEDDINGS AT JERSEYVILLE

### Marrying Fever Seems to Have Taken Hold of Old and Young.

Several marriages out of the ordinary have taken place in Jerseyville. Stephen G. Harmon of Fieldon and Miss Daisy Davenport, were married. The age of each was given as sixteen. Both were pupils in school. The same day Caleb S. Richey, 68, and Mrs. Mary Jane Yocum, 65, were married. W. H. Terry, 41, and Mrs. Mahala J. Terry, 36, were also married the same day. On the 28th of March the Terrys were granted a divorce. A few days thereafter they settled their differences and decided to remarry.

## STATE BOND SAID TO BE FORGED

### False Signatures on Paper Purporting to Be Worth \$480.

A forgery in an internal stock bond purporting to have been issued by the state of Illinois was discovered in the office of State Auditor McCullough at Springfield. The bond was sent from Chicago by Attorney H. P. Tomlin for identification. The bond, which, if genuine, would be worth \$480, is signed by "D. Carlin," governor. At the time of the issuance of the bonds Thomas Carlin was governor of the state. Other signatures attached are also declared to be forgeries.

## Win Oratorical Prizes.

Charles Donelan won the first prize and Miss Barbara Crow the second prize at the annual Lawrence oratorical contest at the Springfield high school. The first prize was \$20 in gold and a gold medal, and the second prize was \$10 in gold. Donelan by winning this contest will represent the Springfield high school at the Corn Belt oratorical contest at Clinton next month.

## Cass County Doctors.

The Cass County Medical association held a meeting at Virginia and elected the following officers: President, Dr. M. J. Palmer, Beardstown; vice president, Dr. L. M. Lankor, Ashland; secretary, Dr. J. A. McGee, Virginia; treasurer, Dr. William Franken, Chandlerville.

## Inspects Knights Templar.

Dr. A. A. Whipple, of Quincy, grand generalissimo for the Knights Templar of Illinois, visited Cyrene commandery, No. 23, of Centralia, and made the official inspection. Many members from adjoining towns were present.

## Woman to Judge Music.

Miss Helen Porter of Jerseyville has been selected as one of the judges of music for the Greene county high school contest to be held in White Hall on Saturday, June 7.

## Honor for Illinois Man.

Col. Clarence Miles, a former resident of Jerseyville, has just been re-elected to the office of mayor of Hastings, Neb., receiving a majority of 219 votes.

## Quincy School Tax.

It has been ascertained that a levy of 2 1/2 per cent on the assessed valuation of property in Quincy will be sufficient for maintaining its public schools.

## Loss His Pension Money.

George Taylor, an old soldier, reported to the Quincy police that he was held up and robbed of \$25 pension money by unknown persons.

## Suburban Home Burns.

The suburban residence of John Gutzmeier, near Centralia, was destroyed by fire. Only a part of the household effects were saved.

## Evangelistic Meetings.

Rev. J. W. Larimore is conducting a series of evangelistic meetings at the Jerseyville courthouse for the Christian congregation.

## Police and Fire Alarm.

The Jacksonville city council has decided to purchase an electric sign-sounding service for fire and police purposes.

## College Cinder Track.

A half-mile cinder track for athletic purposes is being made on the campus of Illinois college at Jacksonville.

## Hamlin Buys a Farm.

Attorney General Hamlin has purchased another farm near Windsor, making his total land holdings there 325 acres.

## Miner is Injured.

Frank Mack, a miner, was caught under a fall of coal in the Randle mine at Freeburg and seriously injured.

## Doctors Adopt Scale.

The Alton Medical society has adopted a resolution to withhold the names and other information pertaining to the practice from newspapers and also established uniform fees of \$1 for office work and \$2 for visits.

## Join High School League.

The students of the Trenton high school have joined the St. Clair County High School Athletic and Intellectual association, and will participate in the annual meet, which takes place at O'Fallon on Friday, May 12.

## FARMERS ORGANIZE A UNION

### Plan to Co-operate in Regulating Price of Their Products.

The farmers of Richview met at the Modern Woodmen hall and organized a farmers' union and elected the following officers: President, Clyde Whittenburg; secretary, Edw. Tate; treasurer, J. Vaughn. This is the fourth place in Washington county that the farmers have organized. They propose to regulate the price of their products to an extent. They intend to hold their grain and should the market not justify to sell, should a single member need money the union will advance him money and hold his grain until prices advance, and thus hold all the grain. Another way the union intends to help the farmers is in buying his machinery. They will all place their order at the same time and procure a carload at one shipment and secure their goods at an under price by purchasing by the car load.

## Militia Officers Resign.

Adjt.-Gen. Scott has received the resignations of Capt. Frank Hamilton and First Lieutenants Lewis Neal and Charles Lanphier, of the engineer company of Springfield in the Illinois national guard. The company will in all probability be mustered out of the service. The failure of Capt. Hamilton to file bond securing certain property in his possession is said to be the cause that has led to the tender of Capt. Hamilton's resignation. The other officers have resigned out of courtesy to the captain.

## Cairo Presbytery.

The Cairo presbytery elected Rev. W. P. Hoskins of Murphysboro moderator for the ensuing term. He succeeds Rev. C. E. Fisk, Ph. D., of Centralia. Others officers elected are: Stated clerk, Rev. R. B. Stevenson of Carmi; permanent clerk, Rev. H. B. Douglas of Mount Vernon; temporary clerks, Rev. W. H. Maxton of Mount Vernon and Rev. Daniel Breeze of Shawneetown.

## Remember Mother's Friend.

Mrs. Augusta Converse, who has been residing with Mrs. Alvira Landon at Jerseyville for the past twenty years has gone to Auburn to make her home with Mrs. Landon's son, Horace. In appreciation of her kind treatment to Mrs. Landon, who died a short time ago, the children of Mrs. Landon presented a purse of \$1,000 to Mrs. Converse, besides paying her liberal wages for her services.

## Miners Return to Work.

The drivers in the coal mines of Belleville and vicinity have returned to work at the scale agreed upon by the joint conference of the Illinois operators and miners' representatives in Springfield April 12, which was \$2.42 a day. The men had been receiving the scale of 1903, \$2.56 a day, and in some instances as high as \$3 a day, and demanded the same scale.

## Adjust Mine Scale.

The miners and operators of the 7th subdistrict of Illinois met in annual joint meeting in Murphysboro, to adjust the mining scale for the district for the year. The scale is now being considered by a joint committee and will not be materially changed. Only minor differences exist. The meeting was attended by forty operators and nearly 200 mine delegates.

## Defer to the People.

The retail butchers and grocers of East St. Louis have decided to keep their stores open on Sundays during the summer months until 9 p. m., in response to a statement that a number of housekeepers could not afford to pay ice bills. The clerks have also agreed to the rule, in deference to the wishes of the people.

## Corn Belt Athletics.

The Corn Belt athletic association will hold its annual meeting at Clinton on May 8. Teams from Decatur, Havana, Springfield, Taylorville, Champagne, Monticello and other cities will participate in the contest.

## National Municipal League.

The tenth annual meeting of the National municipal league and the eleventh national conference for good city government will be held at Chicago, commencing April 27 and ending on the 29th.

## Grandchildren Get Property.

The will of the late Abraham Schloss of Springfield disposed of \$7,000 personal property by bequeathing it to his grandchildren.

## Little Damage to Fruit.

Horticulturists in the vicinity of Highland state that the recent cold weather has done very little damage to the fruit.

## Vote on High School.

The proposition which was submitted to the voters of Rockbridge and Rubicon townships to jointly erect a township high school building in Greenfield carried in Rockbridge, but was defeated in Rubicon.

## Negroes Get into Trouble.

William Wagner and John Smith, both colored, were discovered kindling a fire in a freight car at Quincy. They were arrested and will be held until a meeting of the grand jury to answer a charge of arson.

## APPLE GROWERS' NEW OFFICERS

### Complete List of Those Elected at the Meeting in Quincy.

The complete list of officers of the Mississippi Valley Apple Growers' Association, as chosen at its last meeting in Quincy, is as follows: S. M. Black of Clayton, president; James Handley of Quincy, secretary-treasurer; C. H. Williamson of Quincy, Hon. G. W. Dean, R. D. No. 1, Quincy; Col. Richard Dalton of Saverston, Mo.; Homer D. Brown of Hamilton, Capt. S. D. Nokes of Mt. Sterling, Hon. C. L. Wood of Hamburg, J. W. Johnson of Canton, Mo.; Zeno Stocks of Columbia, Mo.; I. D. Sneider of Jerseyville, T. C. Wilson of Hannibal, Mo.; Z. S. Hollingsworth of Sandusky, Ia.; T. F. Leeper of Lima, Dr. R. J. McConnell of Bayla, M. J. Crow of Louisiana, Mo.; J. A. Wickham of Laramo, Mo.; J. T. Denon of Minooka, J. W. Jones of Lincoln, John F. Jolly of Olney, H. E. Roach of Orchard Farm, Mo.; Dr. J. R. Lambert of Coatsburg, Edward I. Hoodhouse of Carrollton, Hon. Frank L. Dawson of Elsberry, Mo., and John R. Williams of St. Louis, Mo., vice-presidents.

## Desperate Fight.

John McMahon and James Duke of Alton agreed to fight a duel at sixteenth and Belle streets to settle an old grudge. Weapons were barred, and in the presence of a large assemblage of men who gathered to see the struggle the two men fought for three-quarters of an hour. When an officer arrived both were lying on the ground exhausted and resting in preparation to finish the fight. McMahon had almost choked off two fingers and the thumb on Duke's left hand, and McMahon's face was almost ruined. The men pleaded to be locked up in the same cell, so they could fight out their grievance. Both were freed in the police court.

## Sustains Father in Kidnaping.

The final chapter in the Farmer kidnaping case was heard in the circuit court at Nashville. At the death of the first wife of John Farmer, he gave his son into the keeping of his mother-in-law, Mrs. W. L. White of Ashley, and it was generally understood that the latter had adopted the boy. Later Mr. Farmer married again and sought possession of the child, but his mother-in-law refused to relinquish her claim on the lad. Some time afterward Farmer forcibly obtained possession of the child, and Judge Burroughs sustained the father in possession.

## Cass County W. C. T. U.

The Cass County W. C. T. U. will hold an institute meeting at Ashland, April 25 and 26, in which all the local branches of the organization throughout the county will participate. One interesting feature is the medal contest in oratory, arranged for competition among high school pupils. Mrs. M. I. Spears of Tequila is the presiding officer.

## Fisherman Rescues Boy.

John Pullen, a fisherman, rescued a 10-year-old boy, Louis Thomas, who tumbled into the river from the Ashlock fish dock at Alton. The boy was playing on the dock and was helping to string some fish, when he slipped into deep water. Pullen plunged in and caught the boy as he was about to go down the third time.

## Physicians Elect Officers.

The Christian County Medical society has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Dr. W. T. Bridges, Stonington; first vice president, Dr. Mathew Hill; second vice president, Dr. John Seaton, Pana; secretary and treasurer, Dr. F. E. North, Taylorville.

## Dog Attacks Young Man.

A rabid dog frightfully lacerated the 18-year-old son of E. Brewer, who resides ten miles west of Carbondale, and inflicted wounds that may prove fatal. Before the dog could be killed it wounded three mules, valued at \$500, seven cows and twelve head of hogs.

## Woman is Burned.

While Mrs. Charles Kaltenbach of Quincy aged 32 years, was making fire in a gasoline stove the flames sprang to her apron, causing a blaze in all her clothing. She was severely burned before assistance reached her.

## To Open Ball Season.

The Three-I baseball league season will open in Decatur on April 29. The first three games there will be with the Rockford team.

## Reaching for Century Mark.

Christoph Steinhilber of Trenton, who is a pioneer resident of southern Illinois, has just celebrated his 96th birthday.

## Former Mayor of Decatur Dies.

Hon. Benjamin Z. Taylor, former mayor of Decatur, was found dead at his home. He traveled with President McKinley through part of Illinois in 1896 and resembled the candidate so much that he was frequently taken for McKinley.

## Violates School Law.

John Muehly, charged with violating the school law by retaining his children in school, \$10 and costs by Judge S. J. Cook of Taylorville.