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NEWS BREVITIES OF ILLINOIS

Chicago.—The 28 judges of the superior and circuit courts, in joint session, unanimously agreed upon the three amendments to the court-practice act adopted by the judges of the superior court some time ago. The proposed amendments are as follows: Granting the state's attorney authority to amend indictments. Granting judges authority to give oral instructions to juries with comments upon the evidence presented. Prohibiting the higher courts from remanding cases on mere technicalities when it is shown that no injustice has been done because of technical errors.

Efingham.—The safe of the Abraham bank at Watson was blown open by two men and \$1,000 was secured. The robbers did their work in a remarkably quick time and escaped in a buggy before anyone realized what had happened. Besides the \$1,000, the robbers also got \$5,000 worth of certificates, but none of these was signed and they will be useless. When the large charge of nitroglycerin was exploded the terrific force blew out the north end of the large frame building in which the bank was located.

Waverly.—Since the finding of oil and natural gas in this town a few days ago, a company has been formed with local men interested which will endeavor to arrange with surrounding towns to supply them with the product of the well. It is believed that the entire country around Waverly represents one of the best oil fields in the state and more wells will be drilled. A geologist, who was in the city a few days ago, stated that oil could be found over the entire town.

Chicago.—Charles B. Waite, 85 years old, for more than 65 years a resident of Chicago, court associate of Abraham Lincoln, territorial judge in Utah for years during the turbulent times with the Mormons, and an author and linguist of distinction, died at his home, 479 West Jackson boulevard, from the effects of an attack of pneumonia last November.

Stonington.—The youthful love dream of Pearl Ingle, 14 years old, and Jim Reesit, 18 years old, was cruelly blasted when they were taken in custody at Decatur, where they intended being married. The mother of the girl balked the pair's plans. She telephoned the Decatur police of the tender age of the couple. The pair returned to this city.

Jacksonville.—Rev. William McKendree McElfresh, 84 years old, pioneer Methodist minister and member of the Illinois conference since 1861, died at his home in this city. He retired from active ministry. Mr. McElfresh spent a retired life. Surviving are his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Blair, of this city.

Springfield.—Every boy in Stuart school, 281 in number, has signed an agreement to refrain from the use of tobacco in any form during the remainder of the school year. Principal Kilbride believes the action of pupils has not been duplicated by any public school of like proportions in the country.

Chicago.—Steps for a comprehensive campaign to insure the proper care of babies in the congested districts of Chicago in the coming summer were taken at a conference of the advisory committee and visitors associated with the United Charities of Chicago.

Lincoln.—Henry C. Montgomery, 84 years old, prominent and wealthy Logan county citizen, died at his home in Atlanta. He was an ardent abolitionist before the civil war and he was active in transporting hundreds of negroes from slavery in the south to Canada.

Peoria.—The body of Archibald Gerrow, a wealthy farmer and an elder of the Presbyterian church of Henry, was found in Swan lake. Gerrow disappeared a month ago, and domestic trouble was said to have been the cause.

Virden.—A library for the city is an assured fact. The committee of business men who undertook to complete the library subscriptions, announce the 500 subscribers have been secured and a meeting will be called soon to perfect the organization.

Bloomington.—Thomas Bascum, alias Thomas Curry, a railroad telegraph operator, was captured here following his escape from the Indiana reformatory at Jeffersonville. He was serving sentence on a charge of obstructing a railroad.

Springfield.—Rates for the Illinois state fair are to be the same this year as last, namely, one fare for the round trip, with a minimum of one dollar. This was decided by the executive committee of the Western Passenger association in Chicago.

Springfield.—State Superintendent Blair has issued a Bird and Arbor day pamphlet, which will be sent to every teacher in the state. The number contains articles of interest to pupils.

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