

WASHINGTON LETTER

Weekly Letter From Our Special
Correspondent.

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL.

Brief Items of Interest to Iowa Peo-
ple, Written by an Iowa
Man.

Washington, D. C., April 15, 1912.
Some one has kidnapped a California editor; and that's about the limit in petty larceny!

Besides entertaining the rejuvenated democracy this summer, Baltimore will act as hostess to the Reformed Hebrews.

New York, supposedly the "up-to-date" city in the world, presents the curious anomaly of harboring 170 horse drawn street cars.

It takes the college professor to discover things. One of the tribe announces with all the flourish of an art explorer that women talk too much!

A federal commission to investigate the causes of railroad wrecks and other accidents is provided in a bill introduced by Representative Sharp of Ohio.

The United States National Museum has recently come into possession of the armchair of Marquis de Lafayette, in which he is said to have sat on the day of his death.

Major Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, son of the famous general of the civil war, and himself commander of the Department of the East, died in New York City on April 12, from heart failure.

A lecturer has been telling the people of Washington how to read newspapers, but it is safe to say that the average man will persist in turning first to the sporting sheet.

The United States is to call an international convention of the world's money makers, to meet at Washington, to consider means of circumventing counterfeit and perfect mechanical devices.

No, Percy, the newspaper headline, "A Baby in Taft's Chair," isn't the mean mouthing of a democratic organ, but only refers to the grandson of Senator Smoot, who was placed in the seat for good luck's sake.

Iowa ranks seventh in the number of automobiles registered. New York is first with 48,000, California second with 29,500, Pennsylvania third with 26,000, Ohio fourth with 25,000, Illinois fifth with 23,000 and Massachusetts sixth with 20,000.

Charging that Wall street and corporations are controlling the "money trust" investigation, Representative Lindbergh of Minnesota has introduced a resolution to compel every member of the House to disclose his business and corporation affiliations.

Representative Babcock of Ohio, a democrat, has introduced a bill to place meats, flour and cereals on the free list. A similar bill introduced by Representative Doremus of Wisconsin, would place on the free list butter, potatoes, meats, lard, eggs and poultry.

Mrs. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross Society, famous civil war nurse, and lovingly known all over the world as an "Angel of Mercy" and the "Florence Nightingale of America," died at her home in Glen Echo, Md., April 12, at the age of ninety-one years.

Plans for the unveiling of the Columbus memorial, which is being erected on the Union Station plaza, are being completed. Reports indicate that about 80,000 Knights of Columbus will participate in the ceremonies, and arrangements are being made to accommodate an immense crowd of people.

Representative Neely of Kansas has presented to the House a constitutional amendment providing for the election of federal judges. Becoming a law, this resolution would limit the tenure of office of district judges to six years and provide for their selection by the voters of the district. It would not change the existing method of selecting the judges of the superior federal courts.

The Shakerford good roads bill has been favorably reported by the House committee on agriculture. This bill places highways in the same category as railroads and provides that the government shall pay for the use of roads over which mail is carried under the rural free delivery system, at the rate of \$25 a mile each year for the best roads, \$20 a mile for second class roads, and \$15 per year for third class roads.

The Department of Agriculture has just published its official "black list," as authorized by Congress, in

which are the names and addresses of 148 persons and firms which adulterated seeds of grasses, clover or alfalfa during the past year. Since this work was authorized eight years ago, 370 dealers who have sold or misbranded seeds have been advertised.

The Senators from Virginia and West Virginia have begun a movement to require the United States to accept to the thirteen original states for every cent it has received from the sale of the Northwest Territory. An amount involved would probably be somewhere in the neighborhood of 90,000,000. Senator Chilton of W. Virginia introduced a bill to give the Court of Claims jurisdiction to settle the claim against the federal government. He makes the claim that Virginia did not give the territory to the government outright, but transferred title to the government to hold as trustee for the benefit of the thirteen original states.

Complete revision of the patent laws to meet the recent decision of the supreme court creating patent monopolies, is provided in bills introduced by Senator Brown and Representative Oldfield, chairman of the patent committees of the two houses. Under this bill the purchaser of a patented article would have unrestricted use of the same and patent owners could not stipulate in the sale or lease the purchase or lease of any materials to be used on the patented device. A compulsory license system is provided with a view to preventing the stifling of competition by manufacturers buying and shelving patented devices for articles in which they compete.

The report of an investigation by the bureau of labor into wholesale prices shows that food products increased 2 per cent during 1911 over the previous year, while wholesale prices of 257 articles declined 1.7 per cent. Of the nine groups under which these 257 articles are divided, seven showed a decrease in price in 1911 as compared with 1910, the largest percentage of decrease being 7.7 per cent in metals and implements. Cloths and clothing decreased 3.3 per cent; fuel and lighting 2.4 per cent; farm products 1.6 per cent; lumber and building materials 0.8 per cent; house furnishing goods 0.4 per cent. The two groups in which the wholesale prices increased were food etc., 2.0 per cent, and drugs and chemicals, 2.8 per cent.

The incorporation of the Rockefeller foundation in the District of Columbia is provided for in a bill introduced by Representative Peters, which has been favorably recommended by the House committee on judiciary. The object of the corporation is "to promote the well being and to advance the civilization of the peoples of the United States and its territories and its possessions in foreign lands, in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, in the prevention and relief of suffering, and to promote human progress in every manner. It is said that John D. Rockefeller proposes to give \$20,000,000 to the foundation.

Because the House judiciary committee did not give to a memorial presented by him the consideration he thought it deserved, Henry W. A. Page, a New York commission merchant, had printed and circulated in Washington and other places a pamphlet containing libelous matter directed toward Henry D. Clayton, chairman of the committee. The pamphlet is entitled, "The Crime of Henry D. Clayton," and has as a subhead, "Congressmen Commit Perjury." The cover of the pamphlet also contains the following questions and answers: Q. Do congressmen take a solemn oath to defend the constitution against all its enemies? A. Yes. Q. Do congressmen keep this solemn oath? A. No. Q. Why do congressmen not keep this oath? A. Because congressmen are crooks. As a result of Mr. Page's literary efforts he is now under indictment by the federal grand jury and will have to answer to a charge of criminal libel.

The presidential primary in Pennsylvania on Saturday resulted in Roosevelt electing 54 and Taft 10 of the delegates from that state. This will give Roosevelt the twelve delegates at large, it is expected, which will add that many more to his column. The former president now promises to cut quite a figure in the Chicago convention.

The rural population of England today is only one-fifth of the whole, whereas a half a century ago one-half of the population lived in cities and towns.

COUNTY CONVENTION

Republicans Name Delegates to State
Convention.

ARE INSTRUCTED FOR CUMMINS.

Delegation to Support Iowa Senator
For President so Long as He
is Candidate, Then
Roosevelt.

The first republican county convention of this republican year for Winneshiek county was held at the court house Saturday afternoon, with a representative attendance from each township in the county except Washington and Bluffton. It was a Cummins convention without question, its deliberations were entirely in his interest without opposition or objection.

Chairman C. N. Houck announced the appointment of Dr. P. M. Jewell as temporary chairman, and E. C. Bailey was named as temporary secretary.

Upon motion of L. B. Whitney the chair appointed as a committee upon credentials H. Engbretson of Decorah, D. W. Baldwin of Frankville, G. G. Oylor of Military, Neils Larsen of Highland, Frank Pilgrim of Madison. The committee reported uncontested delegates present from each precinct except Washington and Bluffton, and the report was accepted.

Upon motion of L. B. Whitney the temporary organization was made permanent.

Upon motion of C. S. Boice the chair appointed as a committee to select delegates to the state convention, Geo. Bucknam, Bloomfield; O. A. Tenold, Calmar; J. D. Hexom, Highland; Gus. Johnson, Glenwood; C. S. Boice, Decorah. The committee selected the following delegates: Dr. P. M. Jewell, Decorah; O. L. Saxvik, Highland; A. P. Anderson, Sumner; G. Graves, Glenwood; A. Olson, Calmar; G. G. Oylor, Military; Neils Larsen, Highland; Peter Morton, Orleans; John Young, Hesper; C. N. Houck, Decorah; H. Engbretson, Decorah; G. A. Bucknam, Bloomfield; John Hegg, Springfield; Gus. Johnson, Glenwood; Dr. J. D. Hexom, Highland.

Upon motion of L. B. Whitney resolutions were unanimously adopted endorsing the candidacy of Senator A. B. Cummins for president and instructing the delegates to support him as long as he is a candidate and then support Theodore Roosevelt.

The convention then adjourned.

Mrs. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross Society, died at her home in Glen Echo, Md. on Friday, after an extended illness. She has been aptly called the Florence Nightingale of America. On the battlefields of the civil war and in the camps of the French and German armies in Europe she nursed wounded and dying soldiers. She took personal charge of the nursing of yellow fever patients of the south, and after the fall of the Commune she entered Paris on foot and distributed food to the starving. She endured the hardships of travel in Russia and Turkey to relieve suffering humanity, and faced the dangers of yellow fever in Cuba to nurse Cuban reconcentrados and later the American soldiers in Santiago. The Red Cross Society is a monument to her initiative, and through this society her memory will be revered and her work carried on.

General Frederick D. Grant, next to the highest ranking officer in the United States army, and son of the distinguished ex-president and great civil war commander, General U. S. Grant, died suddenly at his hotel in New York Friday. Like his illustrious father, he was a distinguished soldier and citizen, and in his death the nation loses one who has devoted his life to its service.

Hon. F. A. O'Connor of New Hampton, an announced candidate for the democratic nomination for governor, has withdrawn from the campaign. This leaves but two candidates, Hon. John T. Hamilton, of Cedar Rapids and Hon. E. G. Dunn of Mason City, with the signs strongly favoring the nomination of Mr. Hamilton, who will be a strong candidate.

The first American carriage was made in Albany, N. Y., about the year 1814. Those previously used in this country had been imported from England.

Horseshoes to the number of 160,000,000, or two million kegs, are used annually in the United States and Canada.

JEFFERSONIAN BANQUET

Democratic Banquet Saturday Night
an Unqualified Success.

PROMINENT POLITICIANS HERE.

Winneshiek Democrats Host to Most
Notable Gathering of Party
Leaders Ever in
the City.

The Jeffersonian banquet given by the democracy of Winneshiek county at the Winneshiek hotel on Saturday night was an unqualified success in every sense, and those whose efforts made it possible are to be congratulated upon the affair, which was not only a compliment to the party under whose auspices it was held, but alike a credit to the city of Decorah, in that it brought to the city some of the most noted orators of Iowa and the leaders of the party in the state, district and county.

There were about 160 in attendance, from all parts of the county, from West Union, Waukon, New Hampton, Mason City and other points in the fourth district. They marched into the handsome dining room of the hotel to the strains of beautiful music by the Decorah Choral Union orchestra, under the direction of Prof. Carlo A. Sperati, which rendered such inspiring selections during the service of the banquet that they were compelled to respond to repeated encores. The service was all that could be desired, a credit to the hotel, and everyone was in gay spirits, including the insignificant little standpat newspaper man, who sat back in the corner and took the jabs which came thick and fast, yet, withal, enjoying it immensely.

Mr. F. E. Biermann, chairman of the democratic county central committee, officiated as toastmaster, and did it admirably. Hon. E. G. Dunn of Mason City, candidate for the nomination for governor, had to catch an early train, and the service was interrupted to hear his response to the toast "Democracy in 1912." As cigars were passed, toastmaster Biermann introduced Prof. Norman Madison of Luther College, who responded to the toast, "Jefferson and Government by the People." Hon. D. J. Murphy of Waukon, "Patriotism and Politics;" Orlando Ingvaldstad of Hamline Seminary, "Democracy's Appeal to Young Men;" Hon. D. D. Murphy of Elkader, "The Voice of the People;" Einar Josephson of Decorah-Posten, "American Ideals and Europe;" Hon. Peer Stromme, world traveler, "First One Thing and Then Another;" Hon. John T. Hamilton of Cedar Rapids, candidate for governor, "The Obligation of the Democratic Party to the People;" Hon. F. A. O'Connor of New Hampton, "The Future of the Party;" and Judge Martin J. Wade of Iowa City, "The Outlook."

We have not the space to review the remarks of each speaker, but it may be truthfully stated that each reflected credit upon himself and the occasion. It was an evening's program of notable addresses, and each in turn was received with great interest and pleasure by all in attendance. It is no disparagement to the others to state that our people were particularly interested and pleased in the address of Judge Wade, who is one of Iowa's most famous orators and after dinner speakers. It was said by many that Decorah has never heard two such after dinner speeches as those delivered by Senator Life Young at the Commercial Club banquet last fall and by Judge Wade on this occasion. The democratic quartet, consisting of Emil Johansen, Frank Christopher, Sigurd Reque and H. A. Thorsen sang several selections during the evening, making a decided hit, of course, with Champ Clark's famous "houn dawg" song.

We congratulate the democracy of Winneshiek county upon the splendid manner in which they entertained their guests. Decorah and Winneshiek county never does things by halves.

The highest dam in all the world is to be built by the United States government in Boise Canyon, Idaho. This dam, which will be located about twenty miles above the city of Boise, will be 351 feet high, twenty-five feet wide at the top and 1,060 feet long. It will be thrown across a narrow place in the high canyon, and will hold back enough water to irrigate 250,000 acres of desert land. It will take three or four years to construct the masonry. Bed rock has been found at a depth of 90 feet below the surface of the river.

N. E. IOWA ODD FELLOWS

Immense Gathering of Three-Linkers
Expected in Decorah Apr. 26.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

Special Train From Mason City Will
Bring Visitors a Hundred
Miles. Coming From All
Directions.

One week from Friday, April 26th, will be Odd Fellows' day in Decorah. The city will be turned over to them to fuss and frolic as they like. It will be the northeastern Iowa celebration of the ninety-third anniversary of the founding of the order, and it is expected that upwards of two thousand Odd Fellows will be here from all over northeastern Iowa. A special train from Mason City has been arranged for, and it promises to be filled. Charles City, New Hampton and every town along the way will add its quota, and from out of the woods to the north and east of us there will come down upon us hordes of the patrons of the three links, and the city will surrender unconditionally.

Judge Henderson of Indianola, Past Grand Master and now commerce counsel for the state of Iowa, will be the orator of the day. Senator Robt. Quigley of McGregor, also a high officer in the order will speak, and Mrs. Lewis, matron of the Odd Fellows' Orphans' home at Mason City. Mayor Daubney will deliver an address of welcome in the opera house, there will be music, and a program that will be interesting to everyone. In the afternoon there will be exemplifications of the secret work of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs at Steyer's opera house and other halls of the city. There will be dances and entertainment of various kinds, and the Decorah Commercial Club will join with the local members of this order in showing the visitors a good time.

In this connection, a brief historical sketch of this great fraternal order may be of interest:

The history of Odd Fellowship in the United States begins with the institution of Washington Lodge No. 1, in Maryland, April 26, 1819. The encampment branch of the order begins with the institution of encampment Lodge No. 1, in Baltimore, Maryland, July 6, 1827.

Odd Fellowship had its beginning in Iowa with the formation of Washington Lodge in Burlington, April 4, 1844, and the first grand lodge of the order was held in Muscatine, May 1, 1848. The first encampment was organized in Dubuque, December 5, 1846, and the first grand encampment of this branch of Odd Fellowship was held in Muscatine, June 17, 1852.

The history of the Rebekah branch of this order in Iowa began at Bloomfield and dates from November, 1868. The first general assembly of Rebekahs met in Des Moines on Sept. 4, 1888.

The number of Odd Fellows in Iowa June 30, 1911, was as follows: subordinates, 59,126; encampment members, 11,239. Rebekahs, brothers, 13,562, sisters, 26,221, or a total of 39,733.

According to the statistics gathered up to and including Dec. 31, 1911, covering the United States, it was found that there were 1,582,169 members of the Odd Fellow lodge, of which 221,497 belonged to the advanced order of the society. Of the Rebekahs including both men and women, there were 666,537 members. This brings the grand total membership of Odd Fellowship up to the very large figure of 2,023,731.

During the year of 1910 this order paid out in relief work among its members and others worthy of assistance, \$5,711,049.41 and the total of such relief work done since 1830 reaches the astounding figure of \$136,698,990.08.

"Kill Every Fly."

Because: A busy adult fly between April 15th and April 30th can have one hundred and twenty adult descendants. These in turn, getting down to business, will have by Sept. 10th, 5,000,000,000,000 descendants of that first fly. Five thousand billion messengers of disease to spoil our summer picnics! If all moth flies could be suppressed and their progeny destroyed, the death rate, the doctor's income, and the undertaker's profits would simultaneously decline. So, "Swat the fly."

A couple of lady peddlers are again "doing" Iowa towns, selling lace, represented to be imported English hand made. They usually work without first securing a license. These women are selling ordinary cotton lace for twenty-five cents, which retails in our local stores for about five cents. If they make their appearance here, ask them to kindly show their license, and if they cannot produce one, notify the mayor.

The matter with men—women.

1,350 PEOPLE DROWNED

World's Largest Steamship Sinks Off
Coast of Newfoundland.

GREATEST MARINE DISASTER.

Great Vessel Crashes Into Iceberg
and Goes to the Bottom With
1,350 Passengers.

1,350 persons sank to death early Monday morning, when, within four hours after it crashed into an iceberg, the mammoth White Star Line steamer Titanic, bound from Liverpool to New York on its maiden voyage, went to the bottom off the Newfoundland banks.

Of the approximately 2,200 persons on board the giant liner, some of them of world-wide prominence, only 868 are known to have been saved.

The disaster is the greatest in the marine history of the world. Nearest approaching it in magnitude were the disasters to the steamer Atlantic in 1873, when 574 lives were lost, and to La Bourgogne in 1898, with a fatality list of 571.

News of the sinking of the liner and the terrible loss of life in consequence came with all the greater shock because hope had been buoyed up all day by reports that the steamship, although badly damaged, was not in sinking condition and that all its passengers had been safely taken off. The messages were mostly unofficial, however, and none came direct from the liner, so that a lurking fear remained of possible bad news to come.

Shortly after 7:00 o'clock there came flashing over the wires from Cape Race, within 400 miles of which the liner had struck the iceberg, word that at 2:20 o'clock Monday morning, 3 hours and 55 minutes after receiving its death blow, the Titanic had sunk.

The news came from the steamer Carpathia, relayed by the White Star liner Olympic, and revealed that by the time the Carpathia, outward bound from New York and racing for the Titanic on a wireless call, reached the scene the doomed vessel had sunk.

Left on the surface, however, were lifeboats from the Titanic, and in them were 868 survivors of the disaster. These, according to the advice, the Carpathia picked up and is now on its way with them to New York.

For the rest the scene as the Carpathia came up was one of desolation. All that remained of the \$10,000,000 floating palace, on which nearly 1,400 passengers had been voyaging luxuriously to this side of the Atlantic, was some bits of wreckage. The biggest ship in the world had gone down, snuffing out in its downward plunge, hundreds of human lives.

A significant line in the Cape Race dispatch was the announcement that of those saved by the Carpathia nearly all were women and children. Should it prove that no other vessel picked up any passengers of the sinking liner this might mean that few of the men on board had been saved, as the proportion of women and children among the passengers was large. The same facts would likewise spell the doom of practically the entire crew of 800.

In the cabins were 230 women and children, but it is not known how many there were among the 740 third class passengers.

In the first cabin there were 128 women and 15 children, and in the second cabin 79 women and 8 children.

Notable persons, travelers on the Titanic, whose fate was in doubt in the lack of definite advices as to the identity of the survivors were Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Major Archibald Butt, aid to President Taft; Charles M. Haye, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific of Canada, his wife and daughter; W. T. Stead, the artist; J. G. Widener of Philadelphia, Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus, J. B. Thayer, vice president of the Pennsylvania railroad; J. Bruce Ismay, Henry B. Harris and Colonel Washington Roebling, builder of the Brooklyn bridge.

Wednesday—The news this morning is only a confirmation of the early dispatches of yesterday. It is now practically certain that 1,350 human souls went to a watery grave when the great ship sunk, and that only 868 were saved, mostly women and children, which is the unwritten rule of the sea. It is indeed the greatest ocean disaster in the history of the world.