

Death of Miss Mary L. Jay.

A Former Assistant Principal of the Honesdale High School Passes Away in the West.

[From the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Sentinel.]
Miss Mary Laity Jay, long assistant principal of the Fort Wayne high school and widely known in both educational and social circles, died Dec. 15, 1908, at the Lutheran hospital. Death came as the termination of an extended illness, and it will be received as a personal sorrow, not alone to immediate friends, but to the countless former students who in the past twenty years have known Miss Jay in school life in Fort Wayne, and who have gone out from her ministrations better equipped for what life might have in store for them.

Miss Jay's death was due to tubercular peritonitis, and the break in her health began almost a year ago. In May last, six weeks before the close of the school year, Miss Jay was forced by illness to abandon work in the schoolroom. She spent some time in the hospital and later in the summer departed on an extended lake trip in the hope that it might benefit her. Medical skill was powerless to aid her, however, and friends could do little save to watch the heroic but hopeless battle with disease. Twelve weeks ago Miss Jay was removed to the Lutheran hospital, and again and again during the intervening time life hung by a single thread. Death has been expected at almost any moment, but it was not until early to-day that the end came.

Miss Jay's life was one of singular devotion and helpfulness, and the uplifting radiance of her character, her kindness and her ability has illumined a wide sphere during more than a score of years in which she had been identified with educational work. She was born in Tamaqua, Pa., in 1874, and when but a mere child her family removed to Cheshire, Conn., and later to Carbondale, Pa., where at the age of 16 the young girl began her work as a teacher. Then she entered Mt. Holyoke seminary in Massachusetts, where she was graduated, and still later took a degree of Ph. B. in Northwestern college. Subsequently she was assistant principal of the high school at Honesdale, Pa., and principal of the Grammar school at Plattsburg, N. Y., for a short time.

It was in 1888, twenty years ago, that Miss Jay came to Fort Wayne as a teacher of Latin and History in the Fort Wayne high school. Here her helpfulness, her consideration and her ability were conspicuously apparent in the direction of the student along higher avenues of scholarship, and the memories of thousands of young men and women in Fort Wayne are kindly in the recollection of her interest and her efforts in their behalf. And in no quarter is regret at her death more profound than among the school officials and instructors who have been associated with her in educational work.

Miss Jay is survived by two sisters—Mrs. S. H. Havice, 322 West Jefferson street, in whose family the deceased had long made her home, and Miss Katherine Jay. The deceased was a devoted member of Wayne Street Methodist Episcopal church, and though deeply engrossed in school work, she found time and inclination to do quietly much in the way of practical and substantial help along other lines, the true extent of which has become known only since her illness, when the recipients of Miss Jay's benevolence have disclosed the good works her own retiring nature did not permit to become known.

The funeral services were held Thursday morning at 10 o'clock from Wayne Street M. E. church, conducted by Rev. Frank Leinig, the pastor, and on account of Miss Jay's wide acquaintance it was decided to permit friends to view the remains at the church.

In accordance with custom, the flag on the high school building was placed at half mast, and no session of school was held Thursday morning.

Dr. Caskey Appreciated.

In the Advent (November) number of St. Mark's Dial, a parish paper devoted to the interests of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal church at Danville, Illinois, we find the following, which will be of special interest to the many people here who cherish kind remembrances of Rev. Dr. Caskey's pastorate as rector of Grace church of this place. The extract is from an account in the magazine of President-Elect Taft's participation in the laying of the corner stone of the new Woodward Cincinnati High School building:

"As the results of the elections were echoing over mountain, hill top and valley, proclaiming the defeat of the most brilliant American platform orator, and announcing the election of Judge Taft, the popular and winning candidate of the Republican party, 10,000 pupils, teachers and alumni of the Woodward Cincinnati High School, assembled to witness the laying of the corner stone of the Woodward High School building. The parade was an imposing feature consisting of 10,000 pupils in line, of old graduates, educational board and teachers, including 1700 young women, all bearing the blue ensign with the white letters 'Woodward,' marched in line. Judge Taft seated in a carriage, with Messrs. Schwab, Harper and Withrow waited at Government Square to join the parade. After the marchers had reached the speakers' stand, cheer after cheer and class yells announced the arrival of the distinguished speaker. Albert D. Shockley acted as master of ceremonies. The program was opened by the Rev. T. F. Caskey, D. D., rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Danville Ill. Dr. Caskey

graduated from this school as a boy, and afterward entered Yale, where he was the college mate of Chas. P. Taft. * * * Mr. Taft spoke feelingly of the old building, its associations and its influences upon the men and women who studied within its walls. One of the ideas he seemed to impress upon his hearers was that men and women should seek first to be masters and afterwards servants. One who has really become a master can hope to become an excellent servant. The congregation of St. Marks feel highly gratified at the warm reception accorded Dr. Caskey on his visit to his old home. He was entertained by Mr. Theoph. Kemper, Esq., an alumnus of the Woodward High School."

Eclipses in 1909.

According to the announcement of the Naval Observatory authorities, there will be four eclipses next year, two of the sun and two of the moon. The first eclipse of the sun, June 17th, will be visible in a large portion of North America, but the second, December 12th, will be visible in the United States. The lunar eclipses will take place on June 3d and November 20th. The first will be visible in a part of North America and the second throughout the continent.

Neighbors' Night in the Grange.

Where granges are conveniently located one to another it may be well for them to exchange programmes occasionally—that is, a programme prepared at one grange may be given at a neighboring grange and the exchange be made of mutual interest. Occasional debates between neighboring granges are also interesting and profitable.

Washington State Grange.

Washington state grange is showing what an earnest organization can do in securing the enactment of laws for the establishment of direct primaries, the Torrens land system and an appropriation of \$10,000 for farmers' institutes.

For the information of inquirers it may be stated that in the absence of the master of the grange the overseer or a past master of the grange who is presiding has all the prerogatives of the office.

The Lombards.

The Lombards introduced the custom of charging interest for the use of money.

Our Swamps.

There are 77,000,000 acres of swamp land in the United States, enough to make a strip 100 miles wide, reaching from the gulf to the great lakes, and fertile enough, if reclaimed, to feed the entire nation.

CROP REPORTING.

How the Bureau of Statistics Does the Business.

The bureau of statistics issues each month detailed reports relating to agricultural conditions throughout the United States, the data upon which they are based being obtained through a special field service, a corps of statistical agents and a large body of voluntary correspondents composed of the following classes: County correspondents, township correspondents, individual farmers and special cotton correspondents.

The special field service consists of seventeen traveling agents, each assigned to report for a separate group of states. These agents are especially qualified by statistical training and practical knowledge of crops. They systematically travel over the district assigned to them, carefully note the development of each crop, keep in touch with best informed opinion and render written and telegraphic reports monthly and at such other times as required.

There are forty-five state statistical agents, each located in a different state. Each reports for his state as a whole and maintains a corps of correspondents entirely independent of those reporting directly to the department at Washington. These state statistical correspondents report each month directly to the state agent on schedules furnished him. The reports are then tabulated and weighted according to the relative product or area of the given crop in each county represented and are summarized by the state agent, who co-ordinates and analyzes them in the light of his personal knowledge and conditions and from them prepares his reports to the department.

There are approximately 2,800 counties of agricultural importance in the United States. In each the department has a principal county correspondent, who maintains an organization of several assistants. These county correspondents are selected with special reference to their qualifications and constitute an efficient branch of the crop reporting service. They make the county the geographical unit of

their reports and after obtaining data each month from their assistants and supplementing these with information obtained from their own observation and knowledge report directly to the department at Washington.

In the townships and voting precincts of the United States in which farming operations are extensively carried on the department has township correspondents, who make the township or precinct the geographical basis of reports, which they also send directly to the department each month.

Finally at the end of the growing season a large number of individual farmers and planters report on the results of their own individual farming operations during the year.

With regard to cotton, all the information from the foregoing sources is supplemented by that furnished by special cotton correspondents, embracing a large number of persons intimately concerned in the cotton industry, and in addition inquiries in relation to acreage and yield per acre of cotton are addressed to the bureau of the census list of cotton ginners through the courtesy of that bureau.

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