

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM IOWA

COUNCIL BLUFFS Office 15 Scott Street. Both 'Phones 43.

CUMMINS MEN ORGANIZING Decide to Make a Fight to Secure the Local Candidates.

OFFICERS FOR SOCIETY CHOSEN Past Resolutions That Allison is Too Old and a Younger Man is Needed in the United States Senate.

About thirty supporters of Governor A. E. Cummins in his senatorial contest gathered in the south room of the county court house yesterday morning and organized what is styled the Taft-Cummins Progressive Republican club of Pottawattamie county.

These officers were elected: President, Robert B. Wallace, Council Bluffs; first vice president, Leon L. Poston, Council Bluffs; second vice president, J. Q. McPherrin, Oakland; secretary, Owen J. McManus, Council Bluffs; treasurer, Carl A. Morgan, Council Bluffs.

Prominent in promoting the meeting was C. J. McManus, former county superintendent of schools and a candidate for the republican nomination for state superintendent of instruction; Robert B. Wallace, recent republican candidate for mayor of Council Bluffs; G. H. Scott, former judge of the superior court and a candidate at the primary for the republican nomination for city collector; Thomas Q. Harrison, recently admitted a member of the local bar; Attorney John Fletcher of Avoca; candidate for the republican nomination for county attorney. These took a leading part in the proceedings.

The meeting was called to order by John Fletcher of Avoca, who was secretary of the former Cummins organization in this county. Upon motion of O. J. McManus, who with Mr. Fletcher directed the meeting from the start to the finish, Thomas Q. Harrison was made temporary chairman. Mr. Harrison embraced the opportunity to make an address and when he closed, R. J. Martin of Hancock, former state representative from Pottawattamie county, was selected as secretary.

The following committees on permanent organization and resolutions were named by the chairman: Permanent Organization—W. C. Hills, Oakland; Gilbert H. Smith, Council Bluffs; C. T. Hanley, Oakland; Fred Shuttleworth, Hancock; L. S. White, Oakland. Resolutions—G. H. Scott, Council Bluffs; John Fletcher, Avoca; J. Q. McPherrin, Oakland; W. C. Remington, Oakland; L. L. Poston, Council Bluffs; H. G. Spangler, Oakland; J. C. Spangler, Walnut.

The resolutions recommended that a general county ticket be put in the field made up of progressive republicans as far as practicable, and the recommendation was carried in. Chairman Harrison was empowered to appoint at his leisure a committee of ten to name a county ticket.

The resolutions also criticized the standstill for showing in the defeat of the head of the republican ticket in our city election. The meeting extended over into the afternoon.

Real Estate Transfers. These transfers were reported to the Rec. April 7, by the Pottawattamie County Abstract company of Council Bluffs: William P. Mohr to H. H. Rounds, lot 1 and 2 of lot 3, block 1, in Oakland, Ia., \$4,500. John T. Clark and Henry J. Clark, executors, to Mrs. J. H. Clark, lots 1 and 4 of s.w. 34, sec. 5, T. 33 N. and R. 20 W., \$1,000. J. A. Anderson to J. A. Anderson, lots 1 and 2 of s.w. 34, sec. 5, T. 33 N. and R. 20 W., \$1,000.

High School Oratorical Contest. The annual oratorical contest between the Delta Tau and Philanthropic literary societies of the high school will be held Friday evening in the auditorium of the high school building. The medals, the first of gold, the second of silver and the third of bronze, will be awarded to the successful contestants.

The orations will be interspersed with musical selections. There will be a vocal duet by Mrs. Robert Mullis and a Mies Theobald, a vocal solo by Miss Besse Sheehock and a violin solo by C. E. Lauehr.

COURT UNRAVELS A TANGLE Result Is a Farmington Woman Gets Pottawattamie Farms.

END OF LONG MARITAL TROUBLE Congressman Walter I. Smith Files His Petition for Place on Primary Ballot as Candidate for Old Place.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) DES MOINES, April 8.—(Special.)—Out of a labyrinth of marriages, divorces and returns, the supreme court of Iowa has figured it out that Louisa Smith of Farmington, Ia., is entitled to her dower interests and rights in several farms in Pottawattamie county which her late husband sold during their twenty years' desertion of her. Both were married before their marriage again in 1875. Louisa Smith was deserted by her husband, Frank E. Smith, who was married during the twenty years' desertion of the husband. The decision of the supreme court gives to Mrs. Smith the wife's interest in extensive properties.

Louisa Smith married a man named Sylvanders at Farmington in Lee county, in 1872. Three or four months after marriage he deserted her. He went to Burlington, or said he was going there, and never again appeared. Frank E. Smith was then living with a woman named "Nettie," who subsequently left with a traveling man and never appeared again. In 1875 Louisa Smith and Frank E. Smith were married in La Grange, Mo., according to Mrs. Smith's testimony, though there is no record. They lived together as husband and wife at Farmington till 1882, when Smith left, saying he was going to Council Bluffs for a short time. He never reappeared till 1902.

In the meantime Mrs. Smith married a man named Dickinson at Farmington, and he died, leaving her his property. Smith went to Council Bluffs and lived there twenty years. He sold a tract of land to one representing himself as John Smith, and in 1888 he married Ann Norton, and sold subsequently two tracts of land in which she joined in signing the deed. After she died he sold another tract, signing his name as a widower. Subsequently he married Mrs. Scheff, from whom he was divorced in 1902. Then he returned to Farmington and was re-married to his lawful wife, Mrs. Louisa Smith.

There were four suits instituted in the courts by Mrs. Smith to recover her dower rights to the land in Pottawattamie county sold by her husband during his twenty years' absence. Those who bought the lands registered and claimed that Mrs. Smith was never legally married to Smith because the death of her first husband was never proven and that her marriage during Smith's twenty years' absence from her operated against her claim. The district court decided in their favor. The supreme court reversed this today and decided in her favor.

The supreme court holds that Sylvanders was dead after seven years, according to the custom of the courts and the law of Iowa because he never reappeared subsequently to disprove his death. It holds that the marriage of Mrs. Sylvanders and Smith was legal because they lived together and acknowledged each other as husband and wife. That their marriages during the twenty years were illegal because both were living, but that since the spouse of both died this left their relations the same and that they were still legally married and the wife has a dower right to the farm.

In a decision given today the supreme court holds that the city of Webster City in Hamilton county is responsible for injuries to Mrs. C. B. Pace for falling into an open ditch in the street even though a private contracting firm had opened the ditch.

The supreme court reversed the case of the state against Joseph Leslie, appellant, of Pottawattamie county, charged with willful and malicious burning of railroad ties because of an error of the district court in instructing the jury as to the meaning of the word "malicious."

Colonels Fix Dates. Colonels of the Fourth regiment of the Iowa National Guard have been in Des Moines in conference at the office of the adjutant general for the purpose of fixing the dates and making other arrangements for the installation of the Spanish-American war flags in the cases prepared for them.

Smith Files Petition. Congressman Walter I. Smith of the Ninth district today filed his nomination papers to have his name placed on the primary election ballot for the office of congressman from the Ninth district. This probably sets at rest the stories that have been circulated that Allison might be instead of Senator Allison would ultimately be the candidate for United States senator.

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SOUTH OMAHA REPUBLICAN Elects Koutsky Over Hootor for Mayor in Exciting Contest.

ALSO LAND TAX COMMISSIONER Republicans Sweep Everything at Benson and Elect Several Officers at Florence in a Close Fight.

Results at South Omaha. For Mayor: Frank Koutsky, rep., 2,197; Thomas Hootor, dem., 2,119.

For Councilman, First Ward: J. A. King, dem., 2,106. For Councilman, Second Ward: Frank Dvorak, rep., 2,131.

For Councilman, Fourth Ward: Charles B. Offerman, rep., 2,143. For Councilman, Fifth Ward: John Larsen, rep., 2,222.

For Councilman, Sixth Ward: Charles C. Howe, rep., 2,049. For Members of the Board of Education (For Three Years): H. C. Kiddo, rep., 2,869.

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