Ice is an inch thick on several of the ponds in this vicinity.

Bub Michaud returned last evening from a business trip to Berne.

Guess we will hear the clang of sleigh bells before long if this weather continues.

There have been but slight changes in the markets during the course of the past few days.

James Hendricks, of Monroe, was in the city last evening looking after business interests.

Raymond Knoff looked after business interests at Berne yesterday and has returned to the city.

Wait for the announcement of Stele and Weaver in regard to big holiday bargains. They will make it next week.

A large number of men and women are employed at the two poultry houses. They are making ready for the holidays.

WEATHER

Fair, much colder tonight, with cold wave central and north portions; Saturday continued cold.

The moving picture shows are being well patronized at present by the public.

The St. Marys river is again frozen over and the ice men are showing signs of contentment.

D. M. Hensley and Charles Colter last evening returned from a hunting trip in southern Indiana.

There was but little traffic on the interurban or railroads today. Guess the people are snowed under.

The various new county officers are making ready to assume their capacities as servants of the people.

No prowlers have been found about the Haugk stone quarry since the experience of a few mornings ago.

Mrs. J. E. Moser is reported as being somewhat improved today and she now has flattering chances for recovery.

David Studabaker remains about the same today. His vitality will greatly aid in the fight against the dread disease.

Poultry dealers are making a special effort to secure fowls for the holiday demand and they are all working vigorously.

Christmas comes but once a year. Let's all enjoy ourselves to the limit. Just twenty more days until this great holiday.

Every member of the M. E. church choir is urgently requested to be present tomorrow night as special music will be practiced.

Red Beam, of Willshire, returned to his home last evening at Willshire, after making a pleasant visit with friends in the city.

There are many beautiful display windows in the city which are attracting much attention. Decatur has a number of real good window dressers.

The raising of corn in Adams county is the principal feature of the farmers work. They feed the corn to the stock and sell the stock at neat dividends.

As stated before in the Democrat the public schools will close December 24 and reconvene January 4, the intervening period to be the holiday vacation.

The bowling fever seems to have again struck Decatur in its old time popularity. The Palace alleys are quite popular these days, and some good sport is had.

The members of the K. P. lodge are looking forward to the erection of their beautiful new home. The building when completed will be a credit to the city.

There will be a meeting of the stockholders of the Decatur Packing company in the near future, and we may say here that this concern is prospering wonderfully.

While the weather lately has been very inconsistent, yet it seems that winter has set in in dead earnest now and we can begin figuring on some cold weather from now on.

The short session of congress will convene next Monday, and as usual before such sessions, we are told it will be a standpat session. Here's hoping for some good legislation.

The Monroe, Grain, Hay and Milling company doing business in one of the best equipped buildings in this section of the state, is progressing nicely. Manager Oliver is making it a very popular business place.

Decatur sportsmen say they have never known a time when rabbits were more plentiful. As to quail, however, there are but few, the drouth having been responsible for the premature death of the much hunted birds.

Eggs are certainly a luxury. When the much liked hen fruit reaches the coveted mark of 28 and 30 cents the consumer does not regard it as his staff of life. We are told that dealers lock their eggs in their safe during the nights. They are better than gold.

For the first time this winter the people were busy removing snow from their sidewalks. With no evidences of the falling of the frozen element last night, the residents were astonished this morning by seeing several inches of snow. Winter is surely here now, and we are inclined to think that Parson Hicks is right when he forecasts a variety of weather for December.

There is scarcely a person who is not contemplating the purchase of Christmas gifts for their friends. This is a task during the holidays which gladdens hearts and depletes purses. Therefore, it has a double significance. The selection of the presents gives cause for worry, but why worry? Just pay a visit to Decatur stores and your fancies will find a realization. The local merchants have big stocks, prices are reasonable and treatment courteous. Give them a trial.

Raymond Knoff went to Berne this afternoon to make further arrangements to locate a dental office at that place.

E. M. Ray, of Berne, came to the city this morning to look after business interests. He has returned to his home.

The newly elected officers of the Modern Woodmen lodge will be installed at the first meeting night in January.

The scarcity of 1908 wheat has caused the price of flour to reach a fancy figure, with hints to the effect that it will even be higher.

That the Decatur public schools are undergoing unprecedented progress is a fact calling for generous praise. It is good news to everybody.

Business at Decatur institutions continues to thrive. Our manufacturing concerns are on the boom with prospects growing brighter each day.

Bub Michaud is very busy these days at the auditor's office, getting onto the ropes preparatory to assuming charge of the office in January.

David Studabaker, whose condition has been quite serious for several days, was reported greatly improved today, and he should get along nicely from this time on.

The railroads are doing neither a good passenger or freight business at present. There is but little traveling done at present, but business will be good during the holidays.

The skating season is again here and the boys and girls are losing no opportunities to enjoy the same. The snow this morning will probably spoil this sport to a great extent.

Rev. Father L. A. Eberle spent Wednesday and Thursday with Portland friends. Father Eberle was formerly pastor at St. Marys Catholic church, but is now located at Goshen.—Portland Sun.

The local cigar manufacturers are entitled to the support of the people. This has been conclusively proven long ago, but they do not get it to any alarming extent. Let the real live boosters get busy in this line.

That the Krueckeberg family is getting along so well is a remarkable fact. It was expected that some of the members of the family would die from the dread typhoid, but it is not likely that any of the eleven will meet such a fate.

Every Decatur citizen who can possibly arrange to do so, should be in attendance at the Elks' memorial services to be held at the Bosse opera house next Sunday. Able speakers will give addresses and excellent music will be rendered.

Edwin Stevens has resigned his position as clerk at the Hower & Hower grocery and has accepted the position of assistant clerk at the Erie freight house. Edwin is a hustling young man and his many friends will be glad to hear of his success.

The days will still get shorter and shorter until the twentieth of this month, when they will again start to lengthening, the longest day being in June. One of the most disagreeable drawbacks to winter is the short days. Let's sing "In the Good Old Summer Time."

The Elks memorial services to be held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock at the Bosse opera house promise to be well attended, the public being cordially invited. The members of the lodge are requested to meet at the lodge room promptly at 1:30 that they may attend in a body.

There is much talk at present in regard to next year's wheat crop. Some venture that wheat will be poor even with weather conditions favorable henceforth, while others say it has not been materially damaged by the drouth. We will no doubt do like they do in Germany, wait and see.

Messrs. D. B. Erwin, A. H. Sellemeyer and Fred V. Mills, members of the schol board, were visitors at the west ward school yesterday afternoon, and while there sounded the fire alarm. The pupils had been instructed that when the alarm was sounded they were to leave via the new fire escape. This they did and did it gracefully.

Edwin Fledderjohann went to Berne this afternoon on a business session.

J. B. Ray returned to Monroe this afternoon from a business trip to this city.

Ed Vancil went to Monroe this afternoon on his regular business mission.

Prosecutor Henry B. Heller went to Berne this afternoon on professional business.

Ed Green and son, Otto, went to Berne this afternoon to look after business interest.

Mrs. Frank Bell who has been ill for several weeks is considerably improved this afternoon.

J. B. Stoneburner has a very interesting show for tonight. The Black Princess is the title of the film and it is fine.

E. K. Kinney, of New Corydon, was the guest of P. K. Kinney this morning and returned to his home this afternoon.

Miss Nellie Luginbill and Lillian Baumgartner returned to Berne this afternoon after a brief visit with friends in the city.

The regular meeting of the Elks lodge will be held this evening. Mr. William A. Ream, of Peru, district deputy, grand exalted ruler will be present and it is the desire that as many members of the local lodge attend as can possibly do so.

Dr. R. G. Knoff, of Decatur, a graduate of Chicago College of Dental Surgery, arrived here yesterday and has rented rooms and will be permanently located as soon as his office fixtures arrive. Dr. Knoff has had seven years of experience and college training, which should certainly qualify him for his chosen profession.—Berne Witness.

The celebrated Studabaker-Faylor case will soon start on a grind again in the Decatur circuit court, and before it is started all of the present costs, amounting to something like $2,100, will be paid off by the heirs. Most of them have already signed up for their share of the costs and as soon as this is done the case will again be taken up for trial.—Bluffton News.

Dr. Hurty proposes to introduce at the next session of the legislature a bill to prohibit a man taking a chew off of another fellow's plug. That is he must not bite it off, but he must pull his penknife and saw off the amount he needs to fill the cavity. The motive of course, is to thwart any germ that may accrue to they lug. There is a rumor abroad that the scrap tobacco houses are at the bottom of the deal, for not every man who begs his chewing has a knife.