

# DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

Volume XVIII, Number 65

Decatur, Indiana, Wednesday Evening, March 17, 1920.

Price Two Cents

## COUNCIL ANNEXES LAND TO DECATUR

### JOE M'FARLAND TENDERS RESIGNATION TO COUNCIL

### BECOMES EFFECTIVE APRIL FIRST --- ACCEPTS A POSITION WITH WHITE MOUNTAIN CO. --- MARSHAL AND STREET COMMISSIONER GET RAISE.

Joseph D. McFarland, who has served as city treasurer since 1914, last evening tendered his resignation to the common council, it taking effect April first.

Mr. McFarland has already accepted a position as field manager of the White Mountain Dairy company and will have charge of the territory between Decatur and Portland, in the south, Bluffton on the west and Pleasant Mills on the east there being from six to eight field men under him.

Mr. McFarland was elected city treasurer in 1913 and assumed office in January, 1914. He was again re-elected in 1917 and started on his second term January 1st, 1918, and will have served two years and three months on this term when his resignation becomes effective.

Mr. McFarland has been a very efficient and accommodating city official and has at all times considered the best interests of the city in the discharge of his official duties.

The new position which he accepts is of course more remunerative financially than the city treasurer's office, the office paying only one thousand dollars per year, while Mr. McFarland considered as small compared to the present high cost of living and for that reason he accepts a position in the commercial line.

Mayor Yager, with the approval of the council, will appoint a man to act as treasurer for the unexpired term of Mr. McFarland and it is understood that Mayor Yager has already one or two applicants for the office.

**Salaries are Raised**

The city council in regular session last evening, upon obtaining an opinion from the state board of accounts, increased the salaries of Marshal Joel Reynolds from \$75.00 per month to \$100.00, and that of City Street Commissioner Thomas Dowling from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per month, the increase dating from March 15, 1920. City Clerk Dick Christen went to Indianapolis last week and obtained the opinion from the state board that the salaries of these two appointees could be increased during their term of office and before an appropriation was made for the increase. The marshal and street commissioner would have resigned had they not been allowed an increase.

The street and sewer committee was ordered to look after the sidewalks on Maple street and in front of Clark Butcher's property.

Upon the recommendation of Fire Chief Dellinger the council appointed Walter Noak a member of the Decatur fire department, he succeeding Ervin Elzey, who resigned March 1st. Mr. Noak has already started to work and comes under the new scale of wages allowed by the council a few weeks ago.

The clerk was authorized to advertise for bids for the employing of a city contractor for the building of all sidewalks in the city of Decatur. Proposals will be received at the next regular meeting.

Clerk Christen reported that Mr. Erwin had delivered the warranty deed to the city of Decatur for ten lots purchased as a site for the new power plant.

A petition from the General Electric company asking for the right to build a cement sidewalk on the east side of Ninth street was filed and approved and the street and sewer committee recommended that the petition be granted.

The following bills were allowed and the meeting adjourned: Schaefer Hdw. Co., \$87.57; Lorain Coal & Dock Co., \$429.78; Wayne Belting Co., \$49.92; Bass Foundry Co.,

### "PRESIDENT" ISSUES STATEMENT

(United Press Service) Washington, March 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Eamon de Valera, "president of the Irish republic" today issued the following St. Patrick's day statement:

"Sons and daughters of the Gael, wherever you be today in the name of the motherland, greetings.

"Whatever flag be the flag you guard and cherish, it is consistent with your highest duty to band yourselves together, to use your united strength to help break the chains that bind your mother.

"We are at the spear points of the hosts in political slavery. We can be the shafts of dawn for the despairing and wretched everywhere.

"You can so easily accomplish that which is needed. You have only to have the will, the way is clear."

### WAS GRADE NIGHT

Grade Night was Observed at Athletic Hall Last Evening by City Schools

### MANY BATTLES STAGED

Locals Defeat the Bluffton Lads—Many Local Teams Figured in Contests

Grade night at the Athletic hall proved a delightful entertainment for many basketball fans of this city. The grades from the city schools, having full charge of the gym last evening, five basketball games being staged.

The big game of the evening was staged between the local eighth grade boys and the Bluffton eighth grade boys, this being a return game, and of which the local eighth graders proved the winners, defeating the Bluffton lads in an overtime game by a score of nineteen to fifteen, thus tying to Bluffton in their city several months ago. The game was a thriller throughout, opening up with a rush, the visitors leading at the end of the first half by a score of 9 to 7. The visitors continued to lead through the second half until the last few minutes of play when the locals tied the score, making it 15 to 15, and it was necessary to play five minutes overtime for the decision, during which the locals scored two baskets making the score 19 to 15.

In the preliminaries the Crickets won from the Grasshoppers by a score of 8 to 1, and the Third and fourth grades of the North Ward defeated the Third and Fourth grades of the South Ward school by a score of 1 to 2.

A large number of fans were present at the games last evening and enjoyed the excitement, every game proving to be a thriller. The program was quite lengthy one and the fans had more than their share of basketball at this time.

### FIGHT SEEMS HOPELESS

(United Press Service)

Detroit, March 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, commander in chief of the federal battle against the high cost of living, admitted here the fight is a hopeless one.

"The government can combat only the subsidiary causes of the high cost of living," Palmer said. "The main burden rests with the people themselves. If people will spend ten per cent. less and work ten per cent. more prices would drop quickly."

### ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

(United Press Service)

Washington, March 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The presidential campaign must be fought on the big domestic issues of interest to all the people but prohibition and the peace treaty should not be numbered among those issues in the opinion of William J. Bryan as indicated in an interview here today.

"Both parties will put prohibition in their platform and nominate candidates pledged to enforcement of the law," Bryan declared shortly after his arrival. He asserted his appearance in Washington has nothing to do with the peace treaty situation in the senate.

### LABOR CANDIDATE LEADS

(United Press Service)

St. Paul, Minn., March 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—William Mahoney, labor candidate, was given St. Paul's majority nomination for mayor, complete returns show today. Mayor Laurence C. Hodgson was renominated with Mahoney.

### REPORTED THAT VON KAPP IS OUT

News Dispatch States That a Republic Has Been Proclaimed

### SHOW A WILLINGNESS

To Retire — Forces Along the Rhine Sufficient to Meet Emergency

(United Press Service)

London, Mar. 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—A news agency dispatch by way of Copenhagen says the independent, socialist and communists in Berlin have proclaimed a republic and delivered an ultimatum to Dr. von Kapp head of the revolutionary government. Von Kapp replied by establishing martial law, the dispatch said.

The second dispatch quoted a Berlin paper as saying that after the independent, socialist and communists had delivered their ultimatum to von Kapp threatening establishment of a soviet republic, von Kapp and von Luttwitz announced their readiness to retire and to hand over authority to Vice-chancellor von Hulsar.

London, Mar. 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The German revolution, headed by Dr. Wolfgang von Kapp, was believed near its end today.

Dispatches said that von Kapp, faced with growing opposition on all sides and deserted by many supporters had tendered his resignation. There was every indication that the action of the dictator was barely in time to avert widespread civil strife.

Scores of lives have been sacrificed and hundreds of persons wounded. From 400 to 500 persons were killed in Kiel when a cruiser bombarded the city, according to a Kiel dispatch to the Morning Post. The cruiser opened fire when anti-Kapp groups staged a demonstration, the dispatch said. Heavy loss of life was reported in other parts of the nation. Scores were reported to have been killed in clashes in the Berlin, Hamburg and Dresden districts.

Mayence, Mar. 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Marshal Foch and the allied commanders have decided the allied forces now along the Rhine are sufficient to meet any emergency caused by the German revolution. Foch has returned to Paris.

### RAISE BIG SUM FOR BAPTISTS

Decatur Baptists are Organizing to Assist in New World Movement

### SPEAKERS OF NOTE

Will Carry Messages in a Drive Among Churches Over the Country

Members of the Baptist congregation are making preliminary organizations for assisting in the work of the New World Movement of Northern Baptists. The movement is put on by the church both north and south, and the northern division will endeavor to raise the sum of \$100,000,000 for this work. This amount is apportioned to the districts and then to the churches. Each district has its organization, and then such organization is extended to the individual churches in the district, and speakers and workers are sent out in much the same manner as was done in the Liberty Loan and other drives during the war.

The dates fixed for the big drive all over the north are April 25 to May 2.

According to present program, every state, every town and every church in every town will be prepared with a speaker on some phase of the campaign for every church gathering beginning March 14. The roster of speakers is made up of the most prominent

### NO REDUCTION NOW

(United Press Service)

Washington, March 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Federal income taxes cannot be reduced until after 1922. Secretary of the Treasury Houston today informed the house ways and means committee.

He declared, however, that revision of several of the present federal taxes should be made and revenues adjusted to make up for the loss the government will sustain as a result of the supreme court's decision that dividends paid on stock are non-taxable.

To make up for the loss in revenue caused by the supreme court's decision knocking out stock dividends Houston recommended a tax on the undistributed profits of all corporations after January 1, 1921.

Excess profit taxes also cannot be reduced until 1922, the secretary wrote the committee.

### CONTRACTORS HERE

Messrs. Nagel and Geisler, members of a contracting firm at Hamilton, Ohio, are in the city going over the property of the Gordon, Owens, Rentschler Foundry company, and will probably give out their plans tomorrow.

Three more candidates filed their declaration of candidacy for county offices today. They are Martin Jaeger, for auditor; Seph Melchi, for sheriff, and Ira Wagoner for commissioner, second district.

(Continued on Page Two)

### THREATENED WITH DEFEAT

(United Press Service)

Bismarck, N. D., March 17.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The National Non-Partisan League here was threatened with defeat today for the first time in four years. Blizzards throughout the state yesterday interfered with the rural vote in presidential preference primaries and the urban vote was believed to have been in favor of the republican faction opposed to the league.

Senator Hiram Johnson was believed to have received the big vote for a republican nominee, W. J. Bryan's name was the sole entry on the democratic ballot. However, the names of A. Mitchell Palmer, W. G. McAdoo and former Ambassador Gerard were written on many.

### BUY AUTH BLOCK

Joseph & Lang, the Well Known Firm, Now Own Jewelry Store Building

### EXPECT TO REMODEL

Mr. Auth Will Close Out Stock and Refire — Ill Health is Cause

By a deal consummated Tuesday the firm of Joseph & Lang, well known confectioners, become owners of the Paul Auth business block on Second street next to the Vogelewade shoe store. The consideration is not given out at this time by either Mr. Auth or Messrs. Joseph & Lang.

Mr. Auth has been in poor health for some time, and was advised by his physician to get out of the business and take a rest. To do this he decided that he would sell the stock of goods and also the store building and get entirely free so that he would not have any business worries. The stock of goods will be sold out as soon as possible, although he does not have to vacate the room for several months.

Messrs. Joseph & Lang have a lease running two years on the building they now occupy and will remain there until the lease expires. They will, however, remodel their new possession, and hope to lease it until they can occupy it themselves. A new front will be put in and the room made modern in every way.

Mr. Auth has been in the jewelry business here many years. First with his father, and since the father's death a few years ago has conducted the business alone. He is a first-class jeweler and it is with regret that he leaves the business, but his failing health of the last few years has made it necessary that he get away from the business.

### EVERYBODY BOOST

Albert Sellemeyer Willing to Head Organization if There is Interest

Does Decatur want a good city band? Of course we do. And all that is necessary to get the organization is for the citizens of Decatur and those musically inclined to show just a little interest.

The matter has been brought to the attention of Albert Sellemeyer, who has labored faithfully for years to maintain a splendid band in Decatur, and he has consented to take charge of the organization again if he is given the proper support.

There is no reason now why Decatur can not have one of the very best bands in the state. A few years ago a very good aggregation of band musicians were being trained here, and then the war came on and many of the band boys were called to the colors. Now that they are all back home and we have the prospect of becoming one of the best cities in the state, we ought to have a musical organization that corresponds to our growth in every other way. If the organization is completed, which everyone hopes it will be, we will again enjoy the weekly concerts during the summer, and then again, the band will probably appear at many public gatherings and assist in every way to prove to the people, who came here, that we are the liveliest town on the map. Everybody boost.

### SISTER OPERATED UPON

Mrs. George Dutcher this morning received a letter from the family of her sister, the Rev. Jay Dorwin family, located at Tacoma, Wash., in which she was informed that the sister had just undergone a very serious operation for relief from abdominal trouble. Mrs. Dorwin had just come from the influence of the anaesthetic, and her condition was as good as could have been expected at the time of writing. Mr. Dorwin is a Methodist minister, and the family has been in the West eight or ten years.

### ROOT TOWNSHIP LANDS ARE NOW IN CITY LIMITS

### ONE MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE ADDED TO CITY'S VALUATION --- DECATUR WILL BECOME A CITY OF THE FOURTH CLASS AT NEXT ELECTION.

Lands, properties and factories located in Root township having an estimated value of nearly one million dollars were annexed to the city of Decatur last evening by the common council, the report of the street and sewer committee favoring the annexation receiving the unanimous vote of that body.

The tract of land, about a mile in length and a mile or so in width at the extreme north includes the following properties and their valuations:

Lands	Improvements	Personal
Holland St. Louis Sugar Co.	\$4950.00	\$377,250.00
Schafer Saddlery Company	1050.00	6,950.00
Herman Haugh	270.00	730.00
John D. Myers	810.00	110.00
James E. and Emily C. Moses	110.00	940.00
Harve V. Sprague	110.00	840.00
David W. Summers	730.00	1,260.00
Susan Rex	130.00	1,260.00
Alice R. Acker	320.00	3,150.00
Fornax Milling Co.	260.00	1,160.00
Gordon S. Rentschler	1,310.00	7,350.00
John W. Meibers	4,700.00	
Ezra E. Zimmerman	970.00	1,360.00
G. R. & I. R. R. estimated 1 mile of track and land		\$15,000.00
G. R. & I. R. R. estimated one half mile side track		4,000.00
Ft. Wayne Decatur Traction Co., estimated one-fourth mile of track		2,500.00
Estimated value of lands and properties		\$878,308.18

This amount of property will be added to the city's present valuation of \$6,563,670.00 making a total of \$7,441,978.18, only a few thousand dollars less than the required seven and one half million dollar valuation to make Decatur a city of the fourth class.

When the city's valuation reached the required mark it will automatically pass from a fifth class to a fourth class city but the present city government will not change until after the 1921 election. When the General Electric company's and the Decatur Castings company's assessments are added to the city's valuation, Decatur will be beyond the seven and one-half million mark. The General Electric company alone having several thousand dollars' worth of machinery, besides their building which is not included in the above valuation.

The question of annexing this land has been before the council for years and has caused a great deal of interest from time to time. Efforts to annex the land a year or so ago were defeated and the matter was not brought up again until a couple of months ago when the city commenced figuring on the building of the new power plant and the raising of the money by bonds.

It was proposed then to annex the land to the corporate limits, but opinion of the council was somewhat divided on the matter and the question was tabled. A few weeks ago the Decatur Industrial association went on record as being against the project, but when Mr. Rentschler of the Decatur Castings company, our newest industry, expressed the desire to be taken into the city limits, the objection was somewhat overcome and the council acted accordingly.

By the annexation the city of Decatur must assume a part of the debt in Root township. Root township now has a debt of about sixty thousand dollars and it is estimated that Decatur will assume about fifteen or sixteen per cent. of this amount which would be between nine and ten thousand dollars. The factories, property and owners coming into the city limits will be required to pay the city tax rate which is now two dollars on each one hundred dollars' valuation. The rate in Root township is only ninety cents on the hundred dollars, making quite a difference to the taxpayer. In return the factories and property owners are entitled to every convenience, such as fire protection, electrical current, water, etc., at the disposal of the city.

The report of the street and sewer committee favoring the annexation

(Continued on Page Two)