

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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Price 2 Cents.

SENATE SUSTAINS POSTAL PAY VETO

FIRE LOSS IN CITY IN 1924 WAS \$36,394

Annual Report Made By Fire Chief Amos Fisher; 27 Fires

ONLY ONE BIG LOSS Forax Mill Fire Was Most Costly; Buildings Well Insured

CAUSES OF FIRES	
Thawing pipes	2
Sparks from chimney	11
Overheated stoves	2
Children playing with fire	2
Gil stove explosion	2
Spontaneous combustion	2
Burning paper in alley	1
Sparks from locomotive	1
Cigarette smoking	1
Overheated chimneys	1
Defective wiring	1
Unknown	1

According to the annual report of Fire Chief Amos Fisher, 27 fires occurred in Decatur during 1924, entailing a loss estimated by the Fire Chief at \$36,394. According to the Chief's report, sparks from chimneys caused the greatest number of fires. Only one fire was listed as of "unknown origin."

No false alarms were sent in during the year. The fire which caused the largest loss of any during the year was the Forax Milling company, which loss was estimated by the Fire Chief at \$25,000. Had it not been for this one fire the loss would have been comparatively small. Several years ago the fire loss in Decatur was only \$1,300, one of the lowest losses in the state.

The local department also answered eight calls to the country during the year with the new truck and pumper. The loss to these properties is not given, the city not having jurisdiction over them. The city charged \$161 for these runs and has received \$95.

From the report it is shown that the local firemen did excellent work when called upon. The estimated value of the buildings and contents endangered by fire is placed at \$100,496, while the actual loss is only about one-third that amount. The loss on buildings is given at \$27,154 and the owners carry a good amount of insurance, the report showing that \$93,100 worth of insurance was carried on the property on fire.

NEW BOOK BY MRS. PORTER

Famous Indiana Authoress Had Finished New Book Just Before Death

C. D. Porter, husband of the late Gene Stratton-Porter, former Adams county woman and noted Indiana authoress who was killed in Los Angeles, on December 6, last, when a street car struck the automobile in which she was riding, writes to French Quinn of this city, informing him that Mrs. Porter had completed a new book, "The Keeper of the Bees," just two weeks before her death. Mr. Porter left for Los Angeles immediately upon receipt of word of his wife's injuries.

Mrs. Porter's body has been placed in a Museum at Hollywood, California, and will rest there until Mr. Porter and daughter determine upon a final resting place for the noted woman.

Mr. Porter informed Mr. Quinn that the new book would be published in serial form in McCall's magazine, beginning with the February number and that it would make its appearance in book form on August 17 of this year.

Mr. Porter's daughter and children will make their home in Los Angeles and he will spend the winter with them, returning to this country early in the spring.

Express Company Buys Truck; Dobbin Is Retired

The American Railway Express company in this city, at last, has decided to motorize its delivery system and retire Old Dobbin. A new Ford delivery truck was purchased a few days ago and is now in service. The delivery system was speeded up to such an extent by the purchase of the truck that it was possible for the company to reduce its number of employees by one man. The company used horses and bobsleds during the Christmas rush. Robert Kriek is driving the new truck.

ARCHBISHOP DIES OF HEART ATTACK

Most Rev. Henry Moeller Dies Suddenly At His Home In Ohio

Cincinnati, Jan. 6.—Most Rev. Henry Moeller, archbishop of the Cincinnati province of the Roman Catholic church, comprising the states of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and part of Michigan, died suddenly at his home in Norwood, at 10:30 o'clock last night. He was 75 years old.

Archbishop Moeller's death was due indirectly to an attack of grippe which followed his observance of the Christmas midnight mass at St. Peter's cathedral. The direct cause was heart attack, which crept upon him soon after he had finished the evening meal at his home.

His death was entirely unexpected and came as a great shock. The archbishop had spent the afternoon in conference with members of the St. Joseph sisters of charity at Delhi, apparently in the best of health. He had been ill on several occasions recently and shortly after the celebration of the midnight mass at St. Peter's Christmas day, he suffered an attack of grippe. This attack, however, was not severe and he was not confined to his bed, although he remained in his home for several days.

Since Wednesday Archbishop Moeller had been attending to his duties as usual, going to his office daily and carrying on the regular duties of his position. After the conference Monday afternoon at Delhi he returned to his home and dined. About two hours later he complained of feeling bad and a physician was summoned.

The archbishop suffered a heart attack. Seeing that the end was near, Monsignor Louis Nau, president of the Mt. St. Mary Seminary, which is next door, administered the last sacraments. The archbishop died within half an hour.

Archbishop Moeller was known to the Rev. J. A. Seimetz and Rev. Otto Peters and to several of the laity in this city. He officiated at the funeral services held for the late Rt. Rev. Bishop Herman J. Alerding, of Fort Wayne, about a month ago and was the guest of Rev. Thomas M. Conroy, rector of the Cathedral at Fort Wayne. He observed his 75th birthday on December 11.

Reward Offered For Arrest Of Fur Thieves

The Maier Hide & Fur Company announced today that the company would pay a reward of \$25 to anyone who furnished information leading to the arrest and conviction of the parties who broke into the company's warehouse and stole furs valued at approximately \$100, Sunday night. The police are working on the case, but so far have no tangible clues.

Recommends Increase In State Gasoline Tax

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE) Indianapolis, Jan. 6.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—An increase of one cent in the state gasoline tax was recommended today by the Motor Bus Association at the closing session of its annual convention. H. E. Jahns, of Laporte, was re-elected president.

TO HOLD ROAD MEETING HERE FRIDAY NIGHT

Proposed Improvement Of Fort Wayne Road To Be Explained

TO SERVE SUPPER

Business Men Will Co-Operate With Land Owners To Get Right-of-way

Avon Burk, president of the Decatur Association, held a meeting of the local road committee last evening at which time it was decided to give a supper at the Industrial rooms Friday evening of this week, at which time all property owners along the proposed right-of-way for the Decatur to Fort Wayne highway, will be urged to be present to hear Mr. Simons and M. Lee of the state highway department tell about the proposed improvement of the road.

A committee including Cal E. Peterson, M. Kirsch, C. S. Niblick and J. W. Tyndall will cover the route tomorrow and extend a personal invitation to each land owner between here and the Allen county line, to be present at the supper. If the right-of-way for a fifty-foot highway can be secured by February 1, the improvement will be made this year, the contract to be let before March 1. Representatives of the state commission will answer all questions Friday evening and will give the details of the work as planned.

Those who attended the meeting last night were Mr. Burk, J. T. Myers, Dr. Roy Archbold, Cal Peterson, J. W. Tyndall, W. A. Lower, C. A. Dugan and J. H. Heller. The supper will be

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DAILY DEMOCRAT ENJOYS GROWTH

Number Of Readers Grows From 800, At Start In 1903, To 3,500

Twenty-two years ago we were busy with preparations to launch the Daily Democrat and the first edition appeared January 12, 1903. It was set by hand and we were mighty proud of that first number which we felt would meet the demands of the people. We started with 800 subscribers and within a few months increased that to a total of 1,800. Since then there has been a steady growth of the family of readers until now they number 3,500. Support has been splendid during all these years and while we have not grown rich, we have had the satisfaction of paying our bills and improving our plant by the addition of linotypes, a new press and other equipment necessary to the modern newspaper. We have arranged outside connections which give markets, state and national news and the items which we feel are of greatest interest to our readers.

Since 1910 it has been our custom each January to urge a renewal of mail subscriptions, a plan that has proved most satisfactory to every one and permits us to plan for the year and to improve and make our columns more readable. We believe a community is just as good as its newspapers and no better, for by it we are judged by the outside. A snappy newspaper entertains every member of the family, gives you valuable information, keeps you posted on affairs of your community and the day. The way to have it is to continue your support for your home paper, give us suggestions, send in news items and RENEW NOW.

Portland Car Wrecked North Of This City

An automobile driven by Dallas Houser, of Portland, turned over on the Decatur-Fort Wayne road, about six miles north of this city, last Saturday evening. None of the occupants were seriously injured. Those in the car were Dallas and Orville Houser, of Portland, and Mrs. Esmond Houser and small son, Jay, of Fort Wayne. The driver stated that a car approaching from the opposite direction failed to give half the road an din turning out to avoid a collision, Mr. Houser's car struck a deep rut and was overturned. The driver of the other car assisted the occupants of the wrecked car in freeing themselves from the wreck.

WILL LET ROAD CONTRACT FEB. 3

Commissioners Will Have St. Marys Township Road Improved

Bids for the construction of the Charles Schenck road in St. Marys township will be received by the board of county commissioners on Tuesday, February 3. This road will be one of the few to be constructed in Adams county this year.

In those townships where roads are wanted, the bonded indebtedness is beyond the two per cent limit and it will be impossible to build roads this year. In those townships where a credit exists for the road building, no petitions have been filed, except for the Schenck road in St. Marys township.

The county commissioners before adjourning yesterday awarded the contracts for furnishing supplies at the county infirmary for the next three months. The successful bidders were: Giles V. Porter, groceries, \$123.04; Fisher & Harris, tobacco, \$28.40; Niblick & Co., dry goods, \$85.91; Holthouse-Schulte Co., clothing, \$54.30; Lee Hardware company, hardware, \$45.50; Miller's Bakery, bread, 9 cents per loaf, an increase of one cent over former price; Burk Elevator Co., clover seed, \$126.80. The commissioners adjourned last evening and will not meet again until February 2.

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FIX PRICE FOR BANQUET TICKETS

Price Of Tickets For Industrial Association Banquet Fixed At 75¢

Walt Johnson, Fred Kolter and Will O'Brien, the committee appointed to complete plans for giving the dinner at the annual meeting of the Decatur Industrial Association on Monday evening, January 12, stated this morning that tickets for the dinner will be sold at 75 cents each.

The exact place for holding the meeting has not yet been fixed, but it is thought that it will be held at the K. of C. hall. The headquarters of the Industrial Association cannot accommodate more than 75 men at the tables and it is thought that more than 100 will attend the meeting. The meeting promises to be one of the most interesting of the year. In connection with other business, three directors of the Association will be elected and certain projects in the 1925 program will be adopted.

The committee will decide on the place for holding the meeting as soon as they find out how fast the tickets are selling for the dinner.

CHICAGO GRAIN CLOSE

Wheat: May \$1.78; July \$1.54%. Corn: May \$1.27%; July \$1.28%. Oats: May 61 1/2¢; July 61¢.

Weather

Generally fair south portion, unsettled in north portion tonight and Wednesday with possibly some snow. Warmer tonight.

LEGISLATORS PREPARE FOR 1925 SESSION

Gather At Capital For Causes Preliminary To Opening

SPEAKERSHIP RACE

Two Candidates Claim Strong Support In Race For Office

Indianapolis, Jan. 6.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The \$19,000,000 appropriations asked by state institutions will be slashed to the bone, Walter Chambers, democratic senator and member of the state budget committee declared today.

Chamber said there was some sentiment in favor of putting the state institutions on the 1921 maintenance basis.

Chamber said members of the committee were giving serious consideration to every measure which would help cut institutional appropriations down to around the even million dollar part.

Total appropriations of \$19,160,457 were asked, an increase of \$7,387,477 over the 1923 appropriations which in turn were an increase of \$2,000,000 over the 1921 appropriations.

Indianapolis, Jan. 6.—Members of the senate and house were gathering here today for causes preliminary to the opening of the 1925 session of the state legislature Thursday.

Harry Leslie, of Lafayette, candidate for the speakership of the house, opened headquarters at the Hotel Sevier to conduct his race. Leslie is claimed by his friends to have the speakership practically sewed up.

George Freeman, of Kokomo, another candidate for the speakership, was also to open headquarters today, while half a dozen aspirants were due to begin active campaigning.

In the senate the race for president

(Continued on page two)

POSTOFFICE HAS GAIN IN RECEIPTS

Receipts At Local Office For 1924 Are \$236.68 More Than In 1923

The Decatur postoffice continued to show a gain in business over previous years during 1924, the total receipts amounting to \$27,371.88. This is an increase of \$236.68 over the 1923 record of \$27,035.20.

The Christmas business this year was one of the heaviest ever known in the history of the local office. The last few days were record breakers and on the Monday before Christmas the sale of stamps at the local office amounted to \$480.00. The sending of Christmas greeting cards in recent years has greatly increased the Christmas rush. It is estimated that several thousand cards were mailed from the local office during the last three or four days before Christmas.

Postmaster Harry Fritzinger has forwarded his annual report to the department at Washington. Local postal post shipments have also increased greatly in recent years and the Decatur office is a busy place the year around.

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To Settle Alienation Suit Out Of Court

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE) Chicago, Jan. 6.—The \$500,000 alienation suit against Cyrus H. McCormick, headed of the International Harvester company, will be settled out of court. Counsel for Edwin H. Jacobs, the plaintiff, announced today. McCormick's attorney said no agreement had been made.

"Coon" Hunt To Be Held At Reiffsburg Saturday

A "coon" hunt will be held in the vicinity of Reiffsburg, Indiana, six miles south of Bluffton or ten miles west of Berne, on Saturday, January 10. The dogs will start on the trail promptly at 1:30 p. m. according to present plans. Two prizes are offered namely, \$10 and \$5. Owing to the weather condition many dogs were not entered in a chase held there recently, so it was decided to hold another chase. Anyone having a good dog is invited to attend and enter his dog in the chase. Further information concerning the chase may be obtained by calling the Reiffsburg garage.

DAMAGE CASE MOVES SLOWLY

Likely Not To Go To Jury Before Late Wednesday Afternoon

The damage suit of Edward Fennig against the Linn Grove Light and Power company, which went on trial in the circuit court Monday morning, is proceeding slowly. The case will not be completed today and it likely will occupy most of Wednesday.

Mr. Fennig was on the stand this morning. He is a house mover and he alleges that he was seriously burned and shocked when he came in contact with one of the defendant's power lines, carrying a current of 6,600 volts. Mr. Fennig claims that he was on top of a house, which he was moving in the vicinity of Berne on June 27, 1921, and when he attempted to lift the telephone wires over the house the wires touched the power lines and a current passed through his body, throwing him on the house. He alleges that the light wires were not properly insulated.

Mr. Fennig testified this morning that he lost the power of memory for several weeks, and that he does not remember what happened for several hours before the accident until several weeks afterwards. He is seeking \$10,000 for his injuries, which he claims are permanent.

The defense attempted to show this morning that Mr. Fennig was not permanently injured by introducing evidence to show that he had been performing the same work recently that he performed before the accident. Mr. Fennig declared that he could not do as much now as he could prior to the accident and that his shoulder and arm pained him some now. Mr. Fennig resides six miles east of Geneva. He is the father of eleven children.

The case probably will not go to the jury before Wednesday afternoon. Evidence for the defense was being presented this afternoon. The plaintiff rested his case shortly before noon.

Banking Classes To Hold First Meeting Tonight

The first meeting of the classes of the American Institute of Banking, recently organized here, will be held this evening in the Catholic school building. The class in English will meet at 6:30 o'clock and the class in Banking will meet one hour later. Sister M.