

# DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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## RIGHT OF WAY SECURED FOR HIGHWAY

### COUNTY TAXES FOR 1925 ARE \$945,800.49

Taxes Payable This Year Are \$12,718.87 Higher Than 1924 Taxes

### VALUATION IS LOWER

Payment of Spring Installment of Taxes Has Not Started Yet

Taxpayers in Adams County, numbering about 10,000, will pay a total of \$945,800.49 in taxes during 1925, on an assessed net valuation of property of \$40,485,730.00. The taxes to be collected during 1925 total \$12,718.87 more than the 1924 taxes.

The valuation of the taxable property in the county this year is \$527,970.00 less than a year ago, a loss being made in the personal property assessments and in the state's assessments of railroads, utilities, etc. In 1923 the taxes payable in 1924 amounted to \$932,081.62 of which, \$6,487.22 were delinquent taxes. Of the taxes for 1924, payable this year, \$8,118.22 represent the delinquent taxes.

#### The Valuations

The total valuation of assessable property in the county would be \$1,444,560.00 higher if it were not for the mortgage exemptions which are on file. The mortgage exemptions, deductible from the assessment of real estate and improvements thereon, amount to \$1,444,560.00.

The real estate lands and lots in the county, are assessed at \$21,695,690.00. The improvements thereon are assessed at \$6,890,990.00, making a total of \$28,576,680.00. From this total the amount of mortgages are deducted leaving a net valuation of \$27,142,220.00.

The above assessment is added to the state's assessment of railroads and utilities of \$5,964,330.00, and the personal property assessments in the county of \$7,379,280.00, making the grand total of \$40,485,730.00, net.

County Auditor Martin Jaber prepared the abstract sheet of taxables in the county and the state board has approved his figures. The spring payment of taxes has not yet started at the county treasurer's office, taxpayers having until May 4, to pay their taxes without the 10 per cent. penalty being added.

#### CHICAGO GRAIN CLOSE

Wheat—May, \$1.84 1-8; July, \$1.58 1-4; Sept. \$1.47 1-8. Corn—May, \$1.32 3-4; Sept. \$1.32 7-8. Oats—May, 61 1-8; July, 61 7-8c; Sept. 59c.

### EX-SERVICE MEN ENJOY BANQUET

Splendid Talks Given; Newly Elected Officers Are Installed

An enjoyable evening was spent by the ex-service men of the community last night at the annual banquet of the Adams Post No. 43 of the American Legion, and about thirty-five men attended. Clarence Herber, retiring commander of the post, presided as toastmaster.

French Quinn gave an interesting talk on the American Constitution and Dr. Harry O. Jones, of Berne, delivered a peppy talk on the Legion. Joseph C. Laurent gave an interesting history of the local post.

Following the banquet the newly elected officers of the post were installed. The new officers are: Joseph McConnell, commander; Chancy Brokaw, first vice-president; Joseph Brennan, second vice-commander; Leo E. Ehinger, adjutant; Vernon Ahrand, finance officer; Clarence Herber, chaplain; Peter Gallogly, sergeant at arms; Joseph C. Laurent, Ray Gass and Clarence Smith, members of the executive committee.

### Col. Garten Leaves



Col. Earl Gartin

### LEGISLATURE HOLDS SHORT SESSION TODAY

Adjourn To Give Committees Time To Make Reports On Measures

### NEW BILL INTRODUCED

Bill Would Give More Power To Public Service Commission

UNITED PRESS SERVICE

Indrapur, Jan. 15.—More power to the public service commission in the enforcement of its rate orders to the larger public utilities in Indiana was sought in a bill introduced in the senate today by Senator Barker of Thorntown.

The bill would prevent the appeal by utilities to the United States district court from orders made by the commission. It is aimed particularly at rate increases such as was granted the Indiana Bell Telephone Co., in many cities throughout the state through appealing to the district court.

The bill would require appeals to be made only to the state courts and from the state courts to the United States supreme court.

Both houses of the legislature held short sessions this morning and adjourned until tomorrow morning to give committees plenty of time to make reports on bills that have been introduced.

The administration bill providing for revaluation of all real estate in Indiana in 1925 and every four years thereafter was reported favorably out of the senate finance committee and now goes to second reading. The same bill was introduced in the house by representative Claypool this morning.

Favorable action was taken by the senate committee on public health of the senate English bill making the sale of food or drinks containing wood alcohol a misdemeanor.

State, township, city and county of officials would be prevented from getting increases in their salaries during their term of office under a bill introduced by Senator Shirley.

The administration bill to provide additional safe guards for depositors and stockholders of state banks and trust companies was introduced by Senator Southworth of Lafayette.

Relations between Slump and the president have not always been smooth.

### WREN ROBBERY SUSPECT HELD

### Roy F. Comer, Who Broke Jail At Marion, Caught At Roanoke

Roy F. Comer, 28, of Fort Wayne, who is wanted at Van Wert, Ohio, for the holdup and robbery of Mr. and Mrs. John Harmon, aged couple residing near Wren, Ohio, and in Marion, Indiana for the robbery of a Standard Oil Company gasoline filling station and who escaped from the Grant county jail at Marion on August 7, was arrested at Roanoke yesterday and returned to Marion.

Comer was arrested in Fort Wayne last June after a spectacular chase in which he jumped through a second-story window at the home of his mother where he had been in hiding. After his capture he was taken to Marion to await trial on the filling station robbery charge, but escaped from jail on August 7, leaving behind a note, in which he chided the jail attaches for their laxity. He was hunted in Fort Wayne several weeks ago, police having been informed that he was implicated in the robbery of the Upland bank last month. However, it was since learned that he has been in Los Angeles, since his escape from the Marion jail.

He was placed under arrest yesterday by deputies from the office of the Huntington county jail. He said that a defective wire might have started the blaze.

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### Canadian Radio Station Spoils Snodgrass Program

Radio fans throughout the country had difficulty in getting proper reception of the final piano recital of Harry M. Snodgrass, at station WOS, Jefferson City, Missouri, last night, due to the fact that station CNRO, at Ottawa, Canada, was broadcasting on the same wave length as station WOS during the program. It was impossible to tune in either station successfully while both were on the air. The Canadian station signed off about 11 o'clock and station WOS came in good after that. United States radio officials attempted to correct the difficulty last night, but the operators of the Canadian station refused to get off the air, stating that they were licensed to operate on that wave length. The matter will have to be adjusted internationally.

### SEMP WILL RESIGN MAR. 4

### President's Secretary to Resign Post; May Accept New Appointment

UNITED PRESS SERVICE

Washington, Jan. 15.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—C. Bascom Slump, secretary to President Coolidge, will resign March 4, it was authoritative learned at the white house today.

Slump refused either to confirm or deny the statement personally until he has had a chance to confer with the president.

Everett Sanders, representative from Indiana, whose term expires March 4, will succeed Slump, it was indicated.

Slump may accept some official or diplomatic appointment on retirement from the White House, but it is understood that he chiefly desires to resume direction of his business enterprises, which include huge coal properties.

It was thought that after presiding over Mr. Coolidge's campaign destinies, Slump would probably receive a cabinet appointment if the president were re-elected. Recent developments in reorganizing the cabinet apparently have dispelled the prospect of such advancement and some believe that Slump's withdrawal is in connection with disappointment to secure Coolidge's consideration for high office.

Relations between Slump and the president have not always been smooth.

### Firemen Enjoyed Chicken Supper At City Hall

Sixteen of the regular and volunteer firemen enjoyed a chicken dinner in the basement of the city hall last evening. A fine dinner was prepared and the boys had a good time. Fire Chief Amos Fisher and others made short talks and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed.

### Sen. Saunders Placed On Senate Committee

Indianapolis, Jan. 15.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Senator Saunders, of Bluffton, Indiana, will serve on the senate judiciary and senate morals committees during the present session of the legislature in addition to the committees to which he was assigned Wednesday, it was announced today.

### EXTRA

You can't afford to be without the Decatur Daily Democrat for less than 1c a day by mail.

#### RENEW

Your subscription to 1926 and keep posted on what's happening in and around Adams Count, State and Nation.

### Weather

Cloudy with snow in north portion and rain or snow in south portion beginning late tonight or Friday. Rising temperature.

### MAN HELD FOR ALLEGED ATTACK ON YOUNG GIRLS

Hugo Zurber, Who Jumped Bond Several Months Ago, Arrested Again

### HELD IN JAIL HERE

Bond Fixed At \$2,000; Denies Serious Charge Placed Against Him

Hugo Zurber, who was arrested here a year and a half ago for assaulting two young school girls near Monmouth with criminal intent, and who later disappeared forfeiting a bond of \$800, was arrested again yesterday evening near Fort Wayne by Sheriff John Baker, and is now confined in the Adams county jail. His bond has been fixed at \$2,000.

Zurber disappeared shortly before his case was scheduled to come up for trial several months ago and until a few days ago, local authorities were unable to locate him. Recently the local officers learned that Zurber was married and was living a few miles west of Fort Wayne. The case against Zurber was placed on the docket again and a warrant issued for his arrest.

When brought before Judge Sutton in circuit court this forenoon, Zurber asked for more time in which to enter a plea to the charge. However, he declared he was innocent. It was said that he was seeking to have the amount of his bond lowered. He was accompanied into court this morning by his wife and parents, who reside near Hesse Castle, on the Decatur-Fort Wayne road.

Zurber was identified by two young girls as the man who attacked them one morning on their way to school at Monmouth. They claimed that he stopped them as they were walking along the road and asked them to ride with him in his car. Later he made indecent exposures before them, they said, and attacked them, but they succeeded in freeing themselves. Zurber later was arrested at the home of a relative at Wilshire, Ohio.

### CITY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEET

### Plan Work For Second Semester; Issue Grade Cards Tomorrow

The grade teachers in the city schools held meetings this afternoon to discuss the work of the second semester which will open Monday morning. Teachers of the different grades held separate meetings.

All pupils of the city schools, both grade and high school, will meet at their respective school building at 1:15 o'clock Friday afternoon to receive their grade cards. Re-organization for the second semester will take place during Friday afternoon, also. The pupils and their parents are asked to wait until Monday to purchase the new books, needed, however, some changes may be necessary, before the semester gets under way.

The first semester examinations were held in the city schools on Monday and Tuesday of this week. There was no school yesterday or today, the teachers being engaged in grading the manuscripts and filling out the grade cards.

There will be about thirty-six pupils graduated from the eighth grade at the Central school this semester and will begin their work in high school Monday. This will increase the high school enrollment to 270 or more. The total enrollment in the city schools at the opening of the first semester was 996 and it is thought that the figures may reach 1,000 with the return of a few former pupils at the start of the second semester.

### "KING OF IVORIES"



Harry M. Snodgrass

Jefferson City, Mo. Jan. 14.—Harry M. Snodgrass, a convict in the Missouri state penitentiary at Jefferson City, who recently won the title of "the most popular radio entertainer" in a radio station WOS, in this city, and on Friday will be released from prison.

Radio fans throughout the nation sent gifts and best wishes to Snodgrass and last night it was announced that total of \$3,587.35 in cash besides hundreds of gifts in merchandise, had been sent to him by his admirers. Snodgrass made a short talk over the radio last night, accepting the gifts and expressing his appreciation. He gave his pledge that he would "go straight."

"The King of the Ivories," as he is familiarly known, was sent to prison for three years for a robbery in St. Louis. He has a wife and an 8-year-old son awaiting him. He has accepted a contract with a vaudeville company, calling for a salary of \$1,000 a week, and will begin his vaudeville career at Evansville, Indiana, January 18. He stated last night that he would broadcast in the future from various stations when opportunity presents itself.

### MORE DONATED TO RADIO FUND

### Total of \$11 Added to Fund To Purchase Radio Sets For Blind

A total of \$11 was added to the fund being raised here to purchase radio receiving sets for the blind residents of the city, making a grand total of \$88.25. The sum of \$77.25 was contributed at the annual meeting and banquet of the Decatur Industrial Association Monday night.

The fund has a nice start, but much more must be contributed before the plan can be carried out, as there are at least six blind residents of the city. The General Electric factory and other manufacturing concerns of the city will be visited within the next few days and the employees and official solicited for contributions.

The plan has met with approval almost on every hand and it is thought that the fund will swell to a few hundred dollars within a short time. Charles H. Colter and R. J. Harting are the leaders in the movement. The new contributors to the fund are: Previous total ..... \$77.25 R. J. Harting ..... 5.00 M. J. Wertzberger ..... 1.00 Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Erwin ..... 2.00 Curley Strand, Ft. Wayne ..... 1.00 Henry Meyer, Bluffton ..... 2.00 Total ..... \$88.25

Dorothy Ellington, aged 16, confessed today that she shot her mother to death because of parental opposition to the gay life she desired to lead, police announced.

### IMPROVEMENT OF FORT WAYNE ROAD ASSURED

All Land Owners Along Route Sign Easements For Right-of-Way

### UP TO STATE NOW

Contract Expected To Be Let Soon And Road Improved This Year

It's up to the state highway commission to complete the road improvement from this city north.

The committee in charge of securing the easements which give the state the privilege to proceed with the construction of the highway and provides a fifty-foot privilege for same, reported at noon today that every land owner had signed the necessary papers. The work was speedily done and a better record of co-operation was never made in this section.

Those who have signed, here and the county line and which includes every property owner in the eight miles except those in Monmouth with whom the state commission will deal direct, are: Anna Moltz et al, Mrs. B. Beckmeyer, A. J. Smith, Mrs. C. D. Kunkle, Fanny D. Dugan, C. A. Dugan, S. B. Fordyce, D. M. Rice, Phil L. Scheiferstine, C. H. Harkless, William H. Bultemeier, Henry C. Berning, Theodore Droege, Henry Dirkson, William F. Hobrock, Henry Wiemeyer, Henry Heckman; Herman Schroeder, Herman Malland, Martin Auman, trustees of St. John's church; Henry L. Oetting, Louise Kleine, Minnie Kleine, Sophia Scheiferstine.

The committee in charge of the canvas was composed of Cal E. Peterson, Enau Lankau, C. D. Kunkle, William Hobrock, Henry Berning and J. H. Heller. The report was forwarded to the state highway commission with the easements which will be filed there. It is expected that the contract for the road construction and the bridges will be let next month and that work will start early in the spring. Mr. Slinoff, district superintendent, who was here this morning, says that a number of contractors are seeking the job, the contract to include all the work to be done in this district during the year. It is also reported that some advancement has been made on the work of securing the right-of-ways in Allen

### BIG SUM SPENT FOR EDUCATION

Sixty Per Cent Of Taxes Go To Schools And Roads In County

More than sixty per cent of the \$945,800.49 of the 1924 taxes, payable in 1925, by the taxpayers of Adams County will spend \$293,601.82 for school purposes this year. The tuition total \$133,966.74 and the special school fund, \$159,635.08.

A total of \$286,377.51 was spent for road maintenance and road building during 1924. The township levied \$8,258.50 for the upkeep of the dirt roads, the county gravel road repair fund totals, \$101,214.30 and the levy for the gravel road bonds and the payment of interest thereon totals, \$176,904.71.

The two funds added together make (Continued on Page Six)