

Decatur, Indiana, Saturday, September 8, 1928.

DECATUR INDUSTRIES ARE FLOURISHING

PRODUCTS OF LOCAL FIRMS WIDELY KNOWN

Approximately 1,400 Persons Employed in Local Manufacturing Concerns

ANNUAL PAYROLL
ABOUT \$1,200,000

Although Adams county is in one of the leading and most progressive agricultural communities in the central west, Decatur, the county seat, can boast of as fine a group of manufacturing concerns of any city of its size in the country. Several of the local manufacturing concerns are not only nationally but internationally known. The several factories and industries employ more than 1,400 persons and it is estimated that the annual payroll is more than \$1,200,000.

A few of the manufacturing plants are distinctive in the article or product produced by them.

Sugar Factory
The Holland-St. Louis Sugar factory, now owned by the large Continental Sugar company, with general offices in Toledo, Ohio, is the only beet sugar plant in Indiana. It employs more than 300 persons during the sugar-making campaign, which opens in October and runs until about the first of the year. Approximately 18,000,000 pounds of beet sugar are made at the local plant yearly, thus giving Decatur the name of the "Sweet City." The Sugar factory was opened in Decatur in 1912, during the first Old Home Week

General Electric Plant
The Decatur plant of the General Electric company gives employment to the largest number of men and women of any plant in the city. Between 400 and 500 persons are employed at the G. E. factory. The plant manufactures fractional horsepower motors and, since its establishment here in 1920, has been running steadily. It is one of the model plants owned by the nationally known General Electric company and its management is made up of local men, Eno Lankenau, being the resident plant manager.

Handle Factory
The LaFontaine Handle company, makers of small farm implement handles, enjoys an international reputation and patronage. The company exports considerable of its finished product to England and Canada and has been one of the progressive industries in this community. C. E. Bell, of this city, is president of the company and he is associated with A. L. Frame, of Fort Wayne.

Casting Plant
The Decatur Castings company, which is located in the north part of the city, in the building formerly occupied by the old Ward Fence company and the Alfa Products company, is one of the growing and substantial manufacturing plants in the city. It employs between 150 and 185 men and specializes in making grey iron castings, the castings being sold to a number of the leading industries in the country. James Cowan is the resident manager of the company. It was located here in 1920.

Packing Company
The Mutschler Packing company is one of the successful local industries, owned and managed by local people. Fred Mutschler and sons, Albert and Edgar, and Ben Schroyer, son-in-law of Mr. Mutschler took charge of the plant, formerly operated by the Decatur Packing company, and since the very first day they took charge of its management,

the business has been a success. The plant has practically been rebuilt, new and modern machinery installed and the place offers this community a ready and cash market for their cattle, hogs and livestock. It employs about 75 persons and, besides the meat packing business, manufactures all the artificial ice used in Decatur and the surrounding community. It maintains a daily truck service in the delivery of fresh meats to its many meat market customers in this section of the state.

Cloverleaf Creameries
The Cloverleaf Creameries, Inc., with large plants in this city and at Huntington, has opened for the farmers and dairymen of this community one of the best cash markets for cream and butterfat of any section in the state. Since its meager beginning in this city in 1914, it has grown to be one of the largest and best known creameries in the central west. Starting in a little one-story cement block building on First street, the Creamery company, within a year, built the first unit of its large and modern plant on Winchester street. Two years ago, the opening of an addition and the installation of new and modern machinery was the occasion of a big dairy day celebration. W. A. Klepper, the general manager and vice-president of the company, became affiliated with the company, originally started by E. L. Martin, of Huntington, and at the present the president of the organization, has seen the business grow from a small cream station to a mammoth concern. Through his untiring efforts much of the success of the business is due. N. R. Holthouse, of this city, is the secretary of the company and Heber Humbarger, is the local plant superintendent. The company manufactures about 6,000,000 pounds of butter a year and employs several hundred men and women in its plants and at cream buying stations.

Tile Factory
The Krick-Tyndall Tile company is

one of the oldest and best known plants of its kind in the country. For offices in this city, giving employment to many people and providing a market for timber.

Ice-Cream Factory
The Conter Ice Cream company is one of the well-known concerns in this city, the business being under the management of France Conter, son of H. L. Conter, of Gary, who purchased the business originally from the late J. W. Place, one of the best known men in Decatur. The company manufactures ice-cream and soft drinks, having several soft drinks of its own making.

Cigar Factories
Decatur also has three cigar manufacturing concerns, namely the Charles Sether, the H. A. Colchin and the White Stag cigar factories. The three factories employ a number of men and women and the cigars made by them are found on every counter where good cigars are sold.

Cement Factories
The Acker Cement company and the Ideal Cement company specialize in cement products. The Acker Cement company manufactures, besides cement blocks, many ornamental pieces, bird baths, benches etc. The Ideal Cement company manufactures

cement blocks.

Monumental Works
The Wemhoff Monumental Works is one of the individual manufacturing concerns which brings much outside business to Decatur. Through its method of sand cutting, Wemhoff monuments are in great demand and the local plant is busy every day of the year. Some of the finest monuments seen in cemeteries in northern and central Indiana are products of the Wemhoff Monumental works.

The Schafer company, wholesale hardware, is also one of the pioneer business concerns in this city. The company manufactures harness and saddlery supplies and operates a large wholesale house, carrying not only hardware supplies, but the many items which now go to make up a hardware store. The company occupies a space more than a half square in size, the majority of which is three stories high. A number of salesmen represent the company in Indiana, Ohio and southern Michigan. C. C. Schafer, son of Fred Schafer, the veteran hardware merchant of this city is the president of the company. W. H. Wemhoyer and B. T. Terveer are the other officers of this well known concern.

The Everett and Hite Grocery and

the Frank McConnell and Son wholesale tobacco company are the other two large wholesale concerns in this city. They cover a wide field of trade and have several salesmen on the road.

Decatur's manufacturing plants are assisted in getting their products to market by the main lines of the Chicago and Erie, the Cloverleaf division of the Nickel Plate railroad, and the G. R. & I. division of the Pennsylvania. These three roads connect this city on the east and west with all the principal cities and on the north and south with commerce and business in those parts of the country.

In the manufacturing end, light, power and water is furnished to the manufacturing plants by the Decatur Light and Power plant, which is municipally owned and operated and is one of the best equipped and best managed plants in the state. It has a capacity of 6,000 horse power and has ample reserve to take care of additional growth on the part of any of the industries. The local plant of the Northern Indiana Public Service company supplies artificial gas to the industries, as well as to the homes, being one of the properties owned by the large Insull interests of Chicago and New York.

Former Geneva 'Home of Gene Stratton-Porter Attracts Many Visitors During Summer Months



—Photo through courtesy of Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.

Top to left: Lumberlost Cabin, the former home of Gene Stratton-Porter at Geneva.

Top to right: An east view of the cabin.

Lower to left: The Gene Stratton-Porter conservatory.

Lower to right: The fireplace in the cabin library.

Probably no small town in Indiana is visited each year by as many persons from nearly every state in the union and from foreign countries than the town of Geneva, Adams county, Indiana.

The attraction at Geneva is Lumberlost Cabin, former home of the late Gene Stratton-Porter. Federal Highway No. 27, which has been appropriately called "Lumberlost Trail," passes through Geneva and within view of the Lumberlost Cabin. It was in this cabin that Mrs. Porter wrote her first and best books, which proved to be great contributions to natural science. The "lob" country that borders the Wabash river to the east of Geneva, gave to Mrs. Porter for 26 years the information that she in turn gave to the world. A movement has been started by the people of Geneva and

the Izaak Walton League to have the "lob" converted into a public park and a large lake formed in the swamp territory.

The "lob" is not the marshy lowland, the haunt of many unusual birds, animals and insects that Mrs. Porter found it, but has been drained and made into prosperous crop acreage. It was this development of the land that was the greatest factor in determining Mrs. Porter to seek new fields of information, and in 1913 she left Lumberlost cabin and went to Rome City to live. The cabin was vacant save for specimens and odd pieces of furniture she had left, until 1920, when Dr. C. R. Price, graduate of the old Fort Wayne medical school and a practicing physician in Geneva since 1905, bought the cabin of Mrs. Porter. He has restored the grounds to the beauty and grandeur of their original landscaping and with the exception of a basement, modern furnace and motor plumbing, the cabin is as Mrs. Porter left it.

Cabin Built in 1893
Mrs. Porter procured the exterior designing of the cabin from the Forster's building at the World's fair in Chicago and began its erection in 1893. The exterior is of red cedar

logs, from Wisconsin, stained the natural color, mitered at the corners and the chinks filled with cement. The upper story and roof is of redwood shingles, stained in the same natural color.

A spacious porch graces the front of the cabin and from it opens a reception hall. The exterior reflects the unusual precision of her taste. The hall and library are done in minute panels of quarter-sawn oak and intricate in its design. The library is walled with specimen cases with adjustable shelves and racks that yet display some of the collection that was intimate with her years of writing there.

Private Rooms in Cabin
Mrs. Porter wrote in this library, near the fireplace, her first 10 novels and the contributions of natural science that she made to Recreation, Outing and other periodicals. The white room, Mrs. Porter's private living room and the dining room with its built-in oak cupboards lead away from the library. A conservatory, often the scene of many romantic incidents in her novels, sweeps the west wing of the house.

In her bedroom there still remains in a glass specimen case the moths and butterflies that she collected over

a period of many years and one in particular, a moth of great size, "The Emperor," that is a link in the plot of "The Girl of the Lumberlost." Above a fireplace in the bedroom hangs her oil painting of lilies that grew in the swamp country, for Mrs. Porter was an artist and poet as well as scientist and novelist. Her neighbors and friends recall that she was a splendid cook and housekeeper.

Owned Many Horses
In duplicate of the cabin is a barn, now used as a garage, for Mrs. Porter owned many horses and made her expeditions into the swamp country in a surrey drawn by a black pony, much to the consternation of her friends and neighbors.

Lumberlost cabin was thrown open to the public by the doctor and his wife two years ago and it is estimated that more than 10,000 persons have visited there in that time. More have come this summer than heretofore, because the public has grown to associate Gene Stratton Porter's fruitful years with Geneva. That town holds the romance of her own life and the source of her scientific studies.

The register shows guests from every state in the Union and from China, England, Scotland, Germany, France and India.

Conter's

EXTENDS A CORDIAL WELCOME
TO ALL VISITORS DURING

Old Home Week

We hope you will enjoy your
visit "back home."

In the years past CONTER'S was the favorite drink—and Ice Cream—and we wish to say that it still retains that goodness that you liked so well.

Make friends with it again! Walk up to any stand and call for it by name. They will be glad to serve you and you will appreciate your old favorite.

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Order by Case !!

A SNAPPY, sparkling exhilarating drink—Quenches thirst quickly and "just tingles all the way down." Have it on ice at all times, and especially during Old Home Week.

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for sale
at nearly
every stand.
ASK for it.