

## Decatur's Postoffice

Few people stop to consider the amount of work Uncle Sam's employees do in one year at the Decatur postoffice, and the amount of mail that is handled by them. The following will be of much interest, no doubt, to many patrons of this office. At present the postoffice force is composed of postmaster, assistant and four office clerks, three city carriers and twelve rural carriers. A conservative estimate of the amount of mail received and mailed during the year 1905 would be something near the following: Letters for city delivery 547,500; letters for rural route delivery, 135,000; paper and circular mail, 921,000 total, 1,603,500. We gather from the rural route reports on file in the post office that the rural boys have handled a good share of this amount, which can be divided as follows: register collected, 125; letters, collected, 4,010; postals collected, 6,009; newspapers collected 170; circulars collected, 1,916; packages, 1,076; total, 56,890. Registers delivered, 118; letters delivered, 77,813 postals delivered, 14,362; newspapers delivered, 3,746; circulars delivered 54,551 packages, delivered, 8,623; total, 559,213. Grand total, 615,522. The average man would laugh at you if you would tell him that these rural boys have driven as far as around this great globe upon which we live yet the fact is that they have driven nearly four times that distance for the next sum of 94,359 miles. Rural route patrons should not deny a few pleasant looks and words to the carriers who have been so faithful to visit their doors 309 times in 1905, and leave them over 600,000 pieces of mail. Again our attention is called to the city carriers, Mills, Dorwin and Vaughn. These surely deserve great credit for their diligent and untiring efforts to serve the people of Decatur. We find by conservative estimates that they have delivered and collected nearly 985,000 pieces of mail, as well as walked a distance of nearly 25,000 miles. We feel satisfied and extend to these men our heartfelt thanks and just drop a word that all kindness shown to the men in gray are always appreciated. Again as the field is surveyed, we must not forget the force, as at times it has required a great deal of hustling to get this mail in such shape that the people could be well served by the carriers. There have been very few letters and parcels lost during the year considering the number handled. Also, in the mailing division, we find there have been 5,559 pouches of first-class mail and as many of second-class mail dispatched from the office during the year. These dispatches of mail have been made with great care and accuracy, as the error or check slips for the year will not average two letters and one paper missent in any month of the year 1905. In the money order division we find there have been, 263 orders issued and 3,120 orders paid, aggregating a sum of \$75,000. The postal department has been the largest in the history of the office, for the year ending December 31, 1905, the gross receipts exceeding \$14,000. Decatur should be proud of her postal interests and always be willing to lend a helping hand.

### An Inspector at Bluffton.

Postoffice inspector Birdseye left Monday for the south but his exact destination is not known. Sunday afternoon he went out some place in a buggy and it is said that he visited Ossian and Craigville to investigate similar charges. When he returned the interviewing process at the hotel was not resumed, or at least very few people, if any, were called upon the carpet. This morning all Mr. Birdseye did was to take his departure. It is reported on pretty good authority that charges will be placed against two and possibly three people in the local office. How soon action will be taken on the report is not known. Mr. Birdseye, before coming here, spent two weeks investigating affairs at the Muncie office, where Postmaster Lambert is said to have been dabbling in politics to the detriment of the service.—Bluffton News.

## Interurban Affairs

The meeting in the interest of the Fort Wayne and Springfield railroad company last night revealed several things that ought to interest the business and financial men of this city, and those who live along the line. In the first place it revealed the fact that the few now interested in this company have an actual investment in stock of \$200,000. In addition to that it represents two years of hard and unceasing labor, sweat and worry in overcoming the many thousands of vexatious problems that presented themselves in rapid-fire succession. It was given out several months ago that an eastern bonding house would examine the affairs of the company and the validity of the undertaking. Bonding houses like all financial institutions are conservative and according to a complete report of their expert engineer it was estimated that it would require \$270,000 to complete the line. The bonding house then agreed that if the present stockholders would sell or increase their capital stock \$100,000, this bonding house would then loan them \$175,000. This is the project the company are now working on. They have already subscribed one half that amount and have come to the citizens of this city and along the line to subscribe the other half, or \$50,000, upon which is guaranteed from six to eight percent interest.

Now the company can give facts and figures as to the validity of such an investment. Besides this, should the project be carried through, Decatur will profit not alone from putting in operation the road, but from the fact that this city is the base of the railroad operations itself. The power house is located there and it will require two engineers, whose yearly salaries will amount to \$1,620, two firemen who will draw in salaries \$1,080, two car shop men \$1,200, a handy man \$720, four track men \$2,160, one lineman \$720, a helper \$340, superintendent and office expense \$3,000. The salaries of conductors and motormen is estimated to exceed \$5,000, and half of that amount will be spent with the Decatur merchants. The history of the Indiana and Ohio electric railways are certainly favorable to investment, and as this line will so especially interest our city and county, this stock should not be permitted to lag the market. The Democrat believes in financial stability and business conservatism. We also believe in that progress that is so essential and necessary to the propagation of commercial interest. The men of means who have been professing that they want to do something for the interests of our city and county should now step into the lime light. Let us see the color of your hair, and if the proposition submitted by the Fort Wayne and Springfield Railroad company, is a good business proposition, let's stand by those who have for two years labored with diligence and patience to give Decatur her first electric railway.

Mrs. Ed Fruett willer who resides in the west part of the city, is suffering with a felon on her thumb which has been causing considerable pain and trouble for some time. The thumb is so infected with the disease that it will be amputated some time this week by Dr. J. M. Miller as there is no chance of healing the same.

Fireman J. A. Redding of the G. R. & I. met with a very peculiar accident Wednesday night which terminated in a lucky manner. Redding was walking upon the roof of a box car while his train was running at a speed of 35 miles an hour and a telephone wire which was stretched over the right of way caught him just below the chin, throwing him to the roof. He retained enough presence of mind to keep him from rolling to the ground and sustained no greater injuries than severe bruises upon his arms and shoulders and a deep gash in his throat. The accident occurred shortly after the train left Marin, Michigan, but the injured man made his way to the cab where he remained until the train reached Grand Rapids. He was placed in care of physicians there, but was returned to Fort Wayne Friday evening. The wire which caused the trouble was stretched but seventeen feet above the roadbed and the law of the state of Michigan requires that no wire shall be placed less than twenty-five feet above the roadbed. Redding has several points in his favor for recovering damages from the telephone company. That he received no severe injuries seems miraculous.—Portland Commercial Review.

Mrs. S. S. Magley delightfully entertained Wednesday at a quilting party in her home near Monmouth. The guests included Mesdames C. D. Kunkle F. A. Peoples J. C. Magley sr. Charles Magley L. N. Grandstaff C. Radamacher D. Lewton Magley E. W. Christ A. J. Lewton and Mrs. W. A. Fonner. Mrs. Fonner also assisted Mrs. Magley in serving her dinner to which all did justice. They parted voting Mrs. Magley a charming entertainer.

Geneva, Ind. Jan 5.—Ralph the four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Manly Wheeler who live in the west part of town was made the victim of the cornshredder Thursday afternoon and while it did not take an arm or even wound him so that he will be a cripple yet it bit off the end of one of his fingers and that was enough to make him know that the corn shredder is a mean old thing. The injury was painful and a physician was called to dress the wound. It was thought at first that at least half the finger would have to be amputated but that was not necessary.

Dr. Bulson of Fort Wayne, district medical counselor was the guest of the Adams county Medical society last night and gave an interesting and instructive talk, on the subject, "Some diseases of the Eye. The next meeting of the society will be a special one to be held Friday evening, January 19th for the purpose of completing the adjustment of the dead beat list which is being prepared. All persons who have failed to arrange for the payment of old accounts will be placed on that list and the sheet hung on the walls of each physician's office that who read it may profit thereby.

The right to sign another man's name to a railroad ticket which has been sold by one passenger to another, has been affirmed by the supreme court of New York this week. The decision is one of the first of the kind and sets a precedent in the change of railroad tickets which affect thousands of passengers. The ticket was a round trip between New York and Indianapolis over the New York Central, Big Four and Lake Shore railroads. The judge held that the mere sale of the ticket carried with it the purchaser's right to sign to it the name of the man from whom he bought it.

Warren Hamerick one of Uncle Sam's mail men, is having his share of hard luck when it comes to horses. During the past two years of his service he has lost more horses by sickness and has had more misfortune in buying runaway and bucking animals than all the balance of the force put together. To cap the climax, this morning after securing the service of a new animal to make his route the horse became frightened at some obstacle soon after leaving the office and before he could be stopped had made a complete wreck out of Mr. Hamerick's rural route wagon, making it necessary to secure another rig to make the trip. Fortunately no one was injured but the damage cannot be repaired for a mere song and Warren is again out of pocket. His troubles in this line are certainly trying.

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An Indian living near Geary owed one of our merchants and came in one day recently to pay his bill, after doing so he wanted a receipt. In vain the merchant told him a receipt was unnecessary. "Must have to show me owe you nothing," said the Indian. "Me go to heaven and the Lord ask Injun he pay debts, Injun says yes. Lord ask Injun where is receipt. What Injun do? Can't go all over hell to look for you." He got the receipt.—Geary, Ill. Journal.

### BEATS THE MUSIC CURE

"To keep the body in tune," writes Mrs. Mary Brown, 20 Lafayette Place Poughkeepsie, N. Y. "I take Dr. King's New Life Pills. They are the most reliable and pleasant laxative I have found." Best for the Stomach, Liver and Bowels. Guaranteed by Blackburn & Ceristen druggists. 25c.

### Real Estate Transfers

Reported by Decatur Abstract and Loan Company

Wm. Jallin to Jessie May Bois pt. sec 23 Wabash tp. 2200

W. H. Niblock to R. K. Allison lot 49, Decatur, \$4,000.

Jno. R. Badders to Joseph Rich, inlot 27, Monroe, \$17,000.

C C Sprunger to M. Wulliman, lot 426, Berne, \$300.

J H Smith to El Elliot, lot 421, Berne, \$250.

David Cook to Jno. S McLean, pt sec 6, Wabash tp, \$1,100.

Henry L Warner to A M Mauler, lot 39, Pleasant Mills, \$75.

Larua Mathewson to P Hall, pt sec 20, St. Marys tp, \$19,00.

F Klickman to Moehr, pt sec 11, French tp, \$3600.

David Baumgartner to James Thatcher, lots 5, 6, Ceylon, \$300.

M Koehr to Jos Rich, inlot 26, Monroe, \$1,800.

Daniel Kipfer to F Klickman, 80 acres, sec 1, French tp, \$5,300.

P W Smith to Jos Rumschlog, 130, acres sec 11, Washington tp \$100,00.

Catherine Commer to F M Conner, lot 30, Geneva, \$500.

Henry Stucker to Emil Erhart, lots 149, 150, Berne, \$2,600.

Emil Erhart to Ransom Smith, lot 184, Berne \$1.

Emil E-hart to Ransom Smith, lot 184, Berne, \$—.

Vogel to A A Sprunger, lot 138, Berne \$260.

Anna Voegel to A A. Sprunger, lot 138 Berne 260.

Wm. Sheets to Thurman Gottschalk pt lot 320 Berne \$1800.

Thurman Gottschalk to Clara D. Sheets lot 320 Berne \$1800.

Lillie B. Lewton to Grace Lewton

Andrew J. Pyle to Angenette Aspy, lots 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 197, 198, in Geneva, \$15,00.

C C Sprunger to J A Neunenschwander, lot 423, Berne, \$300.

Jno. Culchin to Jas H Knavel, pt sec 36, Root tp, \$75.

Michael Smith to Gilbert Stricker, lot 894, Decatur, \$700.

Dan Erwin to Kirsch & Sell

## Salesman Wanted

We want a reliable, active man in this locality as our agent to sell the well-known "Red Tag Stock" of nursery grown trees and plants. As easy to sell as Government bonds. Established 1858. We have a continuous business record of 55 years.

PHOENIX NURSERY STOCK stands first in this country in point of excellence. All kinds of ornamental trees, fruit trees, evergreens, shrubs, plants and flowers. This year we will make the best proposition to any agent that has not been offered. More in it for him! We sell weekly 100,000 trees. Red tags on trees and attached to every tree and plant sent out, thus insuring a high standard. We want an agent now! A man with a reference only. No previous experience necessary. Complete outfit trees, etc. to day.

PHOENIX NURSERY CO., 1214 Park St., Bloomington, Ill.

## Red Tag Trees

myer, lot 1003 Decatur \$100.

Elia Reisen to Theo. A. Cooper acre sec 6 Wabash tp \$500.

Helena Weiland to Dyonis Schenck pt sec 4 Washington tp \$3,000.

A J Miller to D B Ford, 3 sec

sec 25, Wabash tp, \$2000.

Christian Scherry to Daniel Scherry, 80 acres, sec 3, Kirkland

tp 70, 00.

Ferd. A Lewis to Homer Chan-

ton, 80 acres, sec 24, Wabash

4,500.

Christena Kuntz to Wm. E. Van, lots 3269 and 330, 225 Berne

Jno. Glendinning to Rudolph Fener pt sec 34 Hartford tp \$200.

J J Leichty to A. Beiberstein pt sec 36 French tp, 1.

Shaffer Peterson, com., to W. Adler, pt sec 25 Kirkland tp

H. Lucinda Sautbine to Am-

Mosure, pt sec 34, Kirkland tp

Lucinda Sautbine to Aaron M-

sure, pt sec 34, Kirkland tp

J. W. Teeple, com., to Sarah Tindall, inlots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,

and 14, Pleasant Mills, \$1,300.

Sarah E. Segur to M. F. Ba-

ilot 577, Decatur, \$1,320.

Amanda Chrisman to H. P. Ba-

ford, lot 66, Geneva, \$150.

## To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets.

Seven Million boxes sold in past 12 months.

This signature, *E. W. Grove*

Cures Grip in Two Days.

on every box. 25c.

## CALIFORNIA

Do you want to live where the climate is mild the year round—where labor is never oppressed by stress of weather, and where animal vitality is never lost by mere conflict with cold?

Do you want to live in a region where the resources are more varied than in any other equal area in the world, where the division of great ranches affords a fine opportunity to get a small farm that will assure you a competence?

Do you want to live where, with a minimum of labor, you can grow profitable crops of grapes and small fruit, oranges, lemons, olives, prunes and almonds, alfalfa and grain, where crops are sure, business is good and capital easily finds profitable investment?

Then go to California, where both health and opportunity await your coming.

## The Chicago, Union Pacific and North-Western Line

is the most direct route to the Pacific Coast, and there are two fast through trains daily via this line, over the famous double-track railway between Chicago and the Missouri River. One-way Colonist tickets are on sale daily, March 1 to May 15, at the rate of \$33.00 from Chicago, with correspondingly low rates from all points, give you an unusual chance to make the trip.

These tickets are good on daily and personally conducted excursions, on which a double berth in a Pullman tourist sleeping car from Chicago costs only \$7.00. Round-trip tickets are always on sale from all points at reduced rates via the

## Chicago & North-Western, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railways.

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