

An invention but a few months ago looked upon by many to be but ordinary, has, as a consequence of a business deal of Wednesday, annexed \$12,500 to the wealth of Messrs. J. F. Hocker and B. M. Smith, of Monroe. These gentlemen, for years engaged in the hardware business at Monroe, conceived the idea that a lawn mower sharpener, one that could be purchased at a reasonable price and operated conveniently, was in great demand, and they at once set to work to employ their ideas in the invention of such a device. They began work during the early part of last winter and realizing that success was assured, they disposed of their hardware store to give their entire time to the invention. Months of diligent work and study culminated in the realization of their fondest hopes, and a patent was immediately secured from the government. Hocker and Smith then placed advertisement in many of the leading papers and magazines and inaugurated the construction of a building in which the sharpeners were to be made. Thousands of orders had been received by the men from many of the big city wholesalers. However, a gentleman representing a Vermont firm called on the patentees yesterday afternoon and he was there for business. Having seen the picture of the invention in a paper he was convinced that it was the best on the market and he had called to buy at any price. After a lengthy conference, it was agreed that the Vermont firm pay \$12,500 for the patent in cash with the option of paying \$17,000 in yearly payments of \$1,000 each. An iron clad contract was duly signed and the patent disposed of. A royalty of 15 cents on each one dozen sharpeners sold is to be paid the Monroe men in the event that the firm pays for the patent in annual installments. Hocker and Smith also reserved the right to supply the orders they had taken. This great invention not only reflects credit upon them, but should cause a sense of pride to characterize each Adams county individual. The price paid for it is indicative of its practicability and the inventive ability of the inventors. The sharpener spoken of sells at fifty cents retail. It is arranged so that it can be placed on the mower and the blades will be sharpened by simply operating the mower back and forth.

Frightened by the muzzling of an automobile driven by Edwin Fledderjohann, the horse belonging to Dr. H. E. Keller lunged desperately down Mercer avenue Thursday, coming in contact with an electric light pole and hurling the doctor twenty-five feet the physician sustaining a serious wound in the head as a consequence thereof. Dr. Keller had driven south to visit a patient and returning, had reached Mercer avenue when the automobile passed. The horse did not display signs of fright until the machine was nearly passed, when he started on the wild rampage. Mr. Keller made an attempt to stop the animal, but in vain. It dashed into a pole, the buggy being left there, while the horse proceeded on its way. Mr. Keller held to the lines until he was dragged several feet, loosening his grasp responsive to the loss of strength responsive to his hard fall on his head and shoulders. His head struck a projecting stone, leaving a gash three or four inches long and quite deep. Mr. Fledderjohann conveyed the injured man to his home, where the wound was cared for and it is thought he will recover without much inconvenience. In the meantime the horse was captured by John Robison and returned to the Keller home. James Fristoe, who witnessed the terrible accident, cared for Mr. Keller by washing the wound before he was taken to his home.

Charles Wolfe, the young man accused of the murder of Jacob Mangold, on October 8th was Thursday released from the county jail. His attorneys, Peterson & Moran and Dore B. Erwin filed a motion that he be admitted to bail and after considering the matter the judge granted same, fixing the amount of said bail at the sum of \$5,000. This was promptly furnished, the paper being signed by Charles Wolfe, the defendant and by his father, Joseph Wolfe, William Adler, a well known farmer of Kirkland township and Frederick Schaefer the hardware merchant of this city. The bond is certainly an ample one and Wolfe was immediately given his liberty. Just what further action will be taken is not known at this time, but it is probable that the investigation will be completed by the grand jury which meets next month, when the charge may be changed from murder to assault with intent to murder.

George Mathewson, of Pleasant Mills, was the victim of a surprise party Monday evening, when eighteen of his friends rushed into the home to assist him in celebrating his twenty-first birthday. Refreshments were served and a good time enjoyed by all.

The annual convention of W. R. C. of the eighth district convened at Hartford City this morning and a general good time is anticipated. The district is composed of Fort Wayne, Decatur, Marion, Portland, Bluffton, Hartford City, Montpelier, Jonesboro, Geneva, Fairmount and Matthews and delegations representing each of these cities were present. The following Decatur ladies left this morning to attend the convention: Mesdames John Mylott, Joshua R. Parrish, Geo. Louthan, Michael Wertzberger, Joseph Hower, Theodore Kennedy, Ed Lyons, Cap. Hildebrand, Elias Crist and Thomas Mallonee. The convention is being held at the G. A. R. hall at Hartford City and the members of that corps have made preparations for a great time. The district officers are: President Estella Huffman, Hartford City; senior vice president, Emma Sturgis, Bluffton; junior vice president, Louise Kennedy, Decatur; secretary, Eppie M. Stewart, Hartford City; treasurer, Minnie Porter, Montpelier; chaplain, Lydia Seegar, Marion; conductor, Sarah Daugherty, Hartford City; guard, Ida B. Crim, Portland; assistant conductor, Amelia Weller, Hartford City; assistant guard, Mary Pope, Jonesboro; press correspondent, Lucia Kintz, Fort Wayne; color bearers, Bessie Cline, Jonesboro, Maggie Louthan, Decatur, Elizabeth Thorn, Fairmount, Annie Wains, Fort Wayne; musician, Lydia DeVore, Montpelier.

William Jennings Bryan, the great commoner, Democratic candidate for the presidency, will visit Decatur, arriving at eight o'clock a. m. on the morning of Saturday, October 31. It is needless to say that although the hour is early, this greatest of all Americans who has been honored in nearly every state and nation of the world, will be received by an immense throng of his admirers. On two former occasions when Mr. Bryan came to Decatur, he was heard by thousands and as his visit this year comes on the eve of election it is quite probable that the largest crowd which ever gathered in this city will be here. No arrangements have been made nor will they be announced for a day or two. The news was received by the local committee from L. G. Ellingham, the district committeeman, who has been in Indianapolis for a day or two. Whether or not the day will be the occasion for a day celebration or not has not been determined, but at any rate it will be a big occasion. Of that you may rest assured. For the first time in history the two candidates for the presidency will visit this city within a week, Mr. Flat coming on the 24th and Mr. Bryan just a week later. Get out your campaign horn for its going to be hot enough from now on to election day to suit the most exacting democrat or republican.

A crowd that extended far out into the corridor of the second floor of the court house, and packed the court room listened for an hour and a half Wednesday night to Hon. J. A. M. Adair, present congressman from this district and candidate for re-election. His speech was an appeal for votes for himself, an explanation of his policies and a reminder that he had faithfully kept every promise made to the voters two years ago and a renewal of similar pledges if elected. In a manly, straightforward manner which convinced his hearers, he went over his record in the sixtieth congress, told what he had done and had tried to do for the farmer, the business man, the soldier, the soldiers' widow and the citizens of his district in general. He declared as false the Sulphur letters, proved the utter ridiculousness of the Patterson booklet and the other attacks made upon his character during this campaign by his opponent and his hired assistants. He impressed the people who heard him as a man amply able to represent the eighth district and we believe that few people listened to him last night who did not leave the room with their mind fully made up to support him. Mr. Adair's record in congress is an enviable one, unequaled by men who have served in that capacity a half dozen terms. He accomplished many things and the voters know that if returned he will continue to do things. He speaks at Portland tonight and is destined for every evening and afternoon up to the election day. He is a thorough gentleman and it is the consensus of opinion that his enemies made a serious mistake when they attacked his character, which in public and private life has always been above reproach.

The funeral of the late Lyman Hart will be held from the Concord church tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, the procession leaving Monmouth at 1:15. Rev. J. W. Poot and Rev. Spetzl will conduct the services which will be very impressive. Mrs. Hanna Swaidner, of Colorado Springs, the only living child of the deceased, telegraphed money to cover funeral services, stating that she could not be here, but that she wanted her father laid away as her mother was.

One of the largest mortgages ever filed at the county recorder's office here was recorded Thursday, it being for the sum of \$5,000,000. It is given by the Indiana Lighting company to the Central Trust company of New York and was filed today in nineteen other counties. It is in pamphlet form and covers forty-one printed pages. The Indiana Lighting company is a company of which C. F. Deitrick is the president and which will engage in the business of lighting and heating many towns and cities in this territory, dealing in gas, artificial and natural, electric and hot water plants. They have bought up all of the defunct gas plants in this locality and will soon it is supposed establish new concerns. The mortgage covers the gas lines in this county and city, also all their other property, including lot number five of the Jacob Freang addition to the city of Decatur. Five thousand \$1,000 bonds bearing four per cent interest and running fifty years have been issued by the company, under date of August 1, 1908, and the mortgage was written in New York October 5, 1908.

Daniel Straub et al vs. Chicago & Erie Ry. Co., damages \$1,500, rule to answer made absolute in five days.

Amos Hirsch vs. Lillie B. Andrews et al, notes, demurrer overruled. Answer filed in one paragraph to complaint and cross complaint by defendant Schug. Rule to answer. Default of Lillie B. and Phillip L. Andrews. Answer filed to cross-complaint.

Dr. S. K. Christy vs. Benjamin Habegger, admr., claim, answer filed in two paragraphs by defendant, rule to reply.

Edward L. Arnold et al, drain, commissioners given until October 30th to make and file report.

Benjamin Habegger, admr., of Caroline Duer estate vs. John B. Duer, intermedding, demand \$700, finding and judgment for plaintiff for \$627. Judgment for costs against defendant.

W. A. Lower admr. of the C. M. Dally estate filed inventory number two, and a petition to sell watch at private sale, also a petition to erect tombstone at grave of deceased. Granted, stone not to cost more than \$100.

Real estate transfers: Margaret Betzell to William H. Bradford, lot 229 Geneva, \$1,000; John A. Baumgartner et al to George W. Baumgartner, 100 acres in Blue Creek; International Bldg. Assn. to Gene Stratton Porter, pt. lot 147 Geneva, \$800.

The card party given Wednesday afternoon by the Mesdames W. A. Kuebler, C. V. Connell and F. Crawford at the home of the former, was a most brilliant affair. The house was beautifully decorated with flowers and ferns. They had prepared twelve small tables in the different rooms and as the guests arrived they were seated at these tables, and when the last table was filled they started to play pedro. Twelve games were played at the end of which it was found that Mrs. John Gerard had won the most games, nine in all and she was awarded the first prize. The second prize was won by Mrs. Joe Tonner and the third by Mrs. Mary Smith. The booby prize went to Mrs. Peter Gaffer. At the close of the card games the tables were cleared and an elegant three-course luncheon was served. About fifty guests were present. The out of town guest was Mrs. Emma Smith of St. Paul, Minn.

New York, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1908.—(Special to Daily Democracy)—Bryan's promised announcement of the list of contributors to the Democratic national campaign fund was made today. I came in the form of a statement over the signature of National Chairman Mack and Treasurer Herman Ridder and shows that of the \$248,567.55 received up to and including October 9th, \$97,712.33 came in contributions of one hundred dollars or more, and \$115,355.22 came in contributions of less than \$100 each, and \$42,500 was left over from the Democratic convention fund subscribed by Denver for receiving the convention. The statement also shows that \$225,962.85 has been spent and the balance on hand is \$22,604.67. A plea is made for \$100,000 additional to carry on the remainder of the campaign. The number of contributors is estimated at fifty thousand and of the whole amount \$100,000 came through the efforts of the newspapers. The statement adds that printing ordered and undelivered expenses of the bureau at Chicago and New York, and traveling expenses necessary for the speaking campaign will necessitate the additional \$100,000 for which the appeal is now made. In Indiana Tom Taggart gave \$1,000 and Abram Simmons, of Bluffton, gave \$250, these being the only two contributions from individuals in Indiana of over \$100.

Robert Burns Allison died at ten Crabb, of this city and four grandchildren.

Mr. Allison had an acquaintance, probably larger than that of any other citizen of Adams county. His lodge associations, his extensive travels to every portion of this country, his business interest covering a vast area and a wide section of the land, brought him into contact with hundreds of people and his ability to mix with people made him a man who could make and retain friendship. His death, even though at an advanced age, is deeply regretted by all who knew him and by those who loved him. His counsel will be missed and his service in this world will be long remembered. By his own request the funeral services were very simple, being held from the home on Adams street at 2:30 o'clock, Sunday afternoon. Rev. Richard Spetzl, of the First Presbyterian church officiated, and interment was made in the family burial lot at the Decatur cemetery.

The pallbearers selected were as follows: Honorary: Dr. H. D. Reasner, president of the First National bank of Marion, Indiana; Charles D. Porter, cashier of the Bank of Geneva; Judge Edward O'Rourke, of Fort Wayne and George W. Pixley, secretary of the Tri-State Loan company of Fort Wayne. Active: Charles S. Niblick, president of the Old Adams County bank; John S. Bowers, L. C. Waring, D. F. Quinn, Judge R. K. Erwin, of Fort Wayne; Henry Hite, P. W. Smith, president of the First National bank, and C. A. Neuenschwander, of Berne.

After a lingering illness of several years' duration, another of Adams county's pioneer ladies, Mrs. Mary Neiderhouser, of Linn Grove, died Wednesday evening. She was the widow of Emanuel Neiderhouser, whose death occurred several years ago and the mother of eleven children, six of whom are living: Homer, Ida, Elsie, Nellie, Essie and Cora. Mrs. Neiderhouser had been afflicted with a complication of diseases and for several months her condition was extremely alarming, death being expected momentarily for months. The deceased was a member of Evangelical association, was a devout Christian woman. Since childhood she has been a diligent worker in behalf of the Christian cause. She was born December 20, 1840, near Vera Cruz, and was a daughter of Rev. and Christiana Baumgartner. October 25, 1871, she was united in marriage to Emanuel Neiderhouser, and later moved to Linn Grove where their home had since been. The deceased had many relatives in Bluffton and was well known in Decatur. The funeral services were held Friday afternoon at two o'clock at Linn Grove. Interment in the Greenwood cemetery.

Harvey Hickox, charged with stealing Robert T. DeWald's big automobile from in front of the Temple theater a few weeks ago, entered a plea of guilty to the charge of grand larceny in the circuit court Friday and was sentenced to from one to fourteen years in the reformatory at Jeffersonville. His case was continued a week to give him a chance to fight a civil case he has in the superior court but that was continued yesterday for a month and the criminal hearing was called this morning as it had been set down for trial. Hickox wept all through the proceeding and said after sentence was passed that the sooner he went to Jeffersonville the better it would suit him. Judge O'Rourke said in passing sentence that he would like to have the privilege of suspending it but as there are other charges against the prisoner he would be immediately arrested again and the suspension would do no good. Hickox is twenty years old and has for several years been connected with the various garages and bicycle establishments about the city.—Fort Wayne Sentinel.

A letter from Geo. Tricker at Jackson, Ohio, state that on account of the demurrage on cars in the mining district, there is thousands of tons of coal in the small sizes to be given away at once at the cost of loading. This small coal is generally used for steam and every farmer in the community should lay in a supply for years to come as a whole car load can be laid down at your station at a nominal cost. If interested, write, wire or see Mr. Tricker, who will be at home soon.

D. H. Swain, who has been bedfast the past week with typhoid fever, is under the constant care of a nurse. His fever remains unbroken and he is going through all the different stages incident to the disease. His condition remains unchanged as it is likely to be for the coming week and no radical change for better or worse will be noted for at least that length of time. The physician and nurse are hopeful that when the change does come it will be the better, for Mr. Swain has lived cleanly and has considerable latent strength to fight off the typhoid.—Bluffton News.

The most costly and mysterious conflagration which has preyed upon property of St. Marys township for years was that of Wednesday, which consumed the home of W. H. Ayres, located one-half mile north of Pleasant Mills. Mr. Ayres, who but recently purchased the farm from Amos Smith, moving from Wilshire upon it a few days ago, was attending the J. Homer sale and the women folk were at Decatur when the fire originated. At about 10:30 a. m. neighbors detected flames escaping from the roof of the house and within fifteen minutes 100 people had gathered to effect salvage. Furniture belonging to Mr. Ayres, his son and his wife's sister was stored in the house and before very much could be saved, the leaping flames had completely enveloped the structure, making it impossible to rescue goods. Eight hundred quarts of fruit, together with a large amount of apples and potatoes which were in the cellar, were totally destroyed, as was the house and most of the furniture. \$800 insurance was carried on the house, which was estimated to be worth \$2,000 but the furniture was not insured for a dollar, making the total loss at least \$1,800. The origin of the fire is mystifying, all who have heard of the affair. The Ayres had started a fire early in the morning for the purpose of getting breakfast but they had closed the stove well and in fact did not leave the house for several hours.

The partition case Jennie A. Christman et al vs. Andrew C. Alexander, from Jay county, set for trial Friday and in which about \$12,000 worth of property was involved, was adjusted just before the hour for trial and the court rendered judgment by agreement, finding that the three plaintiffs and defendant are each owners of one-fourth of the property. Sale ordered at cost of plaintiffs.

In the case Dr. S. K. Christy vs. Benjamin Habegger, admr. of the Caroline Duer estate, claim, a demurser overruled. Answer in form of general denial filed. Interrogatories one to six filed; plaintiff ordered to answer same under oath within ten days.

Frederick Gerber, charged with larceny, was discharged, the case against him being dismissed on motion by the prosecutor.

South Bend, Ind., Oct. 20.—The seventeenth annual state conference of charities and correction closed last evening. Though interest centered in the address delivered Saturday by Dr. George F. Edenbarter on the needs of the Central Hospital for the Insane, today's program attracted much attention. The session in the morning was devoted to the general subject "State Charities." James D. Reid, warden of the Michigan City prison, acted as chairman. The first paper was on "Adult Probation," by Demarchus C. Brown, of Indianapolis. Mr. Brown went into his subject in a thorough manner. He said in part: "Is it not true that many men commit crime through weakness; many others through bad associations, and many others because they are out of work? If this question be answered in the affirmative, then the scientific treatment of criminals now called probation or reformation is certainly the proper method. The old idea was that every man who did wrong, regardless of conditions, was a criminal, and that he should be punished vindictively. No other resource was thought of, except to shut him up in prison. And then came the natural result. After he was out, nobody cared for him. While the prison is a necessity, yet we know that it shrivels a man, while probation puts him on his honor and attempts at least to save him. There are some points of danger in the probation law. The plan must be carefully carried out. The offender should not be allowed to lapse and then not be brought up sharply." "The Indiana Village for Epileptics" was the subject discussed by Dr. W. C. Van Nys of Newcastle, "The Work of the Tuberculosis Commission" was taken up by J. N. Babcock, of Topeka. After considerable discussion of the general subject of "State Charities," the morning session came to a close. At the session this afternoon James V. Rush, of Evansville, acted as chairman in the discussion of "City Charities." J. F. McClure, of Anderson, in "Juvenile Charities," and Prof. John A. Wood, of Laporte, in "County and Township Charities." After the various round tables are concluded, Henry Barnhart, of Rochester, will speak on "State Charities."

The funeral of the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Will Johnson was held from the home, south of the infirmary this morning at ten o'clock. Burial in the Decatur cemetery.