

Life's uncertainty has again been vividly exemplified in the unexpected, sorrowful demise of Jesse Butler, one of Decatur's most highly respected citizens, which occurred at the Schelma and Butler livery barn Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock. Wholly oblivious of the near approach of the death angel, the aged man entered the office of the barn a few moments before four o'clock seemingly in the best of health and jovial as he was always known to be. He occupied a chair near the stove where for some time he sat in a reclining position as one seeking repose from the day's labor. Long and audible respirations from the man attracted the attention of "Bub" Burrell, who was sitting in the office, and one look at the form was sufficient to convince him that the death knell was being sounded as a signal for the close of a long and useful life. Alarm was given and but a few moments elapsed until a throng of curious people had gathered to see Mr. Butler in his dying moments. A physician was hastily summoned but before his arrival the spark of life had become extinct, and the soul of the well known man had been ushered into eternity. The body was removed to the home of Mrs. Mary E. Elzey, daughter of the deceased. The decedent was born near Richmond, Wayne county, Indiana, February 16, 1824. In early life he immigrated to Page county, Iowa, where he resided until 1861, when he moved to Adams county and took up his abode on a farm in Root township, which he owned at the time of his death. He was united in marriage to Miss Mary Davenport and to this happy union were born twelve children, eight of whom survive to mourn the loss of a loving father. The mother died November 13, 1899, after which Mr. Butler removed to Decatur, and engaged in the horse business, which avocation he has since followed, making his home with his daughter. The demise of "Uncle Jesse" as he was familiarly known, has caused grief among a multitude of friends. The surviving children are Messrs. Samuel, Albert, Mel, Benjamin, William and Harry Butler and Mesdames Mary Elzey and Perry Elzey. The funeral services were morning at ten o'clock, interment being made at the Decatur cemetery. Heart trouble is given as the cause of the sudden death of Mr. Butler, as he has been stricken several times by the dread ailment and has fallen to the ground while the victim of sinking spells.

MEETING OF COUNTY ASSESSORS

It Will Be Held at the State House on January Twelve.

County Assessor George Gents received a letter Wednesday morning from John E. Reed, secretary of the state board of tax commissioners announcing the date of the annual meeting of the county assessors of Indiana with the state tax board. The meeting will be held in room 12 in the state house on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 12th, 13th and 14th. Not only do the county assessors attend these meetings but many of the township assessors are usually present as they also find it helpful in their duties. Several of the Adams county township assessors are planning to go this year as they can attend the inauguration of Governor Marshall on the day previous, Monday, January 11th.

Professor George Lucky, wife and children left Thursday for their home at Lincoln, Nebraska, after enjoying a week's visit with many of their friends and relatives in and about Decatur. Professor Lucky is, as stated previously in the Democrat, one of the ablest instructors at the University of Nebraska, and he is returning home to resume duties next week. During their stay here the Lucky family has been entertained at various homes and their time has been well taken up in enjoying the hospitalities of friends and relatives dear to them. During the week they were honored guests at dinners given by Mrs. Kern, the Spillers, Dr. W. B. Smith and wife and several other families. Before departing they declared that Adams county still holds the reputation of having within her boundaries the most hospitable people on the earth.

A business deal that has long been rumored will take effect tomorrow, when the firm of Brown & Spittler, comprised of Elsworth Brown and W. E. Spittler dissolves. Mr. Brown retiring, and being succeeded by O. N. Snellen, of Decatur, and S. S. Stein of this town. The new firm will be comprised of W. E. Spittler, O. N. Snellen and S. S. Stein, all business men of worth.—Willshire Herald.

Henry Schultz and daughter Dorothy went to Fort Wayne Friday to attend the funeral of Mr. Schultz's niece, Mrs. Fred Railing, of Chicago, who was brought to Fort Wayne for burial. She was formerly Miss Anna Richards, of Friedheim, Adams county. Her death occurred Wednesday.

Indianapolis, December 31.—Teachers of the public schools of Indiana at the close of the afternoon session yesterday voted unanimously for the appointment of a committee to work for a law providing a disability benefit and a pension for superannuated teachers. The vote, looking to the passage of an act by the Indiana legislature in 1911 creating a school pension fund and for paying teachers a sick or disablement benefit, was on motion that the president of the Indiana State Teachers' Association be empowered to appoint a committee of three to act with representatives of the county and the cities and towns Superintendents' Associations of this state. On the committee President Benton immediately named President R. W. Mills of Hanover, State Superintendent of Public Instruction-elect Robert J. Alex and Superintendent R. I. Hamilton of the Vincennes schools. The two others who will complete the legislative committee are B. F. Moore of Muncie, representing the Towns and Cities' Superintendents' Association, and Richard Park, Sullivan, representing the County Superintendents' Association. The committee will meet on the call of Superintendent Moore of Muncie. They will probably get together in preliminary arrangement for their work before the close of the teachers' convention today. No attempt will be made to get the teachers' pension measure before the coming legislature, as the instructors wish to take plenty of time and have no hitches when their bill goes before the state general assembly. The teachers' pension plan is not a new one, but has never before assumed definite shape before the session of the state instructors. In the appointment of the committee the teachers' associations are following the lead of the superintendents of the state.

OHIO WOMAN WAS DRUGGED

Forced to Marry a Man and Gave Him \$500.

Just one week after they were married Cynthia F. McCarty, a wealthy widow of Waynesfield, Auglaize county, Ohio, filed suit for divorce, from her supposed husband, John Dally, of Lima. Claiming that the marriage was entirely fraudulent she brings suit in her former name, Mrs. McCarty, who is sixty-eight years old, alleges that while on the train with Dally, going from Lima to Wapakoneta on December 21, she was drugged and forced to go to Cincinnati. While still in a semi-conscious condition and fully under the control of the defendant, she believes they were married the next day at Covington, Ky., which contract she asks to be declared null and void. She further alleges that Dally by force and threats obtained from her \$500 in cash, which he has invested in a saloon at 214 north Central avenue, Lima.

R. SCHUG IS THE PRESIDENT

Of the Berne Traction Line—The Other Officers.

The directors of the Bluffton, Berne & Celina interurban company organized in the office of Elchhorn & Vaughn at Bluffton. The members of the company from Berne went in an automobile. The officers of the company are: Rudolph Schug, president; Andrew Gottschalk, vice president; Joseph Gerber, treasurer; Dr. Simpson, secretary; Pete Neuenschwander, general manager; Chris Stouffer, assistant general manager; Lou Batson, engineer. At the meeting the directors decided to ask for subsidies in three townships in Adams county and one in Wells county. Petitions will be presented at the January meeting of the board of county commissioners in both counties, the meeting being next Monday. The amounts asked are: Harrison, Wells, \$10,000; French, Adams county, \$4,000; Monroe, Adams county, \$18,000; Jefferson, Adams county, \$4,000.

Wisconsin Lumber Co. vs. Cardwell Box Co., suit on drafts \$1,100, amended complaint filed making new parties defendants. Summons ordered for new defendants returnable January 11.

Lulu Johnson vs. Pleasant Johnson, submitted, divorce granted. Judgment and decree for absolute divorce on payment of costs.

E. P. Reed & Co. vs. Fred B. Tague account \$250, reply filed to second, third and fifth paragraphs of answer. Answer filed to counter claim.

C. C. Burry et al have transferred to John Burry 6 1/4 acres in Monroe township for \$850.

Isaac M. Dickerson, guardian for Lulu Johnson and Grace Chrisman, filed a petition to sell real estate, which was granted and Thomas Drew and W. W. Briggs were appointed appraisers.

H. S. Michael Friday morning began his duties as county auditor. He had eight or ten boxes of fifteen cent cigars on hand, but was so busy he forgot to hand them out.

Real estate transfers: G. R. & I. Ry. Co. to C. R. & F. W. Ry. Co., a tract in Monroe township, quiet title deed; Fred Amacher et al to John Winans, 20 acres in Monroe township, \$2,500.

Dr. Noah Zehr, of Berne, has been granted a physicians license, the only one in the past year. He is a graduate of the Western Reserve university, medical department, Cleveland, Ohio, and obtained the necessary percentage as required.

During the past year licenses have been issued to the following opticians: David Bixler, Leo Auth and F. G. Gilbert.

Marriage licenses have been issued to Rufus Lehman, 24, a laborer, to Aldina Finkhauser, 21, of Berne; Samuel S. Rickard, 20, a farmer and Daisy M. Dehl, 18, both of Monroe; Jesse A. Brown, 30, a farmer from Whitley county, and Melissa Barto, 30 of this county. The latter has been married once, her husband having died three years ago.

DO YOU NEED A DOLLAR BILL?

In some mysterious manner, two copies of the daily file of the Daily Democrat, have been lost from the case in which they are kept. It is most important that we have these and consequently we will pay one dollar to the first person who brings us copies (in fairly good condition) of the issues of Friday and Saturday, August 7th and 8th, 1908. Here's a chance to pick up an easy dollar. Look over your old papers and you may find them. We will pay fifty cents for either one.

THE DAILY DEMOCRAT.

The year 1908 has passed into oblivion and today we as American people are continuing our business and social life in a new year, which has just found its inception. Another milestone has been passed by the people of the age with prospects brighter, environment more encouraging and every condition which has to do with the progress of the people greatly improved upon. As we start upon the journey of life in the year 1909, every individual should strive to relegate to the rear all habits and indulgences of any nature which would tend to retard progressiveness. There are few who cannot abolish some practice and thus greatly benefit themselves and associates. There are few who are not willing to try, but there are many who are lacking of the will power to do so. This is an age when idle indulgences, corrupt habits and dishonesty will meet resentment at the hands of the people. It is an age when honest, clean people will play the important part and every person who desires to command recognition of any sort must dissuade their minds from greed, arrogance and habits derogatory in the least to his character. Now is the time to turn the page in individual lives, to banish from the leaves of life's book all records that block the path of success, to right all wrongs and to start anew with a determination to do right at all hazards. The clang of bells, shrill report of whistles signaled the outgoing of the old year and the incoming of the new, and many watch parties were held over the city.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Tyndall gave their annual dinner at their Monroe street home Friday and the guests were banqueted to all the delicacies of the season. Those present were D. D. Heller and wife, Bertha and Henry Heller, J. H. Heller and family and Miss Elizabeth Corbus.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian church was entertained by Rev. and Mrs. Spetnagle Thursday afternoon. The principal business of the meeting being the election of new officers for 1909. After a very exciting contest the following ones were elected: President, Mrs. Bert Lower; vice president, Mrs. Dore Erwin; secretary, Mrs. Tom Reid; treasurer, Mrs. Dr. Coverdale. The new officers accepted their duties for this year in a very graceful manner. A vote of thanks was given the retiring officers, especially to the president, Mrs. J. N. Fristoe, who has made an excellent officer for the past eight years. Mrs. Spetnagle, assisted by Mrs. W. Lee, served sherbet, cake, coffee and candy. Every one enjoyed a pleasant time.

Miss Perlis Burd went to Fort Wayne Friday and from there to Garrett to visit with her sister, Miss Merle Burd, who is working in the circulation and advertising department of the Garrett Daily Press.

For the first time in fifteen months the Adams county jail is bereft of prisoners. Daniel Straub was the last to leave the institution and breathe the air of freedom. During the past year many violators of the law have been confined within the walls of the prison, and on several occasions as many as fifteen were locked up at once. For many weeks there were but two, Charles LeMay and Barney Everett, who were serving long sentences. It is indeed unusual that the jail is empty as there is some one serving a sentence for public intoxication almost all the time. Sheriff Meyer states that it seems quite out of the ordinary that the iron doors can swing to and fro without danger of their guests escaping. It would be a blessing if there would be no occasion to cause the iron cells to be occupied hereafter, and now that this is the first day of the new year, those who are inclined to violate the law and order should make an effort to reform and keep themselves out of the clutches of the law.

The latest writer of fiction is a former Adams county lady, Mrs. Cora G. Welty, better known as Cora Gottschalk, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gottschalk, of Berne. The story written is laid in Adams county and that fact, together with the knowledge that the writer, too, is claimed by our people, will make the book all the more interesting. The title is "The Masquerading of Margaret" and is beautifully bound, well written and published by the C. M. Clark Publishing company of Boston. Many of the characters are made of the Amish, and the story is interesting and on the whole a most creditable production, and the many friends of Mrs. Welty are profuse in their congratulations upon its success. The Clark Publishing company is one of the best publishing houses in the country, and this fact denotes not alone that the book has merit, but it also assures the success of the sales. It will at least go well in Adams county, where, at an early date most of our people will have a copy of "The Masquerading of Margaret" in their libraries. The Democrat congratulates Mrs. Welty and hopes that she will not hide her talent as a writer with this her first and successful attempt.

THE BIG BENEFIT SHOW.

To Be Given by Firemen Will Be Great Affair.

Preliminary arrangements for the firemen's benefit show to be given in the near future are being rapidly completed and it is their intention to give to their friends an entirely new novel and up to date local talent show. The play will be one of the new western plays now the rage in the cities, and will be embellished by a big double chorus of ladies and gentlemen in a catchy and tuneful musical program comprising the latest song hits and beautiful and fanciful chorus groupings and formations with elaborate costumes and scenic effects. The chorus will contain the best musical talent in the city and the cast will be made up of old time favorites. The proceeds of the show will be for the purposes of securing better equipment for the local department, and they hope to make it a financial success and they request the hearty co-operation of the public which they will no doubt receive as their efforts to give the city better service is certainly a laudable one and deserves the hearty commendation of all our citizens.

D. B. Erwin, of Decatur, is another new director appointed on the board of the Winona school, a Presbyterian institution. Charles True is another Decatur man on the board. Rev. A. H. Brand of this city is a member of the board, while Dr. G. E. Fulton declined a place.—Bluffton News.

David H. Clymer, of Claypool, has been sued for divorce by his wife, Nora E. Clymer, now of Goshen. Clymer formerly lived in Columbia City. The wife declared that they were married in 1885, when she was but 13 years old, and that her husband's peculiar ideas of affluence have made their married career a turbulent one.

Rev. L. L. Carpenter, of Wabash, has just returned from a five weeks' trip in Kansas and Nebraska, in the course of which he dedicated five churches and gave six lectures. Although past eighty years of age Rev. Carpenter is still active and travels from one end of the country to the other to follow his life's work of dedicating churches and giving lectures.

John Barkley is another trustee in Adams county who relinquishes his office with the township free from debt, and that, too, for the first time in the memory of man. Mr. Barkley has made an exceptionally good floor and has done much good for those whom he so faithfully served. He will leave Friday for a visit to his wife, who is in Colorado seeking to regain her health. She has been there for a month and the word comes back that she is showing many signs of improvement.

Tipton, Indiana, Jan. 4.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The announcement of the death of E. D. Beeler, one of the most prominent business men of this city at the Palmer hotel in Chicago Saturday caused a shock in business circles here and among his hundreds of friends. It was known that he had been acting queerly for about two weeks, the first indications being noticed just before Christmas, but that he would take his own life was never even surmised. It is the general belief here that his condition was brought on by his close attention to business. He was in splendid financial condition, but simply had more to take care of than he could stand. As soon as notice of his death was received here a committee of the Elks lodge to which he belonged hastened to Chicago, where they took charge of the remains, arriving with the body at two o'clock this morning. The funeral services will be held from the home in this city at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, in charge of the Elks and the Knight Templars. Interment will be made in this city. His wife is nearly distracted with grief.

Edward Beeler, for a number of years in business in this city, committed suicide Saturday some time, at the Palmer hotel in Chicago. His lifeless body was found Saturday afternoon, after he had been dead for many hours. He had gone to the city presumably to look after business and going to his room, stuffed the windows and even the keyhole with cotton and turned on the gas. That his death was caused by his own intent, there seems to be little doubt, as he left three notes, two of which were addressed to his wife and the other to some person, whose name has not been made public. It is the general opinion that Mr. Beeler's mind was affected, as he had acted rather queerly for some time, and for a few weeks last spring it is said he was a patient at a sanitarium. He was a hard worker and the strain of his various large enterprises seem to have been too great. He was about forty years of age, and had developed a wonderful ability in a business way. Mr. Beeler was reared near the Van Wert county line and when a young man learned the operator's business, serving for the Erie at Wren and Rivar. About ten years ago he came to this city and became a partner with Kern & Britton in the shoe business. Later they bought the Elfinger & Meyer clothing store and soon they opened the Big Store in the Studabaker-Alison block, where they conducted the largest retail store in this section of the country. In June of 1903 the building and contents were totally destroyed by fire, and the firm dissolved. A few months later, Mr. Beeler went to Tipton as manager of a similar store and a few months later he purchased the store and enlarged it. He has prospered and recently has engaged in the mitten factory business, owning factories at Tipton and Alexandria, also continuing to conduct his big store. A dispatch from Chicago published Sunday said:

Chicago, Jan. 3.—A man who has been identified as Edward Beeler, fifty-five years old, of Tipton, Ind., was found dead in a gas-filled room in the Palmer house yesterday afternoon, apparently a suicide. The keyholes and windows had been filled with cotton. The man, who registered last night as "John Smith," had been dead several hours when the tragedy was discovered by Mrs. M. A. Medberry, the housekeeper. Beeler wrote three letters, two of which were addressed to his wife. One briefly read as follows:

"Inclosed please find \$45. Good-by. EDWARD."

The police summoned and took charge of the body and personal effects. Telegrams were sent to Mrs. Beeler.

No motive for the man's act has been discovered. Among the man's effects was a loaded revolver. Mrs. Medberry detected the odor of gas and notified the management. Beeler registered at 2 o'clock this morning and retired as soon as his room was assigned and no call was received from him during the night.

Mr. Beeler is survived by his wife, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Washington Kern of this county. They have no children. His father lives near Wren, Ohio.

Miss Frances Dugan left this morning for Lake Forrest, where she will resume her studies at Perry Hall, after enjoying a holiday vacation with her parents, Mr and Mrs. C. A. Dugan.

Brown and Summers, real estate dealers of Monroe, have just closed two deals in which they sold forty acres of land belonging to Art Kern living in Blue Creek township, the consideration being \$3,000. They also sold eighty acres belonging to E. Burt and Norman Lenhart at \$125 per acre. It is said that Mr. Lenhart has one of the best farms in the county. Brown and Summers are becoming popular real estate dealers.

The January session of commissioners' court began Monday a. m. Martin Laughlin, president of the board, was not present, owing to the continuance of the illness which began when here a month ago. The business of the term will be light, owing to the many sessions held the latter part of last month, at which time the affairs of the county were pretty well settled up.

Michael Miller and William Gallmeyer were appointed viewers and C. G. Ernest engineer on the Springer and Habegger macadam road petitions, two roads petitioned for in Monroe township.

The East Jefferson and the Geneva, Ceylon & Wabash township extension roads were accepted by the board, the proper report upon them by the engineer and superintendent in charge having been made.

W. R. Wheat, representing the contracting firm of Wheat & Sisk, appeared before the board and refused to contract for five roads bid off by them at the December session. Their excuse was that they failed to understand that they were to make up any difference between the amount the bonds sell for and par, which amount the board has to realize upon them. The board have the matter under advisement and it is likely the roads will be sold again at the February term.

The county council are called for a meeting tomorrow at which time all the remaining surplus will be transferred to the general fund and what is necessary will be used to pay any bills which are remaining unpaid. There will be a surplus after this is done, but the exact sum is not now known.

Months of serious illness from a complication of diseases in which cancerous affections played the important part, culminated in the demise of Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Peter Zeser Saturday evening at seven o'clock. The deceased for some time suffered untold pain as a consequence of the dread ailment and during the past few weeks of her life she underwent a trying ordeal in a battle against the grim reaper. Senility contributed to the seriousness of the case, and for some time it was known that death was inevitable. The decedent was born in Ohio, although the greater portion of her life has been spent in Adams county where her children, five sons and three daughters, have been reared. The death of Mrs. Zeser will be deplored by a multitude of sorrowing friends, who knew her as a kind and loving friend. The funeral services were held from the St. Marys church Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock, standard time, interment being made at St. Joseph cemetery. The deceased was 57 years of age.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The president sent a special message to congress today concerning the appalling calamity in southern Italy in which he says that it is the immediate duty and a debt of civilization to Italy, the warm and steadfast friendship of that country to our own to prompt America to immediate and generous relief. The president recommends approval of the disbursements of supplies from the steamships Culmoa and Celtic as ordered by the department, and now enroute to Messina and for the further appropriation of a half million dollars to be applied to the relief. Suez battleships Connecticut, Vermont, Minnesota and Kansas started through the Suez canal this morning from here to Port Said. Immediately after hearing the president's message on the earthquake in Italy the house went him one better and unanimously appropriated the sum of \$300,000 for relief of the victims.

Having passed her ninety-third milestone and possessing the distinction of being the oldest woman in Adams county, the spirit of Mrs. Rebecca Mumma was ushered into eternity Saturday evening at five o'clock responsive to the ravages of senility and other complications. Mrs. Mumma lived a long and enjoyable life. She was born in Maryland and has lived in this county since the time of her marriage. In 1865 her husband departed for the great beyond. The deceased was a resident of Union township. Her acquaintanceship extends over a goodly portion of the county and by all who knew her, she was dearly loved. A wonderfully strong constitution was hers and that she lived to reach such a ripe old age is due to that fact. Surviving to mourn the loss of a devoted mother are three sons: John H., R. F. and W. and Miss Melissa and Mrs. O. P. Harkless. The funeral services were held from the Pleasant Grove U. B. church Monday morning at 10 o'clock and interment was made at Pleasant Valley cemetery.