

Real estate transfers: Jesse O. Smith et al to Rachel Baker et al, part outlot 72, Decatur, \$400; Rachel Baker et al to John H. Springer, part outlot 72, Decatur, \$800; John N. Springer to J. O. and L. B. Smith, part of outlot 290, Decatur, \$1,200.

#### Wednesday Afternoon.

"Human Nature in the School Room" was the theme of Dr. Ferris' remarks, when he said: We sometimes find fault with our fellows because they do not see as we do. Not because they are wrong; but because they do not agree with us. We cannot always appreciate character or good books because we have not had the necessary experience to enable us to interpret them. One's knowledge of one's self is very meager, and of our fellows we know still less. We learn character through experience. To illustrate: "When I was a boy I picked a pall of blackberries. I sold them to a man who, I found was a Sunday school teacher. I had measured the berries with my mother's quart measure and knew I had ten quarts. But the Sunday school man measured them with a wooden box and said I only had eight quarts, and paid me for eight. Later I saw him sell the berries, but he had a measure like my mother's, and sold ten quarts. I learned that man by experience. I have often wondered where that man went. He's gone." I accept the theory of evolution but I do not accept Darwinism. In many things we are on a plane with the lower animals, viz: A desire to live, a desire for food, etc. The second plane in this evolution of man is the plane of combat. Why I honestly pity the man who has never had the pleasure of a good, hard, fist encounter. Third plane plane of prudence; fourth plane industrial plane. Man lays aside for a rainy day. He finds this comes ahead of the combative plane. The fifth plane is the plane of improving. A desire to be better, yet these primitive instincts in man are absolutely necessary to development of character. Rest.

Music by Dr. Hanson. Unless we become as little children we can never enter the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of sound or any other kingdom. So in the study of music this afternoon let us become as little children. Practical work was the order of the lesson. Rest.

Oral composition by Prof. Thomas. Language studies differ from literature studies in that for literature study we want gems of thought while for language work we want that containing the best of English. I would use Ingersoll's lectures for language work. It is your duty to give to your children this winter some of the enthusiasm caused by studying good English. I love to read George Eliot as much for the beauty of her language as for the portrayal of character or the development of a plot. My plea this afternoon is to give your pupils a "Feeling for style" in language, and if you haven't got it yourself, for heaven's sake get it. It is just as important that we develop the charm or pleasingness in language composition as it is in music. Practical demonstrations in composition writing by the Prof. closed the day's work.

#### Thursday Morning.

Opening song "One Evermore." Devotional by the Rev. F. H. Vernor. Song "America."

Prof. Thomas was the first speaker, this morning, on the subject "Written Composition." A good plan in composition work is open criticism, the story being criticized by the class, thus bringing about a change of ideas. Encourage a variety of criticisms. Encourage a repetition of criticisms. These criticisms should include delivery as well as language. In selecting subjects, select those things which have come under the child's observation. Interesting incidents in the child's life furnish splendid subject matter for this work. I would place much emphasis on the mechanics of composition; a uniformity of paper is a necessity. The same rules should govern each writer. These rules should be governed by usage. Accuracy is the one pre-requisite of a scholarship. Therefore, demand absolute accuracy in the mechanical part of composition writing. You will not get literary accuracy but you do not expect that in the child of thirteen or fourteen. The child will derive great joy from composition work. Encourage letter writing. The children will delight in imitating their parents in this and of telling their distant friends of incidents at home. It is of practical value to be able to write a letter correctly. It is a splendid recommendation wherever you may be. Rest.

Music by Dr. Hanson. Repetition is a necessity in the study of music. A musically interested school is never unruly. Music bears the switch in discipline. The shepherd's way of disciplining is far superior to the cowboy's. The value of musical impressions were illustrated by the reading of incidental stories. The lesson was concluded by practical work. Rest.

Mr. Don Park gave the Institute

with a violin solo, accompanied by Mr. Holthouse on the piano. The last period of the forenoon was used by Dr. Ferris in concluding his talk on "Human Nature in the School Room." We never really do as well as we know. Animals rarely reason and you rarely reason. Note the similarity. We too often spoil the child by doing for him that which he is able to do for himself. A failure is not made in a minute. The sensual impressions are constantly arousing the interest of man and when the exact concrete moment comes he fails. The embezzler was doing wrong even while his friends were worshipping at his shrine. The boy who acts like a gentleman continuously will, in time, become a gentleman. A boy who is constantly placed in association with good people will naturally assimilate the good qualities. Don't never attempt to study human nature in the adult. Go to the child. Study the child in his natural conditions. Study human nature in a careful systematic way and then you will never be able to analyze character accurately and correctly.

Pet Hensley, the little spotted pony which is the pride of the children of Jeweler D. M. Hensley and the envy of every boy and girl in Decatur, caused a big chunk of excitement at Rome City Tuesday afternoon, where he is spending the summer with the family. This pony has one hobby, and a queer one for a pony at that, he loves the water and whenever given an opportunity he takes a plunge in the glistening ripples of Sylvan Lake. It is his delight to watch the children as they don their bathing clothes and frolic along the beach and he begs to join them. When the stable door is opened he dashes into the lake without waiting for the ceremony of putting on a bath suit. After swimming half across the lake and back two or three times he will tear up the bank and for an hour or two is mighty hard to catch. Tuesday afternoon he performed this stunt and then added several grains of excitement for good measure. After his bathe he ran all the way to the G. R. & I. railroad, nearly a mile and arrived at the track just as a south bound freight train was coming. Pet took one look at the approaching train and then started down the track ahead of the steam monster as hard as he could go. The pony ran nearly five miles ahead of the train, the engine tooting continually and had it not been that the pony was recognized by the trainmen he would no doubt have been hurled into eternity, as it was necessary to stop the train three times. After a race which continued almost to Kendallville, a farmer proved himself a hero by running out on the track, grabbing the pony by the head and turning him from his mad course, and into his barnyard. In the meantime, Mr. Hensleys had been notified and was in pursuit. He finally reached the farm house and called his neighbor, Mr. Hocker, who came out in his automobile, bringing Carlisle Flanders along to ride Pet home, while Mr. Hensley went back in the car. Nearly all of the cottagers at Rome City were interested and the pony was welcomed home by his many friends.

Washington, August 18.—It used to be "lo, the poor farmer," now it is "oh, the plutocratic agriculturists." According to the report of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, made public today, the total valuation of farm products in the crop year of 1908 was \$7,778,000,000, the biggest in the world's history. "While these figures contain some duplication," Secretary Wilson explains, "on the other hand they do not contain some important items of wealth production, and the fact remains that the unthinkable amount of seven and three-fourths billions of dollars of wealth have been produced by farmers this year for national sustenance and for export to the craving millions of foreign nations. It is a real, tangible wealth as it exists at the time it leaves the hands of the producer. It is about four times the value of the product of the mines, including mineral oils and precious metals. From these agricultural products, the manufacturing and mechanical industries that use agricultural products as materials draw 86 per cent. of their total materials, and these industries use 42 per cent. of all materials used in the entire business of manufacturing. These figures indicate the extent to which the manufacturing industries are indebted to agriculture, although no recognition is given to this in the annual statements of the value of manufacturers. The farm value of farm products this year is \$290,000,000 above the value for 1907 and \$3,061,000,000 above the census years the wealth production of the farms of this country has exceeded the fabulous amount of \$60,000,000,000. Greatest of all crops is Indian corn, the priceless gift of the Indian. The value of the crop almost surpasses belief. It is \$1,415,000,000. This wealth that

has grown out of the soil in four months of rain and sunshine, and some drought, too, is enough to pay for the Panama canal and fifty battleships. For the first time in the history of the country's agriculture the value of the cotton crop, including the seed, has apparently exceeded the value of the hay crop, \$621,000,000, which has heretofore held second place for a long series of years. Wheat is 1.15 per cent. above the five-year average in production and 23.3 per cent. above that average in total value. The value was \$620,000,000, which was never approached nearer than \$66,000,000. The value of the farm products of the dairy cow are getting closer and closer to \$800,000,000 and the eggs and poultry produced on the farm are worth as much as the cotton crop, seed included, or the hay crop, or the wheat crop. To the farmer who has averaged hardly 20 cents a pound for the butter that he has sold, 3 or 4 cents a quart for his milk and about 1 1/2 cents for each egg, and even to the consumer, who has paid prices much above these, this increase in value is striking."

Mitchel Page is the name of a new porter who is employed at the Murray hotel. That is not his real name, for he just simply took that handle because he likes it. He is a colored man, but no ordinary one, and has a history, and by the way, he is intelligent and as interesting to talk to as most any person you will meet in a several days' travel. He is a native of the jungles of darkest Africa, his home originally being forty-seven miles south of Bellefontaine. When twelve years old he was picked up by a representative of the John Robinson Circus, who was in that country gathering up wild beasts for his big menagerie. He was brought to this country and lived for a number of years at Cincinnati and traveling with the circus. He learned the American language and customs and no longer cares for the wilds of his native country. He remembers well the lingo of his tribe and speaks it well. He says that his tribe wore only the breech clout and he tells many interesting stories of his life in the dark lands. He has helped to hunt the lions and has seen all the wild beasts of his native land. Once since he has become a man he made a trip back to his native land, but he did not care to remain and soon returned to this country. He is different from the ordinary colored man you meet and he has no particular love for the Dixie land, nor does he speak the southern brogue. He is a clever porter and can easily prove to you that he is a native of Africa. He is married and his wife, an American colored woman, is here with him. He says he has never met a person who can talk his language during the eighteen years he has spent in this country.

That Elmer Smith of this city can soon assume the role of a really independent citizen is now all but an assured fact. His share of a legacy from Ireland is about \$17,000 and this amount of money is safely deposited in Washington awaiting the proper disposal thereof. An uncle of Mr. Smith, also of Thomas McGirk of Fort Wayne, recently died in Ireland. He was a large land owner and at the time of his demise he had not an heir with the exception of the Smiths and McGirks. The property was disposed of and about ninety thousand dollars was sent to America to be distributed among the heirs. Three Fort Wayne lawyers were at once engaged to prove the identification of the heirs, and they have worked diligently to that end. It is sincerely thought that within a very few months at the most the heirs will have the money and it will certainly mean something. The children of the late William E. Smith are also heirs and should the money be forthcoming, it would be a god send to that family. An account in a recent issue of an Indianapolis paper insists that the money is unmistakably at Washington and can be obtained after the necessary red tape is observed.

Attorney D. E. Smith, representing Henry Koeneman, filed a motion for a new trial in the case of the Decatur Horse Company vs. Koeneman before Squire J. H. Stone and the motion was argued last Thursday at 9 o'clock, the justice of the peace refusing to grant the request. Attorney Smith made a brief argument in which he charged that the complaint was invalid, that it did not specifically state what ailment the horse in question suffered from. He also questioned the veracity of the demurrer and further asked a new trial for the reason that the verdict was compromised. Attorney Peterson for the plaintiffs opposed the motion with a short argument at the close of which Squire Stone outlined briefly why he would not grant a new trial. It is quite probable that the case will be appealed to the circuit court within the next

thirty days, the allotted time. That action remains as the only recourse for the defendant against whom a judgment of \$12.50 was rendered by a jury of six men.

#### WILL VESEY CLAIMS A BRIDE

Fort Wayne Young Man, Known Here as Married.

A wedding of great interest to the young people of the city was announced Monday, through the issuing of the license, but nothing definite can be obtained concerning the date. The license was issued to W. J. Vesey, son of Judge William J. Vesey, and Miss Bessie Witte, of 433 Master-son avenue. The wedding has been kept a secret from both friends and relatives, for Mr. and Mrs. Vesey, parents of the prospective groom, know nothing of the announcement, as they are in Cincinnati. Miss Witte, the bride, is a well known young lady to whom Mr. Vesey has been attentive for some time. She has been a telephone operator at the Bowser factory, and is very attractive and charming girl. Mr. Will Vesey is employed at the Vesey floral establishment and is a popular young man and has a great many friends who will be greatly surprised to hear of his wedding. He was formerly a student at Mercersburg, Pa.—Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.

#### LITTLE CHILD IS DEAD

After suffering for some time from summer complaint, Alice Gertrude, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Hoopengartner, died last Thursday at the age of twenty months, and thus most poignant sorrow has been caused the parents and their friends. The child had just reached age when she was a blessing to the home, when she was overtaken by the dread ailment, which ushered her young life into the eternal world. Death came Thursday at nine o'clock. The funeral services were held Saturday afternoon.

Announcement has been made of the approaching marriage of Miss Mindwell Augusta Case, formerly a popular young society lady of this city and county, to Mr. Franklin David Annen, of Chicago. The happy event will occur on Wednesday, September first, at the home of the bride's parents in Indianapolis, and will be a quiet home wedding, at which the Rev. Edgar Jones of Ossian will officiate. The ring ceremony will be used and the only attendant will be the little ring bearer, Miss Ardea Annen, a niece of the groom from Washington, Indiana. After the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Annen will enjoy an extended trip, and will be at home in Chicago about October first. The parties to this affair are both well known here. The bride is a graduate of the Decatur high schools and is a lady of many charms and accomplishments. The groom, Mr. Annen, was formerly a resident of Magley, but for some time has served as a railway mail clerk and now lives in Chicago. Their host of friends in this locality join us in advancing best wishes for them.

The rumble of thunder was heard here Thursday afternoon, and a few dark looking clouds were noticed in the southwest, but they soon passed and nothing was thought of the matter until it was learned an hour or two later that one of the most disastrous electrical storms of the year had passed south and west of here, missing Decatur by a few miles, but causing about ten thousand dollars' worth of damage in the section it passed through. Three barns were totally destroyed, a house damaged and no doubt some other loss that has not been reported. The biggest loss was at the farm of Simeon Smith, in French township, where lightning struck a large barn. It caught fire and was totally destroyed with all the contents, including two three-year-old horses, a yearling colt, two cows, several head of hogs, and a large amount of hay and grain. The flames spread to another barn nearby which was also burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at five thousand dollars, partially insured. In the French township mutual. A big barn owned by Charles Bell of Craigville and located on his farm south of there was struck by lightning and destroyed, the contents including twenty tons of hay, 1200 bushels of oats, other grain, and a large amount of machinery, a wagon and other articles. His loss is at least \$2,500 with \$1,000 insurance in the French township company. The residence of David Hartman near Craigville was also struck and was damaged considerably. Mr. Smith and family and Mr. Hartman were away from their homes when the fires occurred. It was also reported that another barn in the locality was destroyed, but no details of the name of the owner could be obtained. The storm broke about 1:30 and lasted for about half an hour, and then it passed. It was a very bad storm, while it lasted, it was very bad.

Married Wednesday night at Poplar Bluffs, Missouri, is the news Charles Burdge has for his many Decatur friends, he and his bride a few days having arrived in the city Friday noon. Mr. Burdge left Decatur three years ago for the west and two years ago he located permanently at Poplar Bluffs, where he became acquainted with Miss Rachel Grisham, who is now his wife. Mr. Burdge has been engaged in the barber business since being in the west. He is a young man of many good qualities and has enjoyed the fellowship of innumerable friends. He with his bride will remain in Decatur during the winter months, after which he expects to return to the west. The bride is a popular young woman and moved in the very best society in Poplar Bluffs. She will be given a cordial welcome in Decatur by the many friends of the Burdge family.

As a conclusive evidence that the promoters of the Bluffton, Geneva & Celina Traction line will expedite the construction work of the proposed and assured road, they have purchased the heavy rails and accomplished other preliminary red tape as the following from the Bluffton Banner will suggest: The heavy rails for the B. G. & C. are here and if the other material arrives this evening or tomorrow morning work will be started on the laying of the rails immediately. The gang which was put to work Tuesday tearing up east Washington street, is still at work and will have the street ready for the rails within a short time. The Wells Construction company which is doing the construction work, has issued a call for help, stating that no one in Bluffton, who is out of work, need go out of the city. The officials of the company have agreed to give preference to home labor in all of the work which will be done on the line. A large number of people of the city have been waiting for the construction work to start and will work stony on this line as soon as the work does start. A photographer from the Ashbacher gallery took a picture of the bunch at work this afternoon.

A Mr. Oppenheimer, from Coldwater, Ohio, was in Decatur yesterday, looking after details concerning the removal of a large factory to this city, and while the matter has not been closed, there is a splendid opportunity for landing this concern. At present Mr. Oppenheimer, with three brothers and two sisters, conduct two factories which manufacture a manure spreader. One of them is located at Mariastein, Ohio, where fifty-two men are employed and another at Coldwater where forty-eight men work. The idea is to combine the two plants at a place where better shipping facilities can be had. The Commercial Club has been in correspondence with this company for some months and Mr. Oppenheimer is much pleased with Decatur. He has no stock for sale and will come here with but very little encouragement. This year they have made 3,000 of their machines and have been unable to fill the orders. Next year they will make 5,000 and if they come here will start off with a force of 150 men. Mr. Oppenheimer left here last evening, but will return in a few days with his brothers and it is believed that he will decide to bring his plant to this city. Let's get together on this. It's a great opportunity.

Dr. Woodbridge N. Ferris, Big Rapids, Mich., one of the most brilliant of men, who today lectures in behalf of education, was the crowning feature of Thursday's session of the teachers' institute, when, before a vast and appreciative assemblage, he discoursed on the all important theme "Making the World Better." The prestige established earlier in the week by the masterful educator, whose lectures have furnished food for the deepest of thought, and most devout consideration, assured for him a packed house when this talk, generally applicable to citizens, scholars and teachers alike was to be delivered. The spacious auditorium and lecture room, every space therein gave way to eager humanity long before the scheduled time for the lecture and not a soul could be found who would declare the talk other than unsurpassable. At no time did interest lag and the hearers were absolutely void of the restlessness which usually attends a lecture of considerable length. Dr. Ferris intermingled wit and humor, oratory and pathos in delivering the most scholarly address ever presented to an Adams county audience and the subject was completely exhausted by clever argument and the presentation of common sense talk in support thereof. In a vivid illustration of a paramount point which the speaker sought to lodge permanently in the minds of his auditors, he placed every person under the X-rays of Almighty God, thus revealing the inherent selfishness which has time and again proven disastrous in every possession

of such a trait, and which oftentimes exists detrimentally notwithstanding the fact that the individual is unconscious of its presence. It was a great lecture.

A force of men in charge of Jack Moynihan, began at 6:30 this morning to test the gas mains in Decatur, and up to noon, not a single report had come in to the gas office as requested, concerning any leakage in the lines. However, this is due probably to the fact that the mains are nearly all shut off at the street and the air pressure test which is being used would not be detected. This test will be continued until Monday and if you should hear any escaping air, it is most important that you notify the gas office at once. On Monday some fluid, perhaps ether or something else with a good strong odor will be turned into the lines and at that time all the leakages will be more easily detected. The gas company will use every possible means to avoid any inconvenience and to find any leakage that might cause an accident after the gas is turned on and they ask the people of Decatur to assist them. If any person knows where there was a leak in the street or on their premises when the gas was used they will confer a great favor by notifying the gas office at once. This is most important, so don't fail to do it. Don't put it off. If you know of any leakage call the office at once. The men wish to give the service here as soon as possible and the quicker all leaks are repaired, the sooner can we have the gas. Please attend to this at once, not only for the good of the company, but for your own safety and that of your neighbor as well.

Mrs. Anna Golden, of Piqua avenue and Cour street, was seriously burned about the face, arms and shoulders at 11 o'clock yesterday morning in a gasoline explosion which threatened to destroy the Golden store at the corner named. Neighbors ran to the woman's assistance and perhaps saved her life, putting out the flames, which were spreading rapidly. The fire department was not called.—Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. Mrs. Golden is a daughter of Thomas Moran of this city, and is a sister of Attorney J. C. Moran and Mrs. P. K. Kinney, besides having a number of other relatives and friends in this city and county. Her relatives here were not notified of the accident and could give no further information than that stated above. They believe however, that her condition is not serious, or they would certainly have been notified. It is hoped she will recover speedily.

Mrs. Butler of Ninth street, sister of Mrs. J. M. Miller, is very low, having suffered a stroke of apoplexy yesterday morning at nine o'clock. Since Mrs. Butler's residence in the city she has made many friends, having been a very lovable woman, and those who know her here, as well as friends out of the city, are saddened by her sudden fatal illness. Yesterday morning a Miss Graber, daughter of Henry Graber of the county farm, went to Mrs. Butler's home. The afflicted woman was very pale, but she asked Miss Graber to sit down, having the stroke immediately after. Her brother-in-law, Dr. J. M. Miller, was summoned, bringing another physician to assist him, but little could be done. The sick woman was unconscious yesterday, but this morning was able to speak a little. It is hoped that she will recover.

Miss Clara Smith who, on last Saturday morning left for Fondulac, Wis., to witness the profession of her sister Agnes in the order of the sisters of St. Agnes, and also to enter the order herself, took sick with typhoid fever and is very seriously ill in a hospital at that place. At first it was thought to be but a mild attack, but later developments showed it to be serious and Friday morning her mother, Mrs. Theo. Smith, who resides on south Fifth street received a telegram stating she was in a serious condition and to come at once. Mrs. Smith, in company with her son Martin, left on the noon train over the Erie to be at the bedside of their daughter and sister Mrs. H. Berling and Gertrude and Bernard Smith, brother and sister of Miss Clara Smith, returned home some time yesterday, where they had also been in attendance. Mrs. Berling's daughter Agnes also making her profession. Miss Smith is well known and highly respected by her many friends in and about Decatur who will be saddened to learn of her illness, and hope that she will receive back her good health and continue with her vocation of life which she had chosen.

Mrs. A. R. Bell has been quite sick since yesterday, suffering from acute indigestion. Mr. Bell who is attending to business at Athens, Ohio, was summoned last evening. Her condition is much better today, and it is hoped her illness will not prove serious.