

In giving the assets and liabilities of our electric light and water works plant, I placed the value of same at \$125,000.00. I have since promised the public a statement showing how I arrived at the value of this property which so many people thought was a real burden to the city. My statement of September 15th showed how much of the people's money was in the plant. The amounts are as follows:

Paid by taxation	\$19,000.00
Extension money raised by taxation	2,950.00
Outstanding electric light orders	2,993.31
Outstanding water works orders	2,082.39
Outstanding W. W. bonds	10,000.00
Int. on outstanding orders	1,200.00
E. L. & W. W. orders in \$20,000 bond sale	14,500.00
Interest on bonds carried by city	19,140.00
Total	\$71,866.30
Plant earnings used for ext	82,564.48
Total value	\$154,430.78

The above is the total value of the plant determined by the amount of money invested. The trouble is that I cannot make these figures stick, because people will say that it does not matter what a property costs. Cost does not determine value. The report further shows that \$19,313.00 of the fire hydrant and street light money has been retained by the taxpayers. \$33,049.42 was collected from consumers. Our rate is eight cents per kilowatt and other plants show a rate of ten and twelve cents per kilowatt. If we had used the ten cent rate, we would have collected \$23,262.35 more than we did. Add this to the amount retained by taxpayers and you will have \$42,575.00. The above amount is for eleven years. One year the amount would be \$3,870.00. Compute the interest on \$71,866.00, the amount the people have in the plant by direct payments and guaranteed payments including interest, and you will see that the city has declared a little less than a six per cent. dividend on her investment of \$71,866.00 besides earning \$82,564.48 for extensions and the \$24,875.00 of the bonded indebtedness that was paid out of the earnings of the plant. Be careful how you figure or you will run the value above the \$150,000.00 mark. You want to be careful or you will make every dollar, that the city invested, worth three. These figures have been too flattering and I will have to figure from another basis. We will use the private ownership basis at ten cents per kilowatt. Our gross earnings at eight cents last year, was \$30,000.00, ten cents would have brought \$35,000. We spent for coal, drayage and freight \$12,000.00, labor \$5,580.00, you may allow for depreciation \$5,420. The total expenses will be \$23,000 leaving \$12,000 the profit on an unknown capital. This amount will equal the interest on \$200,000.00. Our eight cents per kilowatt gives us a \$7,000.00 profit with a depreciation fund of over \$5,000 which amount is really too high. Be careful again or you will make the plant worth \$200,000.00 and you will make every dollar of the money the city invested worth three or more. In my statements, I have been exact but in all my arguments, I have given the benefit of the doubt to those of the opposite belief. I have never mentioned minimum charge once, neither have I have anything about the increased or higher power rate of the other cities. If a private firm could have secured this plant at cost, they could have bonded it for \$125,000, put the money in their pockets, paid a six per cent dividend on a \$200,000 capital stock. They could have spent their summers in Petoskey, their winters in Florida, while we could spend our few hours of leisure as far north as Maple Grove park.

I believe in the people of Decatur managing their own affairs. They do not need any high priced men to tell them how to take care of their own business. When do you find a private business in this town that makes a better showing? In 1894 there was a \$20,000 bond issue. This bonded indebtedness was made to cover the floating debt and to take up old obligations. Decatur then was \$20,000 in the hole and no salable property to cover her indebtedness. Today she has property to cover all her indebtedness and is more than \$41,000 to the good. Using the \$125,000 as the valuation of the plant, everybody knows the above figures are too low. This makes a difference in favor of the city of more than \$61,000 during the last fifteen years. I am glad to see that a great many fair minded people understand the object of my statements. In fact our figures have convinced the most unreasonable that our city indebtedness rose and fell during the last eleven years regardless of the water and electric light plant. Yet we have some men who have axes to grind that cannot see what has caused our trouble. They fail to see the south ward school building at a cost of \$12,000.00

West Ward at perhaps 7,000.00 Indianapolis, Oct. 1.—The state tax board will revise the personal property list to secure a better equalization of taxation, so it was stated yesterday by John McArgle, a member of the board. The itemized list of personal property, which every taxpayer is required to fill out contains 100 items, including everything from annuities, the number of steamboats owned to the number of dogs. In spite of its apparent completeness, however, the state tax board has discovered that the list does not include automobiles. There are a number of other items which are not definite enough, as, for example, the question has convinced the people that the is asked "how many sheep and credit of Decatur is good and that all value?" This will probably be changed "how many rams?" "How many lambs?" etc. Instead of "how many cattle, and value?" the question will likely be, "how many bulls, heifers, steers, cows, calves?" etc. The board has realized for some time that the list did not permit a fair equalization of values, in that it permitted some to escape under a too broad classification a taxation which ought to obtain, and which it is believed will under a proper revision. The board is fortified in its right to make the revision by an opinion from Attorney General Bingham. The attorney general states that the assessment laws of the state clearly give the state tax board the right to revise the assessment list, which has remained as it is for many years.

Among the best known old residents of this city are Mr. and Mrs. James Edge, who for years have resided on north Fifth street. They have many acquaintances over this section who will be glad to learn that this splendid old couple are planning to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day. The event occurred October 19th, 1859, and the golden wedding on the same date this year will likewise be a happy affair. A son who resides in Missouri is here and will assist his parents in getting ready for the important occasion, as will also the daughter, Mrs. M. V. B. Archbold of Fort Wayne. Mr. and Mrs. Edge are in good health and are as happy as though they were anticipating the original wedding. They are among the most highly respected citizens of Decatur and all who know them hope they will live to enjoy each others company for another half century. The golden wedding will not be an elaborate affair, but will include all the relatives and of course the day will be a most appropriate one.

Some people can't just naturally help being lucky and it looks as though Fred Martin, son of Jacob Martin of this city, is one of those individuals. It is well known here that he has large holdings in the Alaskan district. He spent the summer here and on his way home in August stopped in the Coeur d'Alene country and registered for the big government land drawing. As a result he has been notified that he was one of those fortunate enough to secure a 160 acre tract of the valuable land for the price of the notary, twenty-five cents. A recent copy of the Fairbanks, Alaska Daily Times, said:

"Lucky Fred" A. Martin, proprietor of the California, received a notice by yesterday's mail that he had drawn Number 2221, in the Flathead Indian reservation, near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This means that he has 160 acres of land coming to him, for an expenditure of twenty-five cents in registering, in the early part of July—that is, he has the opportunity of buying it at a price which will make it almost a gift. The big government lottery, in which 200,000 acres of land not allotted to the Flathead Indians is apportioned, began at Coeur d'Alene August 12th. According to the Missoula Herald, of the 700,000 acres there are two thousand quarter sections of land fit for agricultural purposes, and it is estimated that there will be between 2,700 and 3,000 claims filed upon. There are 40,229 acres of land classified as first class, for which the government will receive from \$5 to \$7 per acre, one-third to be paid at time of filing, April, 1910, and the remainder in five equal annual payments, unless the one making entry desires to prove up after fourteen months' residence, when the remaining balance can be paid. The second class agricultural land totals 75,018 acres. Mr. Martin will know after filing next April whether he will have timber, agricultural or mediocre ground. Six thousand names will be drawn. He and Frank Barthel and Fred Deininger, who all come from the same town, Decatur, Ind., registered at the same time. Mr. Martin is not quite decided which he would rather be in this instance, a farmer or a log-roller.

Henry Knapp vs. Samuel and Abram Debolt, note, default of defendants, cause heard and judgment rendered for plaintiff in sum of \$66. James Toubey vs. City of Decatur, damages \$10,000, rule to answer made absolute in five days.

Ella Debolt vs. Chauncey Debolt, divorce, on motion by prosecuting attorney, cause was postponed until Saturday, October 9.

Frank Droga vs. Beulah A. E. Harder, slander, demand \$3,000, reset for October 26.

Fort Wayne Electric Works vs. William G. Spencer, suit on contract, \$125, set for trial Wednesday, October 27.

A motion for a change of venue from the judge was filed and sustained in the cases of C. F. Gladieux, William J. Beauchot, Frank J. Gerordt and Herman Hockney, re-application for liquor licenses in Allen county.

Mathias Miller et al. petition for drain, final report filed by drainage commissioner, examined and approved.

John W. McLean vs. Mary and Noah Loch, answer filed by International Harvester Co. and by Kirsch, Sellemyer & Co., cross complaints also filed.

Real estate transfers: Benjamin Hellworth to John M. Amstutz 160 acres, Jefferson township, \$12,800. David C. Welty to Jesse Rupp, part lot 428, Berne, \$250.

A. B. Bailey, guardian for Francis Kessler, filed his report and resignation. Guardian discharged. Etta Huffman appointed and filed bond.

M. E. Brackett is just home from Chicago, where he landed a nice piece of business and which will help increase the output and earnings of the Ward Fence company for 1910. The contract was for a certain style farm fence, and the order is one that will make the company twenty thousand planks, not a bad asset. Mr. Brackett has a few more contracts on the way and the outlook is not half bad for this Decatur manufacturing company. They expect to greatly increase their output during the coming year and from the present outlook they will easily do it.

The Ward Fence company sent out their quarterly dividend checks yesterday and today every holder of stock in that company will have received a dividend upon the amount of stock they hold. This is the third dividend declared for the year, and it will likely continue to be a permanent feature of their business.

Miss Laura Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Thomas of Oak street was given a farewell party Tuesday at her home. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and family will leave for Elkhart in a few days, and they expect to reside there in the future. For the past week the school friends of Laura had been planning the event and they enjoyed themselves immensely last night. Misses Grace Coffelt, Ruth and Frances Miller served delicious refreshments. Those who attended were Misses Hazel Smiley, Nellie Winans, Lucile Smith, Beatrice Coffelt, Bertha Hillpot, Leah Hammond, Leah Hensley, Mabel Crainer, Irene Jackson, Mary Irisin, Crystal Kern, Esther Eads, Olive Perkins, Merle Johnson, Julia Gillig, Ruth and Frances Miller, Grace Coffelt.

The junior Christian Endeavor of the Christian church is planning for a good time to be held at the home of Mrs. Percy Williams. The event promises to be one of pleasure for the league members.

The experience social at the home of Mrs. Ed Shoemaker Friday evening, August 12th. According to the Missoula Herald, of the 700,000 acres there are two thousand quarter sections of land fit for agricultural purposes, and it is estimated that there will be between 2,700 and 3,000 claims filed upon. There are 40,229 acres of land classified as first class, for which the government will receive from \$5 to \$7 per acre, one-third to be paid at time of filing, April, 1910, and the remainder in five equal annual payments, unless the one making entry desires to prove up after fourteen months' residence, when the remaining balance can be paid. The second class agricultural land totals 75,018 acres. Mr. Martin will know after filing next April whether he will have timber, agricultural or mediocre ground. Six thousand names will be drawn. He and Frank Barthel and Fred Deininger, who all come from the same town, Decatur, Ind., registered at the same time. Mr. Martin is not quite decided which he would rather be in this instance, a farmer or a log-roller.

As announced a few weeks ago the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the M. E. church will open their second annual ransack sale in the city hall, corner of Madison and Third streets, on Tuesday, Oct. 5. An apron sale will be held in connection with the ransack sale. All who have something to donate will please hear this date in mind.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Macbaren of this city entertained at twelve o'clock dinner yesterday very pleasantly. The afternoon was spent at conversation.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Britz of Chicago, and Mr. and Mrs. Adam Elling of Monroeville.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schults entertained last evening in an enjoyable way by giving a six o'clock dinner party. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Britz of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Elling of Monroeville.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schirmeyer entertained in a most delightful way a number of their friends at their home on Mercer avenue Friday evening in honor of out of town guests. Mrs. Lomeyer, one of the guests sang several times during the evening, adding much pleasure to the general pleasant time. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Brackett, Mr. and Mrs. Lomeyer, Mrs. Young and daughter of Montana, and Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Ellingham. Mrs. Young is known by many here, being a sister of Mrs. Schirmeyer.

A powder for swollen, tired, hot, smarting feet. Sample sent Free. Also Free Sample of the Foot-Ease Sanitary Corn-Fad, a new invention. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Miss Ruth Gains, of Anderson, is in the city visiting with Mr. and Mrs. C. Keller.

#### THE ROAD TO SUCCESS.

has many obstructions, but none so desperate as poor health. Success today demands health, but Electric Bitters is the greatest health builder the world has ever known. It compels perfect action of stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels, purifies and enriches the blood and tones and invigorates the whole system. Vigorous body and keen brain follow their use. You can't afford to slight Electric Bitters if weak, run-down or sickly. Only 50c. Guaranteed by all druggists.

Hazel Andrews went to Monroe this afternoon for a short stay at that place on business.

"Can be depended upon" is an expression we all like to hear, and when it is used in connection with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy it means that it never fails to cure diarrhoea, dysentery or bowel complaints. It is pleasant to take and equally valuable for children and adults. Sold by all dealers.

Mrs. Rinehart Limenstahl, of Peterson, went to Fort Wayne today to visit her daughter.

#### A HURRY UP CALL.

Quick! Dr. Dragist—Quick!—a box of Buckle's Arnica Salve—Here's a quarter—For the love of Moses, hurry! Baby's burned himself terribly—John's cut his foot with the axe—Mamie's scalded—Pa can't walk from piles—Billie has boils—and my corns ache. Give it got it and soon cured all the family. It's the greatest healer on earth. Sold by all druggists.

Henry Bennett, of Briant, went to Fort Wayne last evening to spend the day with friends.

Your complexion as well as your temper is rendered miserable by a disordered liver. By taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets you can improve both. Sold by all dealers.

Peter Holthouse went to Redkey this morning, where he will look after business during the day.

To Mothers in this Town. Children who are delicate, feverish, and cross will get immediate relief from Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children. They cleanse the stomach, act on the liver, making a sickly child strong and healthy. A certain cure for worms. Sold by all druggists, 25c. Sample Free. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

The condition of Harmon Bosse remains about the same, and not much change or improvement.

Every Woman Will be Interested. There has recently been discovered an aromatic, pleasant herb cure for woman's file, called Mother Gray's Australian-Leaf. It is the only certain regulator. Cures female weakness and Backache, Kidney, Bladder and Ordinary Troubles. At all Druggists or by mail 50c. Sample Free. Address, The Mother Gray Co., LeRoy, N. Y.

Mrs. Fred Linn and Mrs. Lee Vance will go to Indianapolis tomorrow, where they will remain for a few days.

Many Children are Sickly. Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children used by Mother Gray, a nurse in Children's Home, New York, break up Colds in 24 hours, cure Feverishness, Headache, Stomach Troubles, Teething Disorders and Destroy Worms. At all druggists, 25c. Sample mailed FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

In a Pinch, use ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE. A powder to shake into your shoes. It cures hot, tired, aching, swollen, sweating feet and makes walking easy. Takes the sting out of corns and bunions. All druggists 25c. Don't accept any substitute.

Mrs. G. C. Hawkins went to Geneva this morning and will visit for a few weeks with her parents.

The Royal Neighbors will meet as usual this evening at their hall. All members are requested to attend.

#### Fifty Years' Experience.

Mrs. W. W. Balston, Hopkinsville, Ky., says: "I have been raising chickens for fifty years and Bourbon Poult-Cure is the most satisfactory remedy I have ever used or chicken cholera and rashes. I would not be without it. Sold by H. H. Bremer."