

Just as sure as nature puts on her spring gown of fresh beauty for the new season, just so do the merchants follow suit and one of the first signs of spring is this "furbishing up" as sure as the chirp of the bird. Decatur merchants are already heralding its approach. The Winnes shoe store after a period of much labor, has undergone a thorough change. The walls have been neatly and handsomely repapered and the woodwork repainted. These changes have even extended to the office of W. J. Archbold, city treasurer and express agent. The booth has been moved from the east side of the room, facing the west, to the north side, with Mr. Archbold facing the sunny south. The Smith, Yager & Falk and the Blackburn drug stores are coming out resplendent in coats of paper and paint, and the store room at the rear of the Meyer & Scherer furniture and undertaking establishment is being remodeled for use as a salesroom to accommodate the increase in business. The paper on the walls of the Deininger millinery store is being regenerated and will come out shining, as a fitting background for the new spring hats, which are now coming in and will soon be put out in all the beauty and verdure of spring. The Forbign building, now occupied by the Hitesman & Gerard Farn store, has undergone a complete renovation and is a place of real artistic beauty, with its clean-looking, buff walls and white woodwork. The Parrish restaurant building, which was rendered so woe-begone in appearance, is taking on a happy expression that grows each day with the work of the carpenters and other workmen now hustling with all their might to get the place ready for business again. All these and the plans of others, who are getting ready for their annual spring "rid-up" tell us that "spring is coming."

Linn Grove, Ind., Feb. 27.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The Linn Grove State Bank is an assured member of the Adams county list of banking institutions. The required amount of stock, \$25,000, or rather the desired amount, has been subscribed and at a meeting held at this place Friday the board of directors who will control the bank during the first year of its career were chosen, those selected being Samuel Oplinger, Peter Hoffman, Albert Kindle, John Shoemaker, Joseph Beers, Lemuel Bears and Michael Gottschalk. Immediately afterwards the directors met and selected officers, who are: President, Peter Hoffman; vice president, Samuel Oplinger, and cashier, Homer Neaderhouser. The new bank will open April 1st. The exact location has not been decided upon, but a temporary home will be arranged until such time in the near future when they will have their own building. The bank will start on its business career with every indication of a successful future.

Selling his employer's horse, and then skipping out with the \$150 in cash, leaving the buyers holding the empty bridle, with nothing to show but a sad experience, is the trick played by one George Miller, supposed to be a Virginian, a stranger, who two weeks ago applied at the John Scherry home near Magley, for work and was taken in by that family as a "hired man." Mr. Scherry and the young man came to town Friday with the team and wagon, putting the same up at the Schlickman feed yard. In the meantime Mr. Scherry went to attend a sale and the hired man got busy. He went to the Decatur Sales company and represented that the horse was for sale. Guy Johnson and James Stults, two of the employees, went to the Schlickman yard to look at the horse, and as the Schlickmans knew that Mr. Scherry had the horse up for sale, all was supposed to be going along in a perfectly proper way. The horse was bought and the animal taken to the Sales company's barns on First street, where it was wended and the transaction closed. The young man took the money and that was the last seen of him here. When Mr. Scherry returned to the Schlickman feed yard to get his team and wagon to go home, the crooked work was discovered, as Mr. Scherry had not authorized him to sell the horse, nor had the man turned the money over to him for the horse. Officers were immediately put on the case and word was sent to all surrounding cities to be on the lookout for him. The sale took place sometime between 2 and 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon and it is supposed that the man got away on one of the trains leaving shortly after. Unless he can be found and the money recovered from him, the two boys who bought the horse will be the losers as the animal was at once turned over to Mr. Scherry.

R. B. Gregory was at Berne today, where he was looking after business matters.

MRS. LESH DIDN'T MEAN IT. Said She Would Kill Husband But It Was Only a Joke.

The arguments of the Lesh divorce were to have been made this afternoon before Judge Merryman at Decatur, but owing to the judge being on the sick list nothing was done. Mrs. Lesh in conversation with representatives of both local papers Thursday afternoon made the statement that should the verdict be found in her favor or not, many charges had been made against her that were false and she wished corrected. During the course of the trial witnesses told that she had repeatedly told her husband she would kill him. Mrs. Lesh does not deny having made these statements, but says they were used only as a slang phrase and only said in a joking way. Mrs. Lesh is still making her home with her son in the property owned by Mr. Lesh on West Wiley avenue.—Bluffton Banner.

Rev. Elliott of Auburn brought the week of services at the Presbyterian church to a fitting close Friday evening. His sermon on "Following Christ" was a fine climax to the splendid sermons which have been delivered from evening to evening during the week. There will be no service this evening, but Sunday, the pastor, Rev. Spethnagel, will continue the meetings and will preach at the morning and evening hours. Beginning Monday evening again there will be a continuance of the splendid meeting and the public is most cordially and earnestly invited to attend any and all of these services, when inspiring sermons will be delivered by various pastors from this part of the state. On Monday evening Rev. Arrick of Kendallville will be the speaker, and all who can should hear him. He will help you to an understanding of perplexing questions and aid you to be better men and women.

SISTER SERIOUSLY SICK.

Mrs. W. H. Meyers received a message this morning stating that her sister, Mrs. George Copeland, of Guide Rock, Neb., was in a very serious condition at the Western hospital, Kansas City, where she had undergone an operation. This is the third operation with seemingly no relief. It is feared that she cannot recover.

A LITTLE CONSCIENCE MONEY.

Two Dollars for Seed Corn Secured Twenty-Five Years Ago.

The Jefferson township farmer, who the first of the week received \$2 conscience money from a man who drove seventeen miles to pay him for two sacks of corn is Volney Grim, one of Jefferson's best known citizens. In the first article given the first of the week the News was requested not to use his name but since it has been made public in an adjoining town there is no use to withhold it longer. The man who paid Mr. Grim is a farmer reported living in the edge of Adams county, now well-to-do, and owning a farm of his own. He told Mr. Grim that he secured two sacks of corn from Mr. Grim's father, twenty-five years ago, for which he never paid.—Bluffton News.

JUDGE MARRIES COUPLE.

Miss Josephine Hershey Becomes the Bride of Grover Cook. Hearts that beat as twain were made to beat as one Saturday about 9 o'clock when Judge Merryman said the words that made Grover's clerk's office. The groom is a farmer Hershey, eighteen, two young people from near Geneva, man and wife, the wedding taking place in the county clerk's office. The groom is a farmer of near Geneva, and the couple will reside there. Best wishes of all are extended to them.

After a long illness of three months death came Saturday morning at 7:30 o'clock to Edna, nine-year-old daughter of Councilman and Mrs. Isaac Chronister, at their home on Patterson street. The little one had been suffering from an affection of the spine for three months, and while not bedfast during the entire time, was unable to attend school. She was born in this city April 15, 1901, and at death lacked but a few weeks of being nine years of age. The entire years of her short life were spent here and the little one had endeared herself to all whom she met. The hearts of all go out in sympathy to the bereaved family. Besides the parents she leaves several brothers and sisters—Ollie, Maud LeBrun, Leigh, Nina, Vida and Helen.

The funeral of little Edna Chronister will be held Monday morning at ten o'clock from the Evangelical church in this city, the Rev. D. O. Wise officiating. Burial will take place in the Salem church cemetery.

It is to be hoped that the institution of the Decatur Phi Delta Kappa chapter this Wednesday evening will be more successful than the effort made last Wednesday night, due to an accident to the automobile of Chris Seabold of Bluffton, in which the paraphernalia of the Bluffton team, which was to do the work, was sent here. The Clover Leaf train due at Bluffton at 7:30 was said to be an hour late at the national president, Frank McDowell, of the Phi Delta Kappa and three other members, Joe Simons, Marion Reiff and Carl Helms, chartered the Seabold automobile, intending to leave Bluffton at 7:30 with the paraphernalia that they might arrive at Decatur earlier than if they had taken the train.

When about two and one-half miles from Craigville and about a mile from the home of Joe Pease, a brother-in-law of Mr. Seabold, the automobile went "dead," due it is thought to the pump which caused circulation of water in the coils freezing up. The auto could not be made to move of its own volition and the five occupants got out and pushed it a half mile to the Pease home, and then all started on the double-quick for Craigville to try to catch the belated train. They made about half the distance when they heard the train whistle and saw it rush through the town. Then they again turned around and walked to the Pease home and telephoned for a hack from Seabold's barn to go out after them. They arrived in Bluffton at 12:30.

In the meantime seven other boys, "Irish" Evans, Harold Clark, Harry Clark, "Kl" Burgan, Hugh Russell, Frank McFarren and Harold Tribble had gone over on the train but not having any paraphernalia or proper officers they could not give the work and returned on the 10:40 train, and wondered and worried about their four missing comrades until they learned of the accident.

PUBLIC SALE.

The undersigned, having sold his farm, will sell at public auction at his residence, 1½ miles southwest of Decatur, Ind., beginning at 10 o'clock a. m., Thursday, March 3, 1910, the following property, to-wit: Horses, Cattle, hogs, etc.—Horses—One grey gelding, 3 years old, extra good; 1 grey gelding, 4 years old; bay mare, 3 years old; bay mare with foal and 1 yearling colt. Cattle—Six milch cows, all were fresh in January except one which will be fresh in March, and 2 yearling heifer calves. Hogs—Three brood sows, will farrow the middle of March; 8 shoats, will weigh about 130 lbs each and 8 shoats that were October pigs, weighing from 50 to 60 pounds each. Implements—One Deering mower, 1 McCormick mower, 1 John Deere riding plow, 1 walking plow, 1 walking cultivator, 1 Rock Island hay loader, 1 John Deere hay tedder, 1 John Deere corn planter, 1 double shovel plow, 1 single shovel plow, 1 spike tooth harrow, 1 spring tooth harrow, all the above implements are as good as new. 1 big wagon and bed, 1 carriage, 1 top buggy, hay ladders, 2 sets of double work harness, 2 sets of single light harness, about 4 tons of mixed hay, about 8 acres of corn fodder, about 200 bushels of corn in the crib, about 200 bushels of oats in the bin, about 150 chickens, 4 turkey hens and 1 tom, and many other articles too numerous to mention.

Terms—All sums of \$5.00 and under, cash in hand; over \$5.00 a credit of 9 months will be given, the purchaser giving his note therefor with approved freehold security to the satisfaction of the undersigned. Four per cent off for cash. No property removed until settled for.

MARTIN MILLER.

John Spuhler, Auct.

Homer Stewart accompanied little Merediton, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, to this city from Huntington Saturday. Homer will remain here with his brother indefinitely.

William Sliesser has returned from Frankfort, where he was called by the serious illness of his wife, who suffered a relapse of pleurisy while there visiting with her sister. She was somewhat better when he returned to Decatur, but in all probability not be able to return for some time. He is packing his household goods and will board, while continuing his work with the Ward Fence company. A son has gone to Frankfort to be with his mother during her illness.

Work will be started Monday morning on the counter block or foundation for the new shaft that will be installed at the electric light plant within the next few days. The new shaft will take the place of the one broken a few months ago and which was repaired by Robert Ashe. This broken shaft is still doing duty at the plant, but will be taken out as soon as the new one arrives. With the installing of the counter block it is thought that the pressure on the large shaft will be made much lighter and there will be no danger of a further break.

Bluffton Banner.

Monroe, Ind., Feb. 28.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The citizens in and about Monroe were greatly surprised to hear of the resignation of M. L. Oliver, manager of the Monroe, Hay, Grain & Milling company, a position which he has held since the beginning of the elevator at this place. Mr. Oliver was untiring and energetic in the upbuilding of the plant and has brought the same to the standard to which it has attained. While we regret to hear of his resigning, yet we are pleased to know that he will still be among us and devote all his time and attention to the buying and shipping of hay from this point.

Miss Lilly Uhrick of Newark, Ohio, and John Hahnert of Napoleon, Ohio, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hahnert of this place a few days last week. Mrs. Joe Hahnert entertained a number of invited friends at dinner on Wednesday, and Mrs. Sarah Everhart entertained in honor of the above named guests on Thursday. About thirty-four were present and a most enjoyable time was had. The two afternoons were taken up in conversation and renewing old acquaintances.

Several Decatur young people were in Monroe last Friday evening attending the home talent play, which was given by the Monroe Dramatic company.

Several members of the Modern Woodmen lodge, including the team, went to Willshire, Ohio, last Wednesday evening to take part in the initiation of a large class taken in at that place. The Monroe team did the work and it is said did the job admirably and were up to the standard in their line of work. The boys returned home early Thursday morning and were loud in their praise as to the kind treatment they received at the hands of the Ohio boys, and claim the banquet served to them was one of the finest they ever sat down to.

The production of "Little Buckshot" which was staged at the M.W.A. hall here on Friday and Saturday nights by the young people of this place, was far above the average, and being one of the best western melodramas written. The members of the company were well trained in their parts under the management of Lawrence (Deacon) Loberstine, who was untiring in his efforts in making the play a success. Each and every member rendered his and her part in a manner which was a credit to them, and their pianist, Miss Anna Smith, is also entitled to a share of the praise. The songs rendered by Mr. Loberstine between acts were catchy and up-to-date, and were loudly applauded. The house was well filled each evening by an enthusiastic and interested audience, which showed their appreciation and approval toward the members of the home talent company.

Mrs. R. O. Johnson, son and mother, Mrs. Browrand, of Kendallville arrived Saturday and were the guests of relatives and friends over Sunday.

J. Fred Mayer of Winchester spent Sunday with his parents here.

Gert Reynolds of Decatur transacted business here between trains Saturday afternoon.

George Teeple of Decatur was calling on relatives here Saturday, returning home on the afternoon train.

James Martz, aged about fifty years, who has been suffering for some time, died at his home two and one-half miles southwest of this place, at 1:30 Saturday afternoon. Mr. Martz was well known and his death came as a relief from that dreaded disease, cancer. Funeral will be held Tuesday from the Valley church.

TROUBLE AND EXPENSE.

For Erie to Secure Conviction of Coal Thieves.

Robert Toussaint, captain of the Erie police, related a tale this morning that shows the difficulty sometimes experienced in bringing a man to justice. Samuel Baker and two Baker brothers were arrested February 15, 1908, for stealing coal from the Decatur yards. The Baker boys were sent to Plainfield, but Baker jumped his bail. This was in April. He was recaptured in May and broke jail in June. He retained his freedom for some length of time, but was finally captured the first of February, 1910. He was tried before a judge of the circuit court and a jury. After twenty-four hours and fifty minutes of deliberation the jury brought in the verdict of guilty. He was fined one dollar and costs and given a five day jail sentence.—Huntington Herald.

The revival services at the Concord Lutheran church are progressing nicely under the direction of the pastor, the Rev. A. K. Minama.

OLD WORLD ARMIES

Drafting Methods by Which Their Strength is Maintained.

TRICKS OF THE CONSCRIPTS.

All Manner of Dodges Are Adopted by the Eligible Young Men to Avoid the Enforced Military Service That is So Hateful to Them.

We hear a good deal about conscription, but few people know what it actually means. In no country is every person who is able to fight drafted into the army. All males who are liable to serve undergo a physical examination, resulting in only a certain number being passed as fit for service.

No government has sufficient funds to draft the whole of these men into the regular army, so a selection is made by ballot, the number of men enrolled varying according to the funds in the hands of the authorities.

The pay provided for the conscript is necessarily very trifling indeed, and will not compare with that paid to volunteer soldiers. In fact, it is generally true that the conscript must fall back upon his private means.

The methods vary in each country. But take the case of one European power. Every male subject not physically incapacitated is liable to enter the army at the age of twenty, although those who care to enlist may do so at eighteen.

A register is kept of all the youths who reach the age of twenty in the particular year. Men under five feet two inches in height are exempt from service, as well, of course, as those who suffer from natural infirmities which render them unsuitable for active service.

Other men are also exempt if they have helpless dependents—thus the only son or widow or of a disabled father, the latter category also including the only son of a father who is above seventy years of age. Then the eldest of a family of orphans is exempt, and in the case of two sons only one is liable, there being various other exemptions.

The term served by the conscript is one of twenty-five years, three years being spent in the regular army, six and one-half in the army reserve, six in the territorial army and the remaining nine and a half years in the territorial reserve, all liability to service ceasing at forty-five.

The service is frequently so hated that all manner of methods are adopted in order to avoid it. In many cases substitutes are provided by the wealthy, though there are stringent regulations with regard to the protection of the substitutes.

In most European countries military malingering in order to avoid compulsory military service has reached the stage of a fine art. In fact, a formidable list of new crimes has been added to the statutes as a result, and medical men frequently have to suffer for their assistance in this particular kind of fraud.

Thus some time ago a number of Cologne doctors were arrested upon a charge of having administered pills to young conscripts. These pills consisted of drugs which produced the symptoms of heart disease so effectively as completely to deceive the military authorities, with the result that the conscripts were declared unfit for service. In this case the fraud was brought to light by one of the conscripts dying as a result of an overdose of the medicine.

In Germany, where the conscript is frequently treated with the greatest harshness, there are very few towns where there are not specialists whose living depends solely in inducing such a condition of affairs as will render young men exempt by reason of unfitness.

In the French army it is quite common for youths to feign all manner of ills, deafness being the usual ailment trusted to in order to escape the service. As a result the military doctors have made an especial study of methods of detecting feigned deafness and to trap the cunning youth who acts the part of a deaf man.

Another common practice in France is to tamper with the eyesight, though this frequently results in permanent injury. For instance, short sight is produced by wearing powerful concave glasses for a considerable time despite the risk of bringing about permanent blindness. It is not an uncommon occurrence for men to commit suicide rather than submit to forced service in the army.

In eastern Europe most brutal methods are adopted by parents in order that their sons may be able to work for them instead of serving in the army. The boys are frequently ill-treated, and it is not at all uncommon even for their limbs to be broken or their sight to be destroyed in order to prevent any likelihood of their having to become soldiers.

Switzerland probably has the cheapest army and the least burdensome methods of conscription, the service being much lighter than in the other continental armies. Indeed, the conscript in the infantry army has to undergo actual training for only 135 days during the entire period of his service.

—Philadelphia Ledger.

Philadelphia Ledger.

Philadelphia Ledger.

HOME CURE FOR ECZEMA.

Does it not seem strange that so many people suffer year in and year out with eczema?

A 25-cent bottle of a simple wash stops the itch and will surely convince any patient.

This wash is composed of mild and soothing oil of wintergreen mixed with thymol of glycerine, etc., and known as D. D. Prescription. We do not know how long the D. D. Laboratories will continue the 25c offer, as the remedy is the regularly sold only in \$1.00 bottles and has never before been put on the market at any special offers.

If you want relief tonight, try a bottle at 25c on our personal recommendation.

Smith, Yager & Falk.

PUBLIC SALE.

Notice is hereby given that I will offer at Public auction at my residence known as the J. P. Crist farm, located 7 miles southwest of Decatur, and 1 mile south and 1 mile west of Washington church and 5 miles northwest of Monroe, beginning at 1 o'clock p. m. Wednesday, February 23, 1910, the following property, to-wit: Farm Implements, etc.—One good Champion binder, 1 Hoosier drill, good as new; 1 John Deere riding breaking plow, good as new; 1 check row corn planter, has been used but very little; 1 two-horse wagon complete with bed, 1 disc harrow, 1 walking cultivator, 1 fanning mill, 1 spring tooth hay rake, 1 set of single work harness, 1 set of good double buggy harness, 2 good buggy poles, 2 walking breaking plows, spike tooth harrow, a sled corn cutter, a new wood heating stove and many other small but useful articles too numerous to mention.

Terms—All sums of \$5.00 and under