

The parcels post system started out in Decatur as elsewhere, this morning with the rush. That is, a rush, considering the legal holiday and the fact that the postoffice was open only an hour today to those who called. During that time, three packages by parcels post were mailed, and three received.

The first one was received by J. L. Kocher, of the Decatur Lumber company, who called, and was surprised to be handed out a package of hand-hewn lumber. This was a sample sent out by the Indianapolis Hardwood company and was neatly done up, bearing six cents in special stamps. The package also bore the letter, "Our First Parcels Post Delivery."

Among the three parcels mailed out was an umbrella, sent to Indianapolis. This bore ten cents in stamps. Another package that came to view was a neatly rolled bundle looking like a roll of butter. Another was a box addressed to Michigan.

It is expected that a few days will see the local office rushed with parcels post packages, as it is starting out so auspiciously, considering all things.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—Uncle Sam's scheme to assist Mr. Ultimate Consumer in coping with the High Cost of Living went into effect today. The parcels post was inaugurated throughout the nation; the federal government began its competition against the express companies.

Telegrams from postmasters to the postoffice department here today indicated that the general public has taken hold of the parcels plan with enthusiasm. The first day's business promises to be of an enormous magnitude.

Uncle Sam's "express business" is expected to aid in cheaper marketing of food products and to lessen transportation cost in small packages—the sort of matter in which the express companies have heretofore had a practical monopoly, because of the high postage rate. The United States is one of the last of the world's great nations to adopt the parcels post. The plan has been in operation in European countries for several years.

As with express packages the rates under the parcels post plan depend on the distance the mail matter is sent. Packages weighing four ounces or less will be sent at the old flat postage rate of one cent an ounce, to all sections of the country. The largest package mailable under the parcels post is eleven pounds.

The minimum rate under the new plan will be five cents for the first pound and three cents for each additional pound to any point not exceeding fifty miles from the office of mailing. The local rate, which is five cents for the first pound and one cent for each additional pound, applies to all parcels in the delivery of which does not involve their transportation on railway lines—and this means on rural routes or local carriers' rounds.

The rates increase for each successive one of the eight zones, into which the post office department has divided the country, the maximum rate being twelve cents a pound, which will carry a parcel across the continent or to any of the possessions of this country. All parcels must not be more than 6 feet in girth.

A mailable parcel may be insured against loss in an amount equivalent to its actual value, but not to exceed \$50.

The United States has been divided into units, thirty minutes square. There are eight zones surrounding each unit, the last zone including the Philippine Islands and the farthestmost places on this continent. An eleven-pound package to the islands will cost \$1.22.

The parcels post is far more comprehensive than the average person thinks. It is possible under it to send almost any kind of package other than explosives, poisons, fire arms, intoxicating beverages, or obscene matter.

Among the mailable matter are: Butter, eggs, vegetables, lard, fresh meats, groceries, medicines, pastes, salves, seeds of fruit nursery stock, candies, confectionery, yeast, cake, soap, flour, meal, millinery, toys, musical instruments; sames, dried and smoked meats; ink, powders, pepper, snuff and paper.

Of instructions in wrapping packages the postoffice department puts particular stress on the shipment of eggs. Each egg must be wrapped separately and surrounded with excelsior, cotton, or other suitable material, and packed in a container made of double corrugated pasteboard, metal or wood in such manner as to place each egg on its end and to prevent them from striking together or against the side or top of the container. They must be so closely wrapped that even in case one should break there would be no leakage out in the other mail.

Parcels post packages are stamped and mailed just as other mail matter—the only difference being that special stamps must be used. Packages prepaid with ordinary stamps will be carried at regular mail rates, any difference being collected from the addressee. The parcels post stamps are 1 green and measure one by one and one-half inches—a new size in govern-

ment stamps. They are obtainable in nearly all denominations up to \$1—the subjects of the engravings being:

- 1c, "postoffice clerk."
- 2c, "city carrier."
- 3c, "railway postal clerk."
- 4c, "rural carrier."
- 5c, "small train."
- 6c, "steamship and mail tender."
- 7c, "automobile service."
- 8c, "aeroplane carrying mail."
- 9c, "manufacturing."
- 10c, "dairying."
- 11c, "harvesting."
- 12c, "fruit growing."

In order that the postmaster in every city and his patrons may see exactly what the charges are for packages, every postoffice has been furnished with special "zone" and "unit" maps—showing the exact scale of charges for packages sent to any destination from that particular office. Preparation of these maps has kept the department busy for months.

WAS CRAIG'S STUDENT.

Arrest of Teacher on Murder Charge Causes Surprise.

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Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tricker of Cleveland street entertained a large number of friends on New Year's day. A newfangled dinner was spread and partaken of and during the afternoon a picture of the assembly was taken by Mr. John Stults. The party included the following: Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Tricker, Mr. and Mrs. John Hon, Muncie; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schmidhauser and babe, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur DeVinney.

A NEW CORNER.

Among the notable changes in the office of the county is that of coroner, Dr. J. C. Grandstaff of Probate, who has served three terms or six years, retiring his successor being Dr. David C. Clark of this city. Dr. Clark is one of the leading physicians of the county, who has resided here many years. He is associated with his brother, C. S. Clark, in the practice of medicine, and has gained a wide reputation especially as a surgeon. His brother, Dr. C. S. Clark, has also served several terms as coroner.

SCHEIDECKER-RICE.

Peter Scheidecker Finds Spouse in Nebraska.

The following is the substance of a card received by D. J. Sprunger of Berne: "In Miss Eva Rice, aged twenty-six, with whom I got acquainted four months ago, I found a good honest Christian lady, with good musical talent added, for my better half. After our wedding, January 1, 1911, we expect to make our home with her mother in Endicott, N.Y., for the winter, and after that settle in Pipe Springs. A happy New Year to you."

"PETER SCHEIDECKER."

INDIANA'S POULTRY SHOW.

Held in Tomlinson Hall Jan. 11-17, 1911, Offers Many Special Features.

The Indianapolis Star will publish a special poultry show number Saturday, January 11th, of the National Farmers' club show, held in that city at Tomlinson Hall, January 11-17. This special number will contain illustrations and valuable articles of interest to every person in Indiana interested in the poultry industry. Those that are interested in this large issue kindly write at once for full particulars today. Address Poultry and Farm Department of Indianapolis Star.

Among the various lodges which have elected a new staff of officers will begin the new year with such, is the local Ben Hur court, which announces the following new officers:

Post Chief—Emma Burk.
Chief—Adam Weis.
Judge—Mary Cramer.
Teacher—Martha Hay.
Scribe—Minnie Daniels.
Keeper of Tribune—Mrs. A. D. Artman.
Captain—Ross Tyndall.
Gate—Russell Acker.
Inner Gate Keeper—Rose Ray.
Outer Gate Keeper—John Burke.
Pianist—Nora Butler.

TOASTING THE NEW YEAR.

Some one started out early to make their New Year calls and toasts today. When down-town early callers this morning passed along they found arranged on Monroe street, east of the city hall building, a number of large boxes which had been left sitting on the walk by the Boston store. Some one had evidently pulled them out for sale Tuesday night, when they sat down to toast the New Year, for toping each of six boxes was a bottle from which no doubt issued forth the "flowing libations" in honor of the year's advent.

COUNCIL MEETING LAST NIGHT.

Clerk Authorized to Give Notice of Receiving Bids on Depository Fund.

The city council held its semi-monthly meeting Tuesday evening at their room in the public library at 7 o'clock with every councilman present and Mayor T. E. T. presiding. The meeting opened with roll call and the reading of the minutes of the meeting two weeks ago on the depository fund and were approved as read. Next in order, Councillor Christen moved that the city clerk be authorized to give notice by registered mail of receiving bids on the depository fund on January 21st, at the council room. Motion was carried and having no other official business to transact, the meeting adjourned until next regular meeting.

On account of the absence of the president, Mrs. John Spuller, who is visiting in Bucyrus, Ohio, the Helping Hand society of the German Reformed church, which met Thursday, postponed its election of officers until the next meet in two weeks. Thursday was devoted to the making of comforts, and the society was then entertained by Miss Hulda Mutschler.

The Eureka club girls had a most delightful time with their sewing, conversation and luncheon at the home of

Miss Lois Hill Thursday evening. The club will meet with Miss Marie Hayes next Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tricker of Cleveland street entertained a large number of friends on New Year's day. A newfangled dinner was spread and partaken of and during the afternoon a picture of the assembly was taken by Mr. John Stults. The party included the following: Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Tricker, Mr. and Mrs. John Hon, Muncie; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schmidhauser and babe, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur DeVinney.

On last Wednesday evening a party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Thieme, southeast of the Sleekie church. The evening was spent in music and games. Those present were Matilda and Ella Kruekeberg, Freda Koldeway, Paula Bent, Ruth Marbach, Viola Grote, Lydia Kruekeberg, Ella Sleekie, Louise and Marie Baker, Clara Lehrman, Lydia Busch of Van Wert, Ohio; Lydia Smith and Herbert Sleekie of Fort Wayne, Anson and Ed Thieme, Gust and Ed Kruekeberg, Aaron Weiland, Adolf Marbach, George Ehrhardt, Simeon Dick, Willie Joe, Fred and Fritz Sleekie, Herbert Reinking, Charles Thieme, Joe Reinking, Walter Sleekie, Edwin Schameroh, Art Blez, Roland Blez, Herbert and Ruth Sleekie, Louise and their entire family of comedians, singers and dancers, also a bunch of port Little "squabs." Don't miss "Mutt and Jeff." You'll be sorry if you do.

"MUTT AND JEFF."

You've seen them in the newspaper and laughed at their absurd antics. Now you have a chance to see them in real life, flesh and blood, at the "Funny paper." They'll be there with Eddie Cahn, Eddie Schramm, Art Blez, Roland Blez, Herbert and Ruth Sleekie, Louise and their entire family of comedians, singers and dancers, also a bunch of port Little "squabs." Don't miss "Mutt and Jeff." You'll be sorry if you do.

POLICE COURT.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sprung went to Poe to spend the day at the old Sprung homestead. Today's big event at the farm was "butchering."

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walters Thursday night entertained forty guests—all those who took part in the cantata given Christmas eve at the Methodist church, and also the minister, Rev. R. L. Semans. The lack of formality made the meeting an unusually jolly one. There was no set form of amusement, but games, charades, music and conversation contributed their share to the enjoyment, and refreshments of pop corn, homemade candies and apples were served. Mr. Walters is superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school and the entertainment was given in his appreciation of the services of those who took so much interest in making the cantata a success.

ST. JOSEPH WINS AND LOSES.

A Game with the St. Mary's Team of Fort Wayne.

The St. Joseph high school team went to Fort Wayne Friday evening, where they played the second team of St. Mary's high school and also the first team of St. Mary's at Oden hall. The first game between the second team of St. Mary's resulted in a victory for the St. Joe boys, the score being 15 to 11.

The St. Joseph boys had a game scheduled with the Bluffton boys, to be played at Fort Wayne, but somehow they did not show up and the Decatur team not being satisfied with one victory, and still in excellent condition, decided to play the first team of the St. Mary's high school. Here they met their match, and had to lay down the victory to the Fort Wayne boys, the score being 25 to 17. The St. Joe boys put up a fine game, and if it had not been for the fact that they were a little out of wind toward the last of the game, they would have "copped" off another victory. The line-up for the Decatur boys was: Shoemaker and Nimmick, forwards; Smith, center; Gass and Bremerkamp, guards. Norbert Holthouse, George Baker and a number of boys accompanied the team from here.

A SAD, SAD TALE.

Of a Parcels Post Package That Bore Ordinary Stamps.

A certain person in the city who has read miles and miles of dope on the new parcels post system, ceased to wonder why a certain rush order of kodak prints has not yet arrived from Fort Wayne, when it was read in the Fort Wayne papers that several hundred fourth class packages were held at the postoffice there because they bore ordinary stamps instead of the distinctive parcels post stamp.

On New Year's day the party took some pictures, for which there was urgent desire. It was the custom to mail the films to the Fort Wayne house handling the distinctive supplies to get them developed. On account of the postoffice having a legal holiday New Year's day, it was known if the films were mailed here, in the afternoon, the package would not leave until the next morning and probably not reach the photo house until nearly the next noon. Accordingly the party went to Fort Wayne intending to leave the films at the photo store, but found it closed for the day. The package was then dropped in the mail slot at the Fort Wayne postoffice, thinking that the local delivery would get it there in good time the next morning. The package bore the ordinary stamp with which the films had been mailed scores and scores of times before, the party forgetting that the package would come under the new parcels post class. The order was marked "rush," but it has not yet been heard from.

JAIL DELIVERY FOILED.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 4, (Special to Daily Democrat)—In an attempt to make delivery near here early this morning, Officer Gillis was shot through the chest and killed while Officer Cook was shot through the hand. The man who did the shooting was a safe-blower awaiting trial. A revolver duel followed the attempt delivery with the result that every prisoner was captured and handcuffed and none escaped. Friends of the safe-blower set off two explosions of dynamite which broke the walls down and furnished the prisoner with arms but instead of making his dash for liberty, he waited to set other prisoners free thus enabling the officers to arrive on the scene.

On account of the series of special addresses to be given next week at the Methodist church, by Dr. John P. D. John, the lecturer and preacher, under the auspices of the Methodist Brotherhood, the regular monthly meeting of the Brotherhood, announced for Tuesday evening, will be dispensed with.

Dr. John will begin his services Tuesday evening, closing Sunday evening, and they will consist of talks on the fundamentals of the Christian religion. Dr. John, who was formerly president of Depauw university, is a matchless orator, strikingly forceful. There will be stirring music, admiring free, and everybody is welcome. The subjects for the series are:

Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 p. m., "A Glimpse of God in the Microscope."

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p. m.,

husbands shared the pleasures of the Charles Elzey home on West Monroe street Friday evening. Little tables were set for the accommodation of the players of progressive hearts, a much-enjoyed game. First prize was won by Mrs. Milt Hower, and Otto Kirsch and second prize by Mr. John Stewart and Harry Hahn. Luncheon was served at the little tables, the hostess being assisted by the Misses Ruth Parrish and Hazel VanCamp.

Democrat Want Ads.

RHEUMATISM

This nerve-irritating disease is caused from impure blood and uric acid poison. External applications sometimes give temporary relief but won't cure; the sure way to permanent results is to therapeutic extracts from the blood all the impurities. Nothing on earth will drive out the poisons from your system, keep the bowels moving and liver in good condition as SEVEN BARKS, the wonderful remedy that has proved to great merits the past 42 years.

SEVEN BARKS can be had of all druggists at 50 cents per bottle. Give it a good trial and watch your rheumatism disappear.

LYMAN BROWN, 65 Murray St., New York, N.Y.

FREE WATCH

To Mrs. & Mrs. Smith

ST. JOSEPH, IOWA

ST. JOSEPH, IOW