

One of the most disastrous and costly fires experienced in the history of the city since 1903 when the Big store on the corner of Madison and Second street was destroyed, occurred Wednesday night at 11:50 o'clock when the large 100x30-foot barn owned by J. W. Vail, located at the corner of Jefferson and Seventh streets, was totally destroyed, entailing a loss of approximately \$5,000. The fire was first discovered by Charles Ault, night watchman at the Adams heading factory, who immediately sounded the alarm on the factory whistle. The origin of the fire is thought to have been in the hay-mow, which at the time was nearly full of hay, and in a very few seconds after being discovered the entire roof of the large building was a mass of flames. Several men were in the street at the time and an automobile party was also passing the building. However, the flames had gained such headway and large proportions that it was impossible to get into the building to rescue any of the live stock or contents and the men were forced to busy themselves saving the adjoining buildings. It seems that no one thought of turning in the fire alarm until about fifteen minutes after the fire had been discovered and the fire department was then on its way to the scene.

**Horses and Mules Burned.**  
The building was occupied jointly by the S. H. Adams Heading company and the Decatur Hoop company, and used for the purpose of keeping their horses and mules stabled there, the Adams Heading company having twelve head of mules and four horses, while the Decatur Hoop company was the owner of five head of horses, the entire stock of each company being burned to death. The most pitiable and horrible scenes were enacted while the animals, crazed by the fire and smoke, broke loose from their stalls and rushed madly from one end of the long building to the other, kicking, biting and jumping over each other.

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er, no assistance of any nature being able to be given to them on account of the fierce heat and because it would have meant death to any man to have forced himself into the midst of the frantic, struggling animals. All the windows and doors had been opened, and they would thrust their heads out, get a breath of air and rush back into the smoke and flames with the hair on their bodies scorched and in flames, making the most pitiable noise with their groans and moans of fright and pain. Only one horse of the twenty-two animals confined there was rescued. This horse belonged to William Foreman and was stabled in a shed used in connection with the barn.

**Buildings Saved.**  
A small barn belonging to Harve Rice and across the alley from the large barn, was also destroyed, and it was alone due to the praiseworthy and heroic action of the city firemen and volunteers that the flames were confined to these buildings. Fortunately no wind was blowing, which added greatly in the work of keeping the flames confined. Otherwise the Decatur Filler company, located twenty feet south of the barn, and the large barn of the Schafer Hardware company, located directly opposite on the east side of the alley, would have been destroyed despite the strenuous efforts of the firemen. The heat from the burning building was so great that shingles on the residences within 100 feet of the building were warped and the paint scorched, and volunteers were barely able to maintain a bucket brigade. Sparks were thrown high in the air and carried for blocks over the city. Had the flames secured a hold on the large factory buildings, in which is stored excelsior and paper, and which is a veritable "match box," it would have undoubtedly devastated the entire block of residences.

**Estimated Loss.**  
In an interview with Mr. Reid, manager of the Adams Heading company, he stated that he had been offered a price of over \$700 for one of the teams of horses Wednesday, and only a short time before had refused \$700 for a team of mules. He also stated that the loss to the company would reach approximately \$5,000, on which was carried a limited amount of insurance. The loss to the Decatur Hoop company, as stated by J. W. Vail, would amount to \$3,000, including the building and stock, and carried insurance on same to the amount of \$1,500. The fire will not interfere with the workings of either company as arrangements are now under way for the securing of more teams to carry on the work.

Adjuster Stoner of the Aetna Fire Insurance company, for which Gallogley and Johnson are the local agents, was here today adjusting losses occasioned by the burning of two houses insured in this company.

One was on the second house of Mrs. Lucy Gregory in Blue Creek township. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago, the house on her farm occupied by Wesley Lawson was burned to the ground. Nearby was another house, usually tenanted by the poor, which happened to be vacant then, and the Lawson family driven from the regular farm house on Mrs. Gregory's place took shelter there until the old farm house could be restored. Tuesday of last week, this house also caught fire and was burned to the ground. The fire originated from some corn fodder which a man was burning across the road. The Lawsons escaped, but Mrs. Lawson, overcome with the shock and excitement over their double loss, fainted. Their household goods was gotten out, but some meat and other things in the second story of the house were lost. Insurance on the house was carried in the sum of \$450, but this will not cover the loss. Workmen are already on the scene of the regular farmhouse, rebuilding it.

The other loss to be adjusted by Mr. Stoner will be that of Frank Carter, whose house was totally consumed a few weeks ago. He carried \$200 on the house and \$300 on the contents.

The remonstrance campaign in the First and Third wards is drawing to a close and much interest is being shown as to the results. A month ago the saloons were remonstrated out of the Second ward and applications were then filed for the First and Third wards. Immediately the anti-saloon press got busy on the two wards and over weeks the work of securing signers to power of attorney cards has been going on steadily. While it has been a quiet campaign it has been an insistent one and today no one seems real certain of the result. The anti-saloon feel certain that they have a safe majority which assures the prevention of saloons in the First ward and the "wets" do not dispute that statement. In the Third ward, however, there is no certainty as to the final outcome from what can be gleaned. To begin with that ward at the recent election gave a "wet" majority of about sixty. However, there were cast at that time 197 "dry" votes, which is exactly the number needed to carry the remon-

strance which action is based on the vote at the city election of four years ago. When the fight was on in the Second ward the "wets" did not believe it possible that enough remonstrators could be secured and not a single withdrawal was filed, but in the Third ward it is said they have been busy and have obtained quite a number of withdrawals, which will be filed some time before midnight tonight. The remonstrance must be filed before midnight tomorrow night. After the withdrawals are filed today the anti-saloon forces will know just where they stand or whether or not it would do any good to file the remonstrance. R. C. Minton, the state attorney for the anti-saloon forces, arrived this morning and is assisting in the closing of the fight.

Attorney Minton went to Hoagland this afternoon to help straighten out some "wet" and "dry" matters there. When Mrs. Stanley, state vice president of the W. C. T. U., was here last week, she gave a little hint of the situation in Hoagland, when she stated in her lecture that the temperance forces there were concerned over the outcome if Decatur went dry. The dry forces at Hoagland will anticipate a wholesale bringing in of the "scum" of Decatur, to quench their thirst at the Hoagland fountain she said and she stated that the forces there would do all they could to get rid of it to saloon there. A petition is being circulated there at present, and Mr. Minton's visit there is for the purpose of straightening out some point relative to the eligibility of signers.

Mr. Minton came here from Winamac, where he has been on official business. At that place the drys filed a remonstrance against the issuing of liquor licenses. The "wets" then filed a petition for an election. This matter was carried to the circuit court, and the decision was in favor of the remonstrators—that the election could not be held after the remonstrance.

## FIRST RED MAIL WAGON.

Martin Jaberg First to Comply With New Regulation.

Martin Jaberg is the first one of the Decatur rural carriers to comply with the new regulation, that of painting the mail wagons red. That is, he gets all the benefits of the painting, but was spared the disagreeable duty of so doing. Mr. Jaberg has a two-wheel cart—or sulky—which he drives when the roads are bad. This was left standing in front of his house in the north part of the city. Last night, some faithful creature, and very obliging, appeared on the scene with his red paint bucket and gave the cart a plentiful coat. The job was not a very artistic one, however, and the same can be said of it as of many a picture—it is a mere daub. The perpetrator is unknown. Rural Mail Carrier Clyde Rice is conversant with the details and may be able to help run down the miscreants.

Roy Wolford, rural mail carrier out of this city, is telling a "big one"—alleged to be the first fish story of the season, say his fellow carriers. Roy says he went fishing in the St. Mary's river near the old "Gray Gables" summer resort at Moonmouth. He hooked a four-foot fish, weighing some twenty pounds, more or less. Of course the fish ran Mr. Wolford a merry chase, and he (Mr. Wolford) had him (the fish) and we might say vice versa—worn out. Just as the fish was ready to give in and Roy had it about landed, it got away. Roy jumped in the river after the fish, and as it was about worn out had no difficulty in getting it into his arms. He finally got into such deep water that, his strength being exhausted, he had to let the fish go in order to save himself. This story is vouched for by Clyde Rice, who heard it directly from Mr. Wolford.

The city this year has thirty-six more children of school age than it had last year. This is the result shown by the official report of the school enumerators checked up carefully last evening by the city school board, O. L. Vance, Fred Fruchte and Irvin Brandyberry, when they met at the Fruchte office. This means that the city school funds will be enriched so much the more from the coffers of the state school funds, which are distributed per capita among the townships and school corporations.

The total number of children in the city of school age this year is 1284. Of this number 665 are boys and 619 girls. The total enumeration of last year was 1248.

But two school enumerators took the school census this year. The city was divided as nearly into two equal parts as possible, with Madison street as the dividing line. Omer Butler took the census south of Madison street and L. C. Helm, north. Their

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

report as set out by divisions is as follows:

Butler (South).	336
Males .....	345
Females .....	711
Total .....	1056
Helm (North).	299
Males .....	274
Females .....	573
Total .....	847

**Soldiers' Census.**  
A new duty this year of the enumerators was the taking of the census of the soldiers. The report shows the total of 118 soldiers in the city. This includes Civil and Spanish war veterans and the National Guards. Butler found eighty soldiers in the south part and Helm, thirty-eight in the north part.

## HARRY HUNTER OSSIAN P. M.

Congressman J. A. M. Adair recommended Harry Hunter Tuesday for the appointment as postmaster at Ossian, and Mr. Hunter will take charge of the office as soon as the necessary bond is filed and other details arranged. He succeeds Charles H. Bell, whose commission for his last term of four years expired April 25th. Mr. Hunter recently disposed of his drug store at Ossian to get ready to take the postoffice. Mr. Bell has filed the Ossian postmastership in a highly satisfactory manner for twelve years, and the change at this time is due to the change in administrations. The Ossian office pays a salary of \$1,200 per year.

A play will be given by the Monroe high school at the Monroe school house Saturday evening, May 3, 1913. The cast:

Col. Geoffrey (a stern parent)—William Adler.  
Jediah Western (known as Uncle Jed)—Laurence Spuller.  
James Sheldon (Poet Jimmy, a jolly cowboy)—Paul Graham.  
Robert Sheldon (in love with Isabel)—Ray Peterson.  
Donald Reeves (a snake in the grass)—Harry Kessler.  
Peregrine Splatter (a man with bright ideas)—Clifford Duer.  
Jasper (colored servant)—Carl Shirk.  
Officer—Martin Busche.  
Isabel Western (Col. Western's daughter)—Naomi Dulin.  
Charity (the woman in black)—Loma Ray.  
Polly (in sympathy with Jimmy)—Mae Halberstadt.

The seat sale for the home talent play to be given under the auspices of the Rebekah lodge at the opera house Friday evening, will open promptly at 8 o'clock Friday morning at the usual place. "A Little Savage" is the name of this clever military play, in three acts, and a delightful evening is in store for those who attend. Miss Osee Armstrong is staging the play and has a clever cast to support the various parts, as follows:

Capt. Donald Churchill (officer in command)—Clayton Carroll.  
Lieutenant Arthur Lawton (Captain Churchill's brother-in-law)—Howard Wischaupt.  
John Woodruff (West Point cadet)—Vaughn Murray.  
Lord Cecil Staunton Southerland (an English nobleman)—Frank Bremerkamp.  
Lady Agnes Southerland (Cecil's Mother)—Ruby Baker.  
Georgie Sherwood (Lady Agnes' niece)—Nina Wagner.  
May Churchill (the captain's wife)—Mabel Weldy.  
Ruth Churchill (Donald's sister, a little savage)—Genevieve Bremerkamp.  
Time—The present.  
Locality—Fortress Monroe.  
Scene—Captain Churchill's study.  
Music will be furnished by the orchestra. The proceeds will be used for the Rebekah lodge new rope fund. Tickets are twenty-five cents. Get one.

The commencement of the Adams county schools will be held at Geneva some time during the month of June, and the class address will be delivered by Hon. Thomas Kuhn, of Richmond, former candidate for governor, and well known speaker, preacher and politician. This was decided upon this morning at the annual meeting of the county board of education held at the offices of County Superintendent Opliger. Those present were Trustees Fleming, Houck, Butler, Suman, Wechter, Masure, Cowan, Thornhill, Kelly, Sprunger of Berne and Reichelderfer of Geneva all being present except Mr. Beers of Monroe, who is ill; O. L. Vance of this city and Mr. Hoffman of Preble. The members have each filed their report of the enumeration of school children, but it will not be announced until totaled up the first of the week. However, Mr. Opliger says he feels sure that the report will show a healthy and general increase.

The board further resolved that the county institute fee shall be \$1.25, a reduction of 25 cents, made because they do not have to furnish funds for the teachers' association. It was also

resolved that agriculture be taught in the eighth grade and first year high school, as has been the practice for several years and that applicants for graduation be required to pass a creditable examination on this subject, the same as any other. Resolved, that teachers be required to take an examination on the subjects of music and agriculture and that the county superintendent shall count the grades made in these subjects if said grades will increase the average scholarship of teacher. Resolved, that Morris' primary history of the United States, and Bourne and Benton's Introductory American history be adopted for use in the fifth and sixth grades respectively to replace Moory's first steps in the history of our country, for the reason that the latter is considered too difficult. The history course as now planned will gradually lead the child from the beginning up to the present time.

The auditing committee, J. A. Fleming, O. J. Suman and J. W. Cowan, audited the report of the county superintendent to the county institute fund reported as follows: Total received during 1912, \$397.50; disbursed, \$311.10; balance on hands, \$86.40. The board will meet next Monday to elect an attendance officer, who will take the place of the truant and probation officers after August 1, as provided under the acts of 1913.

**Buffalo, N. Y., May 1—(Special to Daily Democrat)**—Demanding a minimum wage of eight dollars a week for women and girls, 2500 employees of the department stores of Buffalo went on a strike today. Instead of going to work the strikers formed picket lines and distributed pamphlets to the customers. Two of the largest department stores closed their doors.

**Washington, D. C., May 1—(Special to Daily Democrat)**—President Wilson's first "Appeal to the people" which he says will not be his last begins tonight. In his home state he plans to defy the non-partisans which he alleges have combined to thwart the people's will by preventing the enacting of the New Jersey legislature of a law reforming the jury system. His speeches will be fierce and will be full of personal attack on the bosses.

**Indianapolis, Ind., May 1—(Special to Daily Democrat)**—Elliott R. Hooton, chief of the state bureau of inspection, resigned today and Governor Ralston appointed Edward Perkins, President of the state federation of labor to fill out his unexpired term which ends July 1, 1915. Hooton's reason for resigning was announced on account of his increasing law practise but rumors have it that Governor Ralston asked for his resignation on account of political reasons.

**Chicago, Ill., May 1—(Special to Daily Democrat)**—Mrs. Grace Smith, aged 35, shot and killed Clarence Murphy, aged 22, at his father's road house near Gary, Ind., last night in a quarrel which resulted from finding him with an actress. Mrs. Smith and the boy's father have been lovers for months and Mrs. Smith stated that she had meant to kill the father.

**Sacramento, Cal., May 1—(Special to Daily Democrat)**—Unless delayed by some unlooked for occurrence, the senate will pass the Webb bill restricting land owning by aliens. Legislatures say that the bill will pass the house shortly and will be signed by the Governor.

## WOMAN BELIEVED INSANE.

Funeral of Mrs. Turnpugh to be Held Near Scene of Tragedy.

It is the general belief that Mrs. Nellie Turnpugh of near Bluffton, who threw her two children into a creek near Logansport Monday, she and one son being drowned, was demented. Neighbors who knew the family state that her family life seemed to be happy. The funeral will be held at Lincoln near Logansport. Mr. and Mrs. Turnpugh moved to Wells county in March, 1912, and settled on the old Sel Baker farm on the Decatur road, northeast of Bluffton, one and one-half miles east of the Toll Gate school house. They had been married only a short time before they went there. Mr. Turnpugh was a widower when he married his late wife and he has four boys. The boys all say their foster mother was kind to them and they were very happy.

## TAKEN TODAY TO BRISTOL.

Mrs. Mary Jaques Garrison Laid to Last Resting Place.

A very impressive funeral service was held last evening for Mrs. Mary Jaques Garrison at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Belle Johnson, on First street. The Rev. D. T. Stephenson,

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

pastor of the Methodist church, was in charge, and his talk is said to have been an exceedingly fine one, and of much consolation to the bereaved ones. Music was furnished by the ladies' quartet of the Methodist church. The body, accompanied by the relatives, was taken this morning at 7:54 over the G. R. & I. to Bristol, where it was laid to rest in the family lot in the cemetery there.

## NEW CHARM FOR MUMPS.

A new charm for mumps seems to have been discovered. Peeping forth above the collars of several well known young gentlemen and nestling snugly under their swollen chops, was seen a several strand necklace of bright and vari-colored woolen yarns, something like an abbreviated knit scarf the fine gentlemen of old used to wear. Upon inquiry, the information was volunteered that the same was placed there by a Decatur barber, who stated that the yarn necklace would serve as a sort of fence or barrier across which the mumps would not dare go. Up to date no ill effects from the wearing of the yard have been reported.

Thomas F. Moran, professor of history in Purdue university, has been chosen by Professor E. E. Rice, the graduates of the Decatur high school, and the school board, to deliver the address to the graduates at the Decatur high school commencement, to be held in the opera house Friday evening, May 23.

The matter of the baccalaureate sermon was left with the class, and Rev. L. C. Hessert, pastor of the German Reformed church, was chosen. The baccalaureate services will be held in the Methodist church Sunday evening, May 18.

On the evening preceding the commencement proper, Thursday, May 22, the seniors will give their class plays, the opera house also having been secured for this. Two clever little plays, entitled, "The Private Secretary," and "The Mock Commencement," have been selected. These will be presented under the direction of the Misses Clara Williams and Frances Dugan, of the high school faculty. The class this year is the largest ever, there being thirty-five graduates.

The class roster shows the following: Lulu Atz, Electa Baltzell, William Beavers, Hazel Beatty, Eda Butler, Winifred Burk, Glen Chronister, Nellie

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Elmer and Norbert Koenemann left this morning on the 8:30 car for the Henry Schroeder home for a visit.

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