

FROM DOWN THE STATE

Telegraph News by Direct Wire from All Over Indiana

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 22.—That an attempt is being made to blackmail the widow of John M. Bloss, ex-state superintendent of public instruction, is the latest theory of friends and relatives who have received, on heart-shaped slates, supposed "spirit messages" from Bloss. The several messages thus far received have all been of one tenor—that Mrs. Bloss should give up certain sums of money alleged to be due several persons from Bloss. Thus far, all the persons save one indicated by the "messages" say that Bloss did not owe them a cent and that, as far as they are concerned, the writing on the mysterious slates is untrue.

No Money in This for a Crook.
Mrs. Bloss, who lives alone on her country estate, save for servants, was for a while alarmed by the writing, but now has come to believe as the others, that an interested person is the writer of the messages, and has lent her aid to the authorities who are trying to unravel the mystery. One of the mysterious slates was found on the doorstep at the home of Harvey West, now trustee of Hamilton township. It was in effect, as follows: "When I left the office of trustee of Hamilton township I was deeply in debt to the township. Tell my wife and she will pay you." This is signed "John M. Bloss." West says he has examined the township books and finds that Bloss died without owing the community a cent.

Nor Is There in This.
George Sheets, an intimate friend of Bloss and a business partner of his, found a message similar to the following inscribed upon the slate left at his door: "I took pecuniary advantage of you in several trades in which we were interested jointly. Find out these amounts, and my wife will pay you." This also is signed "John M. Bloss." Sheets says that he and Bloss had traded together for many years and had many deals in common, but that Bloss was strictly honest and at death was not in debt to him a dollar.

Message About a Tenant.
One message was left at the home of a man who had been a tenant on one of the Bloss farms, but who had been discharged. This message said that Bloss had treated the tenant unfairly, but that Mrs. Bloss would make it "all right" with him. A message similar in sentiment was received by Mrs. Bloss, and the tenant came to her with the slate that he had received.

STORY OF A PECK OF MONEY
Question Is: What Did He Want of a Two-Bushel Sack?—Twenty Years' Savings.

Frankfort, Ind., Dec. 22.—The girl who marries that boy will receive a bigger pile of money than she ever saw outside of a bank," said Zimri Sheets, of Owen township, twenty years ago, referring to his son, Walter L. Sheets, at that time an infant. Thursday Sheets, who is an ex-county commissioner, made good his word by giving to that son and his bride a peck of United States coin.

During the last twenty years he has been laying aside money, secreting it in jars that he had hidden beneath an old apple tree on his farm ten miles north of this city. The money was kept in the secret hiding place until a storm blew down the tree a few months ago. Since then the hoarded wealth has been kept in the Sheets home. Sheets, accompanied by his son and daughter-in-law, came to Frankfort bringing the money in a two-bushel sack. The money was placed on deposit in the Clinton County bank.

Acquitted of Train Wrecking.
Evansville, Ind., Dec. 22. — The jury in the case of Shirley Erwin, charged with murder in the first degree by causing a wreck on the Southern railroad at Maurens, Ind., on the night of Aug. 15, brought in a verdict at Petersburg, Ind., acquitting the defendant. The jury was out twenty-two hours.

Workman Badly Scalded.
Princeton, Ind., Dec. 22. — Elmer Skelton, 20 years old, was seriously scalded while working in the canning factory. A kettle filled with boiling water was overturned on his shoulder and arm, cooking the flesh. The scalding water barely missed his head in the descent.

She Found Out, All Right.
Summitville, Ind., Dec. 22. — Mary Jones, 10 years old, in a spirit of mischief, thrust a pin into the insulator of an electric light wire just to see what might happen. She was dangerously shocked, while the entire lighting system of the town was temporarily knocked out.

Big Price for Farm Land.
Rushville, Ind., Dec. 22. — Percy Walker has bought the W. O. Frazer farm, paying \$130 an acre for it.

RAILROAD NOTES.

T. B. Hunt, passenger fireman on the Wabash road, is on the sick list this week.

Fred Pryans, conductor on the Lake Shore road, will spend Christmas with friends in Hammond.

P. J. Shepson of Crown Point was in Hammond today on business at the Erie yards.

Thomas Grady is a new section employe on the Monon road.

Frank Mallay, agent for the Monon road at Lowell, was a Hammond visitor last night.

George Connors of the C. I. & S. engineering department, will spend the holidays with friends in Champaign, Ill.

R. H. Crosby of the Erie yard office will spend tomorrow with friends and relatives in Huntington, Ind.

H. L. Jackson, chief engineer of the C. C. & L. road will leave today for Cincinnati, O., where he will spend the holidays.

Roy C. Hidy of the Erie Coal Storage plant, will be the guest of friends at Frankfort over Sunday.

John McGinley, switchman on the Monon road, was a Chicago visitor last evening.

John Lewis, formerly of the C. J. road, has taken a job as switchman on the C. I. & S. road.

Frank Barry is a new employe at the Erie yards.

Several Hungarians arrived in Hammond yesterday to work on the Indiana Harbor road.

The New England Car Service association reports having handled in November 188,070 cars compared with 197,095 cars in November, 1905. The average detention on all commodities was ninety-six hours. The New England association evidently is not enforcing the car service rule to the extent that it is enforced by the Indiana Car Service association.

The Chicago rate sheet has been revised without friction to conform to the opinion of President Tuttle of the Boston & Maine in the Michigan Central differential case. It was feared for a time that the Wabash or the Grand Trunk might object, but general opinion now is that the matter will be allowed to rest on Mr. Tuttle's decision.

Eight thousand three, hundred and fifty-three freight cars were handled over the New York Central lines in a single day this week from the Detroit yard and nearly as many over the Eastern division.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has ruled that the sum of local fares over certain trunk lines are less than through rates, and that the through rates must be reduced or the local fares between certain points revised.

The purchasing agent of the Pennsylvania railroad has invited bids for the construction of 5,000 box cars. The contract will be awarded within a few days. Their estimate cost is \$6,000,000. It is not expected that the cars will be delivered before the latter part of next year. With the placing of this order the company will have ordered within the last two years nearly 60,000 additional cars of various types. It is also said that the company is getting better service out of its cars than ever before. The average movement of its cars per day in 1904 was 18.52 miles, while for the same time this year the average movement was 27.19 miles a day.

Charles S. Miles, a veteran conductor of the Pennsylvania railroad died at his home on Friday night of pneumonia. He was 63 years old and had been conductor running between Baltimore and Washington for forty-five years. He was one of the best known railroad men in the country, and noted for his courtesy and affability.

The new train of cars for the Michigan city division of the Monon railroad is expected in the city in a few days. A new baggage car has already been placed on this division and was taken south for the second time this morning. The cars are now in Lafayette and are being detained there owing to some delay in the gas lighting arrangement. The cars are of the finest vestibule style and when placed on this division will make a very attractive appearance.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Lines in the Western Passenger association today decided to put on their heretofore proposed new 1000-mile mileage book, which will be sold for \$25, with a refund of \$4.50. A proposition to put out a 500-mile book at a flat rate of 2 1/2 cents was not carried. The southwestern lines already have such a mileage book as the western lines propose selling, and it is possible that an arrangement will be reached whereby one book will be issued good over all lines. At present the new book will be one issued by each road separately. The mileage book changes are being made in the hope that the western states will not pass a 2-cent legislation.

A Tie-up Today.

New York, Dec. 22.—Demands of the yardmen of seven railroads entering New York have been refused and a general tie-up of traffic is expected today. Announcement that the ultimatum of the union would not be considered further has just followed a conference of the general managers of the roads affected. The officials say the demands are "astonishing and unfair." An increase of 5 cents per hour is asked. The roads have offered 4 cents, but the men say they will strike for the extra cent. The railroads represented at the conference were the Erie, Lackawanna, Lehigh Valley, Jersey Central, Baltimore & Ohio, Long Island and Staten Island railroads. Three thousand men will be affected.

J. F. Orr Testifies.
J. F. Orr, general freight agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad company, testified before the state railroad commission yesterday afternoon in the action brought by the independent oil companies of the state against nearly all of the railroads to reduce rates on oil shipped by the independents so that these concerns can compete with the Standard Oil company.

The independent companies, which compose the membership of the National Petroleum association, declare that the railroad companies discriminate against them in the interests of the oil trust.

General Agent Orr informed the commission that his experience had taught him that a "distance tariff" is generally impracticable. The independents are asking for a rate based on mileage entirely. They term their plan a "distance tariff."

Mr. Orr said he believed the new oil rate to go into effect Jan. 1 next would be satisfactory. The rate is 90 per cent of the present fifth class. After Jan. 1 oils will be put in the fifth class.

"From Whiting to Indiana points," the witness said, "there will be an advance in the rate on oil. Between other Indiana points there will be a reduction and between some of the points the rate will be the same."

It is contended by the defense that the railroads have been able to make a lower rate from Whiting, Ind., on account of the large quantity of oil shipped from there by the Standard Oil company. It was declared by the witnesses for the railroad companies that no matter how low the freight rate is made the oil trust will make it impossible for the independents successfully to compete with it by the use of the tank wagon system employed by the trust.

Changes on Lake Shore.

There have been several changes in the Lake Shore office recently. J. W. Daly, of Buffalo, has been appointed general passenger agent with headquarters at Cleveland, to succeed A. J. Smith, whose death occurred last August. Mr. Daly has been doing all the work of the general passenger agent since the beginning of the fatal illness of former Agent Smith, last May. He is thoroughly competent and his promotion is well deserved.

Another change in the Lake Shore circles is that of the routes to be covered by the traveling agents. C. S. Rogers has been making the local division, with Detroit as his headquarters. He made his report to W. G. Knutell, recently appointed general agent, with headquarters at Toledo. Owing to the inconvenience of this arrangement, H. C. Carson has been put on the local division, which extends from Hillsdale to Toledo. Mr. Rogers' last visit here was made yesterday. The new arrangement will greatly facilitate the running of this division in the general offices.

THE QUAKER WAY.

Do you know the Quaker idea of medicine and good health? They believe that as nourishing materials of the earth must first pass into some form of vegetation, and through that mysterious agency of life and sunshine become fit for food, so also must medicinal materials pass into vegetation before they can properly benefit the human system. Such was their belief, such also was their practice.

Sound in both mind and body, their sturdy descendants of the present day are living attests to the wisdom of this doctrine. To properly prepare the Quaker Herb Remedies, for which there was an ever increasing demand, a company was located many years ago at Fourth and Mill streets, Cincinnati, O., not far from the site of the first Quaker church in Ohio.

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RAILWAY DIFFICULTIES

Seems the Only Backset in the World of Trade—Everything Else is Encouraging.

New York, Dec. 22.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: Weather conditions accelerate distribution of seasonable merchandise at retail, but increased traffic difficulties, freight blockades and shortage of motive power not only retards business but threatens serious results at some western points. Holiday trade has equalled sanguine expectations, yet this large volume has not interfered with the brisk demand for staple articles, which depleted stocks to such an extent that wholesale trade experiences unusual activity for the season.

The only noteworthy decrease in comparison with activities a year ago appears in building permits. Most industrial work is maintained at the maximum, mills and factories having so many contracts for next year's delivery that inventories receive little attention. Scarcely any change is recorded in prices of iron. In rails the mills report about two-thirds of next year's total output already sold.

Liabilities of commercial failures thus far reported for December amounted to \$6,708,827, of which \$3,434,830 were in manufacturing, \$2,118,244 in trading and \$150,753 in other commercial lines.

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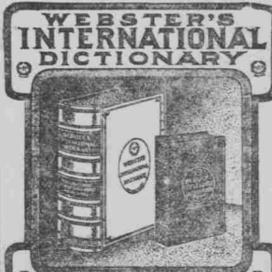
Nice 7-room house on May street, in fine condition; lot 25x125; \$2,000.

Fine 8-room modern house and good barn; lot 57 x110, on East Carroll St. This is a very fine new residence; one-half cash, balance three years; price, \$3,700.

Fine modern 14-room residence, large barn, all kinds of out-buildings; lot 100x125. Price \$11,000, one-half cash. This is one of the finest homes in the city; on Carroll street.

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