

## JOHN W. VAIL IS CALLED BY DEATH TODAY

Widely Known Manufacturer and Business Man Died at Home Here

Heart Trouble - Held Extensive Interests In South; Funeral Sunday Afternoon

Death today removed one the most prominent and widely known residents of Decatur. John W. Vail, aged 64, whose name is associated those of successful business men and manufacturers, not only in Decatur, but in several other parts of the country, died at his home, 609 West Madison street, at 5:30 o'clock this morning. Death was due to heart trouble, with which he had been seriously ill since last Saturday night.

Mr. Vail had suffered with diabetes for the last year or more but had been in fairly good health recently, until seized with the attack of heart trouble. Since then a trained nurse has been in attendance and every effort expended to save his life. His son, Dan, of Chicago, had planned to bring a heart specialist from Chicago to see his father today. His other two sons, Hugh T. and Forest E. and his faithful wife, were at his bedside when he died.

John W. Vail was born in Wells county, Indiana, May 10 1859. He was a son of Thomas and Martha Shephard Vail, both deceased. His parents were natives of New Jersey, meeting in Ohio and later coming to Fort Wayne where Mr. Vail took a contract for building a section of the Pennsylvania railroad, known at that time as the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago railroad. Later the older Vails moved to Ossian, where Mr. Vail built a large section of the Lake Erie Railway.

John W. Vail was reared in Wells county and educated in the public schools there, coming to Decatur, June 21, 1881, when he built the large hoop plant located at present just west of the G. R. & I. railroad and since that time had resided in this city. Various enterprises occupied his attention until 1898 when he developed the Decatur Egg Case Company's plant and business here. He continued in that until 1911, when he built the large hoop plant located at present just west of the G. R. & I. railroad tracks on Adams street, and which is one of the flourishing industries of the city at present.

### A Successful Manufacturer

In 1916, Mr. Vail purchased what was known as the Decatur Straw Board company, which is operated at Marion. This was sold later, however. Mr. Vail was interested in the Cardwell Stave company of Missouri, which has extensive holdings in Missouri, and Louisiana. The company owns many thousands of acres of land bearing native timber. As this timber is cut off and manufactured late staves and egg crates, the land is sold for farming purposes. The company owns its own railroad line twenty-eight miles long, known as the Tenans & Gulf line, which hauls the timber from various parts of the holding to the factories.

The Cardwell Stave Company manufactures 40,000,000 staves annually and enough egg crates to handle 45,000,000 dozen eggs annually. Mr. Vail's son Forest E. is manager of the plant at

Waterproof, Louisiana. Allen Stalter, a Decatur young man is also connected with the plant at Waterproof, the distribution point for the products of the company is Decatur.

### Father of Three Sons

In 1882, Mr. Vail was married to Miss Christina B. Railing, who was born in Adams county, July 1, 1863, a daughter of Daniel and Elmina Railing, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Vail were born three sons, namely Daniel R. Vail of Chicago, who married Blanch Carroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Carroll of this city; Hugh Thomas Vail of this city, who married Mary Frances Ward, also of this city; and Forest E. Vail, of Waterproof, Louisiana, who married Grace Butler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mel. E. Butler of this city.

Mr. Vail was a member of the Decatur Masonic lodge, the Commandry of Bluffton; the Improved Order of Red Men; and the Knights of Pythias lodge. He was a member of and staunch worker in the Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur. He was a Republican, but never aspired to public office.

### Funeral On Sunday

Mr. Vail is survived by his wife, three sons, four brothers and two sisters. The brothers and sisters are: Rev. Solomon Vail, retired minister living in Washington, D. C.; Ephraim A. Vail, of Decatur; Jospeh Vail of Bryan, Ohio; Aaron R. Vail of Fort Wayne; Mrs. Elizabeth Donaldson, wife of R. M. Donaldson, of Marmaduke, Arkansas; and Mrs. Lucy Sprang, wife of Daniel Sprang of this city. One sister, Mrs. Angeline Wasson is deceased.

Funeral services will be held from the First Methodist church at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, the Rev. U. S. A. Bridge, pastor, officiating. Short services will be held from the home on Madison street at 2:00 o'clock. Burial will be held in the Maplewood cemetery.