

The Canton Leader

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Official Paper for the County of Lincoln

President Wilson's Message

It is published complete in this week's LEADER and is worthy of careful reading and consideration. When tired and perplexed over Christmas problems turn to the inside of the paper, you will not read long before you realize that you are living in the most God favored country on earth.

President Wilson is a wonderful man. In his short term of office he has reached the highest summit of ambition and drank the cup of sorrow to its deepest dregs. But the man, the friend, the sympathizer of our people, has forgotten self, and in his deep consideration of our welfare, guided the affairs of this nation through turbulent seas, so wisely that hardly a ripple has been felt by those at home.

CORRESPONDENCE

Grand Valley.

Winter with its snow and sleigh rides has arrived at last. Bertina Mickelson left for Sioux Falls Monday where she has accepted a position as stenographer. Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Skorheim visited at the Paul Kieppe home from Saturday till Sunday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Metcalf from Madison, S. D. arrived Saturday for a visit with Hanson's.

Melvin Tuntland spent the week end at the home of his parents. Mr. Blumer arrived from Washington on Thursday to spend several weeks with his brother Henry. Their was a good attendance at the oyster social given at J. Voegelles. Lucile Romerselm spent Saturday at Robert Thompson's. Henry Blumer was a Canton visitor Friday. Oluf U. says, Where is that girl of mine? Annie V. says, Did you say 500 votes Hank T. says, Its all wrong. Tilmén N. says, Aol come here. Johnnie R. says, A one seated Ford was made for six. Albert B. says, Oh a Ford is nothing to run.

Norway

Messrs. Bert Steffenson, J. J. and Joseph Romerselm were business visitors at Sioux Falls last Tuesday. Messrs. and Mesdames John Tollefson and Ole Tvedt were among those who attended the reception at the Purdy home near Alcester last Friday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tvedt who were married at Mitchell last Tuesday.

Services at Romsdahl church Sunday at 11 a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Ludwig Romerselm, Bertha and Esther Romerselm were Sioux City shoppers Saturday.

There was an excellent attendance at the concert given by Prof. Grouseth of Augustana college, on Sunday evening at Lands church.

Mr. and Mrs. Obel Ulrickson from near Canton and Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Eldnes were Sunday guests at B. Sundvold's home.

Misses Hanna and Inga Enebo from Augustana spent the week end at home.

Pleasant Ridge. The sale and supper held at S. S. Mannings Friday evening proved to be a success if there was other attractions to draw the crowd. The proceeds amounted to \$73.

Mrs. Matt Kneboke was a Sioux Falls shopper last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnson of Pioneer attended the sale and supper at Mannings Friday evening.

Mr. J. Tate is in our neighborhood again. He is now living in Brookings after spending several years on his claim out west.

Lewis and Jessie Flory were Canton shoppers Monday.

Several from this neighborhood attended the Firemen's Dance Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels DeNure were in Sioux Falls Thursday.

If it keeps on snowing the automobiles will have a rest.

Earl Millage called on his cousin Myron Millage Sunday.

Mrs. W. Parke called at the Hicks home Sunday after church.

Harrisburg. John Huxtable left Thursday for various points in Trip county.

The Ladies Aid of the M. E. church held their annual sale at the Opera House Friday evening. A supper was given the same evening. They received good returns from their hard labor.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill went to Canton Friday for a visit with her parents. Frank returned Saturday and Mrs. Hill remained until Sunday.

Mr. Tom Huxtable and family were Sioux Falls shoppers Thursday.

Mrs. Fred Hurley and children of Canton township visited Thursday and Friday with her parents.

Mr. I. E. Blue was greatly surprised last Thursday, when his brother Wm. arrived from Washita, Ia., for a short visit with him.

Ed. Manninger and sister, Irene spent Sunday afternoon at the P. H. Davitt home.

Mr. John Evenson and family were Sioux Falls shoppers Saturday.

Kathryn Davitt visited Thursday evening at Fred Harley's in Canton township.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Tate visited his mother and sister in Worthing Wednesday.

THE NEW SCHOOL HOUSE

To the Voters and Taxpayers of Canton, South Dakota: In an article in the LEADER under date of November 20th Professor Lawrence makes the following statement: "The Board of Education has decided to submit the question of raising bonds for a new school building to a vote of the district as soon as arrangements can be made for a bond election."

In connection with this statement of Supt. Lawrence, about 10 days before that Mr. Jennings, president of the School Board called upon the undersigned at his office, and said that on that evening a number of the taxpayers of the city would assemble at the Auditor's office in the court house to view the proposed plan for a new high school building which the Board decided to build. And that a Bond election would be called to issue bonds sufficient to pay for the construction of this building.

The most astounding proposition that was suggested was for this beautiful little city of ours to place a mortgage on all of its homes and property for \$100,000 in order to supply a high school building which would be good looking.

To the conservative business men who are interested in the city and have been with the city almost from its beginning, over thirty years, and aware of the efforts which the people have made in order to build this beautiful little city, the proposition that we should mortgage our homes for almost \$100,000 was startling indeed, and impressed me with the idea that such a proposition at this time when the commercial world is unsettled when bonds of all kinds are going begging in the market, and can only be sold at a large discount; when the vast sources of money in Europe which were buying the American municipal bonds, railroad bonds and other securities, are entirely closed by the present war and no bonds can be sold in those countries; and in addition those countries are throwing their bonds upon the American market and also their stocks in order to defray the great expenses of this war.

And at this time when the cost of living is very high and is continually going up; when everybody is struggling to maintain themselves, it was startling indeed to suggest such an expenditure at this time. A 5 percent bond under normal conditions would sell for a 5 percent premium paid by the buyer but under the present conditions it is doubtful if it could be sold for 5 percent discount again by the seller which would mean a loss of \$10,000 on a bond issue of \$100,000. To lose this sum all at one time would appear to be the height of folly.

Then again the bonds would be hard to sell at all because at this time there is no demand for bonds. The issue may be that all they ask is \$75,000 of bonds. That is very well to be said. But under the constitutional limitation which the law fixes at 5 percent of assessed value a \$75,000 bond issue would bring us above the limit. We already are bonded for at least \$10,000 and could not issue the \$75,000 without exceeding the five percent limit.

As stated, I have been a resident of the city of Canton for over 30 years, have reared a family in this city; educated them through all the grades of the high school and college. I state these facts to show Prof. Lawrence that I believe in education just as much as anyone else; that I have had experience in rearing a family, in educating them, and in preparing them for life, and I certainly am not opposed to giving other people of the city equal opportunities with those that I have enjoyed myself. But as a business man I have all the conditions to consider and my experience tells me that it would be very unwise to mortgage every home of the city in order to give less than one-fourth of the students the luxury of an immense building.

The next question which is to be considered, is, do we need at this time, a new high school building. And do we need one of the proportions of the one which has been suggested. I take the position that at this time we neither need a new high school building nor would such a one as is proposed be in any manner a proper one. To illustrate: the sketch which was presented in the meeting above referred to and which was builded at Huron shows an assembly room of 400 while the full number of the high school scholars of Canton enrolled does not exceed at the present time 100 and the probabilities are that it will be a long time before our high school numbers will be increased any.

In order to ascertain whether or not there is any increased demand for high school facilities, it is well to compare the growth of the high school as shown by the reports of the Clerk of the city school board. In 1909 in the high school there were 42 males and 72 females; 114 in all, in 1914 there were 45 males and 68 females, 113 in all which is an increase of two in all which is in 1909 there were four teachers in the high school in 1909 there were four rooms occupied by the high school, two of which

together with what was then the hall way between them have been made into the present assembly room the partitions being taken out. In 1914 there were eight rooms occupied by the high school. The expense of running our school for 1909 was \$15,925.03; for 1914 it was \$18,594.14. The difference being altogether substantially in the high school. So that the amount of running the high school just about doubled in the six years but there were only two additional students.

The number of students in the high school per teacher for 1914 was 13, and in the grades it was 40 one-eight. 361 grade students occupy eight rooms. The 116 high school students occupy eight rooms. So if there is any crowding anywhere, the crowding is certainly in the grades and not in the high school. But Professor Lawrence says the high school building is not a good looking. It looks just as well as it ever did. It is substantially as good a building as it ever was. And to illustrate that it is not in bad repair, during the past year the school board only spent \$75 in repairing all of the school buildings, property which they report is worth over \$40,000. The proposition is to "junk" the high school building. The high school building as junk is worth nothing, the high school building as it is today is worth just as much as it ever was, it could not be built to-day for anywhere near what it was originally built for because material and labor have advanced so much. It will last for years to come and to throw away at least \$25,000 worth of property at such a time as this would certainly be unwise. The desire for looks in public affairs, the same as in private affairs often brings people to ruin.

But Professor Lawrence says that we need some rooms for gymnastics and for other special courses, such as typewriting and short hand. With due deference to Prof. Lawrence's experience and ability, I wish to state that teaching typewriting and shorthand in the public schools is certainly undesirable. Shorthand is bound to vanish in a very short time. The dictating machines, I have one in my office and use it every day, takes the place of the stenographer. The typist is all that is necessary, that is the girl who can use the typewriter. Here in this city we are especially favored by having a good school, Augustana College, which gives special courses in those branches, such as typewriting and shorthand, so that every student who desires that special training can get it, and can get it more cheaply than a course could be maintained in the high school. In a very few years we will see very few stenographers in business; typists and the dictating machines will take their places.

Prof. Lawrence may ask me what I have to suggest with reference to providing for the crowded condition of the grades. I have a suggestion to make. It is true that those grade schools are full to overflowing and there has been an increase in the grades while there has been substantially none in the high school. The territory west of the railroad track has now about 75 families. Those people have been paying taxes all the years and they have received no benefits from the water works, and received very little benefits from electric lights, and no sewers have been built in that section, and very little public expenditures made. They have paid their taxes, and we have quite a large country territory attached to the city outside. There should be a ward school built in the west part of the city to accommodate not only the people living there but those in the territory outside of the city. That a school building there could be builded for just what it would cost to pay the interest one year on the bonds and the increased expenses on the new high school building. Those people are entitled to it. When that building was built, the eighth grade now in the high school could be moved to another building and at least one grade in the west side school could be moved over there. That would relieve all the grades and would give the additional room for the high school now occupied by the eighth grade.

As to the gymnasium we think that is supplied, as a condition of locating the Carnegie library in its present position on his lot, Mr. Thorson promised the electors of the city that he would build a gymnasium for the boys and girls of the city. We have no doubt but that he will build this gymnasium next year. When that is done the gymnasium problem is settled.

The manual training should be in the same building as the gymnasium. The boys who would use the gymnasium would for the most part be the ones who would use the manual training. If Mr. Thorson did not think that he could afford to build the manual training room in addition to the gymnasium, the city school district could join with him and construct the manual training room, and that would solve the problem. This would relieve the high school building and it would not cost as much to construct them as it would to pay one year's interest on the bonds.

If Mr. Thorson thinks that he can not afford to build the gymnasium, then I have no doubt but that arrangements could be made with him by which he would give the city school district the lot and such other considerations as he thought would be fair, and then the school district could build a gymnasium and manual training room on this lot and it being as close to the high school there would

be no danger of the students getting lost in crossing the street. This would solve that problem. It will be but a few years when the north part of the city will be built up and it will be necessary to build an other grade school in that section. When that school is builded it would relieve the present east side school. If at that time there was no more increase in the high school enrollment than there has been in the last few years, the present high school building would be ample for all the demands of the high school. Modest expenditures and repairs on the high school building would place it in just as good a condition as it ever was. It



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Lincoln County's Largest Furniture Store

has lasted twenty-five years and has not even been painted on the outside. It is good for twenty-five years more. I think that it is unwise to junk it and throw it away. Again, the state of South Dakota is growing. It has a large amount of school lands which will either be sold or rented for higher rentals in the next six years and while the income now from the permanent school fund gives every scholar in the state about six dollars, I have no doubt but in six years it will be doubled. When that time comes this additional money will assist us in building a new building. I have pointed out how we can get along and enjoy high school privileges with the present building and not put a mortgage of \$100,000 or even of \$80,000 in excess of the \$10,000 now on the homes of this city. C. B. KENNEDY

Reading Circle Notes

Philanthropic Day was celebrated by the Reading Circle at the home of Mrs. Anna Hragstad, Dec. 2nd, 1914. Roll call was answered by items on present day Philanthropists. Carrying out the policy of the Club at this time, the ladies collected games, toys, books and fancy work to gladden the little hearts at the Orphans' Home. After a dainty luncheon, "Club" adjourned until after the holiday season.