

# IS TRIED AND FOUND A TRUSTY GUARDIAN

As Watchdog of St. Louis County's Monies Auditor Odin Halden Says He Has Always Proved True to Trust. His Record Presented to the Public Gaze.



The issue of the county auditorship at the primary election is very much more than a question of whether County Auditor Halden shall keep his place as a public servant or another man shall get the job and the salary. The position is too important to be bandied about in that way. In fact, very few people realize how important this office really is.

The county auditor of St. Louis county is, to a large extent, the business manager of the county. The county board is the board of directors but it is in session only once a month, and the man who is looking after the county's business all the time is the county auditor.

St. Louis county collects and handles every year taxes to the amount of four and one-half million dollars, of which a part goes to the state, part is kept for county purposes, and the rest distributed to the various cities, villages, townships and school districts. The county auditor has charge of this distribution, and it takes a man of experience and capacity to handle it. The county auditor's share alone is seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year, and in the expenditure of that money, the county auditor is the responsible officer whose duty it is to see that it is properly spent.

The county auditor, too, has direct supervision of the levying of taxes and the assessment of property to determine how much taxes each citizen shall pay. Whether the burden is fairly divided, or rich people with a pull are able to shoulder part of the burden off upon the poorer people who have no pull, depends largely upon the attitude of the county auditor.

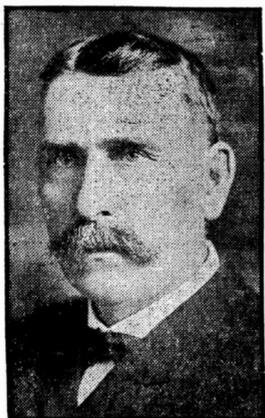
Odin Halden, who is now county auditor, and who seeks re-election to that office, has shown his capacity to handle it and has gained experience in that office that fits him bet-

ter than any other person to conduct its duties properly. His policy has constantly been that of insisting upon a fair division of the tax burden. He has upon many occasions taken positive action by which persons best able to pay taxes were compelled to pay their share when they were trying to put part of that share off upon the many who are less able to pay. His administration of the business affairs of St. Louis county has been marked by sound business judgment and a brave insistence upon a fair deal to all parties.

Mr. Halden has often been called the best county auditor in Minnesota, and this is a tribute to his strict performance of his duty to all the people—a tribute that he has richly earned.

Under him the county auditor's office has been thoroughly systematized, competent men placed at the heads of the various departments, and the business of the office placed upon a systematic, efficient and admirably effective basis. If you were a stockholder in a business organization whose transactions were as enormous as those of St. Louis county, and you had a business manager in charge of these affairs who had been tried and found to be capable, you would keep him. You wouldn't turn him out and give his job to another man simply because that other man wanted a job. The voters of St. Louis county are not going to vote that way at the primaries September 20, on the county auditorship. They have a man in charge of the business affairs of the county who has proven his capacity to handle them honestly, faithfully, efficiently and with strict justice to high and low, great and small, rich and poor. That is why they are going to re-nominate Odin Halden for county auditor on the Republican ticket at the primaries September 20.

JOHN TISCHER.



There's a hot fight on for the Republican nomination for county commissioner in the Second district. You know that, of course, if you kept posted on current events, there's a whole bunch of them out for the plum and the pace is fast. Some of them are claiming that they have all the votes in sight sewed up in a sack ready to deliver the day of the primaries.

One of them, John Tischer, is not making any claim like this. He's too old a pioneer in this county to believe he has every one he meets in the campaign on his staff. But he has some of them and he thinks he has enough to win.

Born and raised right here in stone's throw of the St. Louis county courthouse he has a knowledge of the needs of St. Louis county's second district, possessed by no other candidate—and back of it the experience that counts in the matter of good roads.

In the short time that he has filled the office made vacant by the untimely death of his brother, the late county commissioner, George Tischer, he has made a record that will stand him in good stead on the eventual day. Ask the people of Glinesen, Rice Lake, Lakewood or any other township in the district what they think of John Tischer's work since he assumed control of the roads in the district and they will tell you to a man that he has performed wonders

# "BACK TO THE FARM"

III.—How the R. F. D., Telephone, Trolley and Good Roads Are Modernizing the Farm.

By C. V. GREGORY.

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THE farm is no longer the isolated, lonely place that it used to be or that many people seem to think it is yet. Farming under modern conditions is a business and in most cases is coming to be run in a business way. The first step in the modernizing of the farm came with the introduction of the rural free delivery in 1897. Put in at first as a sort of experiment, a concession to the insistent demands of the national grange and other farmers' organizations, it spread rapidly and soon became indispensable. It was a potent factor in waking up the farmers. One of the first and greatest results was that the daily paper for the farm was made a possibility.

Before the advent of the rural free delivery the farmer who kept within



THE TELEPHONE HAS BANISHED FARM LONELINESS.

a week of the markets was doing well. As a result he usually managed to strike all the slumps in the market when he had stock or grain to sell. With a market paper delivered at his gate each morning he could follow prices of farm produce closely and take advantage of a rising market. This one factor alone has paid the cost of the rural free delivery many times over.

The market reports were not the only part of the paper that benefited the farmer. He no longer got his news a week old, but had it served up almost as hot as if he had lived in town. This daily contact with the things that were happening in the world brightened him up, rubbed off the dust and gave him a new interest in life.

The shiftless farmer who went to town two or three times a week on the pretense of "getting the mail," only to waste half a day or so each time and maybe come home "boozed up" in the bargain, was deprived of his excuse and fell into the habit of spending his extra time fixing up about the place. The farmer who had been enterprising before became more enterprising and had more time to put his ideas into practice.

Along with the R. F. D. came better roads, and when the farmer did go to town he could make the trip in much less time than he did before. His daily papers and magazines made him as well informed as any of the business men of the town. The days of the "hayseed" were numbered.

Along with the R. F. D. came a great increase in the circulation of the agricultural papers. The old type of papers edited by men who had seen little of farming except from a car window came to an end about this time, and their places were taken by papers edited by men who had grown up on the soil and who had never got very far away from it. These papers taught the farmers the value of better methods. They taught what these methods were and how they could be applied. Above all, they inspired the farmers to do the best they knew how, to respect their calling and to put it on a business basis.

Along with the R. F. D. came the telephone. Some of the first lines were little more than cheap instruments connected to a barbed wire fence, but they served the purpose. Then followed lines put up on willow poles and finally modern lines as substantially built and as efficient as money could buy. An automatic device to prevent any one listening except the parties talking is in use in some localities. Most communities prefer the party line, however, because of its social features. Often after supper on a stormy winter evening some one will put in a general call and furnish some instrumental music for the benefit of every one on the line. Then some one else will sing a song, some one will run off a few musical records on a phonograph, and an otherwise lonely evening will be passed pleasantly. Immediately after dinner is generally conceded to be the "women folks' hour at the phone. They will stand and visit, often a dozen of them at a time, until the proverbial loneliness of farm life is entirely forgotten.

The principal use of the telephone is for business. The modern farmer relies upon his telephone as much as does the business man. Most of the

telephone lines are connected with the central switchboard in town, so that a toll call will get any one in the county or in the state. Market and weather reports are sent out over the rural lines at certain hours each day. If the market is especially good the farmer can call up the local buyer and contract his hogs at once, or if he prefers he can call up the railway freight office and arrange to have a stock car ready for him the next morning. In most communities the practice of "changing work" at thrashing time is still followed. This used to necessitate a day's work notifying the neighbors, and then frequently it all had to be done over again on account of a breakdown to the machine or bad weather. Now the notifying is all done in a few moments by phone.

On many occasions a prompt telephone call has brought the nearest doctor to the bedside of a sick child who would not have lived until a trip could be made to town for the doctor. This is one of the reasons that a telephone is seldom taken out after it has once been put in. In a hundred minor ways the telephone has become necessary to the farm folk. Often after the farmer has left for town his wife will think of something she wants him to get. All she has to do is call up the store where he does his trading and leave a message for him. When the young folks want to give a party the telephone will quickly bring in every one in the neighborhood. A stray horse is soon located and brought back home. In weather too bad for the mail carrier to get through important letters can be received over the telephone.

One other step is necessary to enable the farmer to make the greatest use of the rural free delivery and the telephone. It is the parcels post. Local merchants have objected to a parcels post on the ground that it would favor the mail order houses at their expense. This can be overcome by giving a lower rate to packages that go over a rural route only. A parcels post of this kind has been recommended by the postmaster general. He figures that it would prove profitable for the government, turning the postal deficit into a surplus. With a cheap parcels post in operation on the free rural delivery routes the connection of the farmer with the town will be complete. He can order parcels from town and have them delivered at his door a few hours later. Things which he cannot get in his local town he can procure from a mail order house in two or three days. The farmers are united in demanding this convenience, and it is bound to come before long.

The final step in the emancipation of the farmer was taken when the trolley line and the automobile came into general use. The trolley has meant better schooling for his children. It has brought theaters, lectures and better churches within reach of the farmer's family. Best of all, the competition with the cities has brought about a much needed awakening of the country schools and the country churches.

The trolley is a great convenience in taking produce to market. Most of the cars will stop at any farmhouse or crossroads to pick up a can of cream, a crate of chickens or a passenger. Trolley lines are a great factor in hastening the "back to the land" movement. The farmer who lives near a trolley line has no desire to go to town because he has all the conveniences of both town and country.

Wherever a trolley line punctures a city the crowded population spreads out into the country. At first the city people move into the country only to have a pleasanter place to live while still carrying on their business in the city. Once in the country few of them ever regret the change. Most of them say that they would not go back to the city to live under any consideration.

What the trolley lines are doing for the more thickly settled districts, good roads, automobiles and driving horses are doing for those communities which are not yet densely enough populated to support a trolley line. The good roads movement started with the ad-



TROLLEY LINES ARE HELPING THE "BACK TO THE FARM" MOVEMENT.

vent of the R. F. D. While country roads in many places are far from being ideal as yet, still the length of time when they are not fairly passable has been reduced to a minimum. Most of the main roads are well graded, and nearly every farmer has a road drag with which to keep the road along his farm smooth. Graveled roads are becoming common, and macadamized and oiled roads are being extended into the country. All these modern improvements have added much to the profits of farming. They have added more to its pleasures. They have given to the farmer the advantages of the city without taking away any of the advantages of the farm. They have made the farm the ideal place to live.



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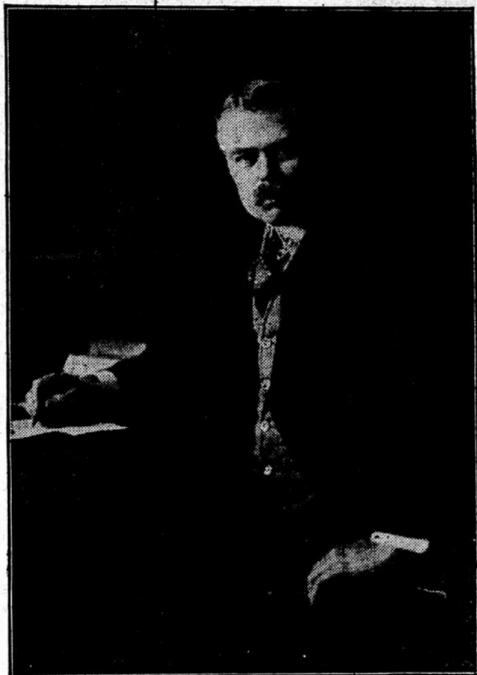
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