

from the forfeited tax law of 1899 in one very essential feature. The law of 1881 provided for notice to the delinquent by publication only; the law of 1899 provided for notice by publication and also an additional personal notice by mail and by personal service on the occupants by the sheriff in the manner provided for the service and return of summons in civil actions. Every precaution was taken to safeguard the interests of the delinquent owners. If we had held that the surplus over the amount of the judgment should be returned to the owner, the owner would have refused to redeem his property until the land was offered for sale, with the end in view of bidding it in for 50 per cent. of the taxes; then if he found that there were other bidders he would outbid them, with the assurance that in any event he would not have to pay more than the full amount of the taxes, for the surplus over and above the taxes would be refunded to him. In other words, the owner would not pay more than 50 per cent. of his taxes unless he was forced to do so by other bidders. What inducement would there have been for other bidders to be present and bid at a sale?

"Again, we held that the delinquent owner had the right to redeem until the piece or parcel of land he was interested in was offered for sale, but not after it had been offered. To have held otherwise would have been to nullify the law. Let me illustrate: At the sale in Morrison county the owner of a large tract of delinquent lands in that county was present; when one of the pieces he owned was offered the auditor announced the description and in clear and distinct tones asked 'Does the owner wish to redeem?' The owner, whom we will call 'A,' said not a word. The auditor then announced that he would offer the piece for the full amount of the taxes. No bid. It was then offered for 50 per cent. of the taxes; there were several bids in quick succession, and when 'A' discovered that the piece would bring the full amount of the taxes he offered to redeem. The other bidders said if 'A' wishes to redeem we will withdraw our bids. The auditor then requested 'A' to cash up. 'A' suavely remarked, 'I withdraw my offer to redeem.' The auditor reoffered the piece, several bids were received and 'A' again offered to redeem. The auditor very properly refused to consider 'A's' offer to redeem and sold the tract of land to the highest bidder, and for more than the full amount of taxes. If the auditor had paid any further attention to 'A' he might have been offering that piece of land yet.

"Does any intelligent man hold that the county auditor of Morrison county did not do exactly right? Was it not the duty of the county auditor, a duty he owed to taxpayers of Morrison county, to secure every dollar of delinquent taxes he could secure? Would he have been justified in permitting 'A' to nullify the provisions of chapter 322 for the enforcement of the collection of delinquent taxes?

"We have been criticised for the suggestions we have offered in circulars emanating from this office in connection with the forfeited sale, but all of our rulings and suggestions were in the interests of the taxpayers and not in the interest of the tax-shirkers.

"It does seem to me as if our legislatures and courts were too considerate of the interests of tax-shirkers. Seventy five per cent. of the people of Minnesota pay their taxes promptly. It is safe to assert that 80 per cent. of the farmer pay their taxes every year. Poor people and people of moderate means are generally the first to pay their taxes. The tax-evaders are usually people of means; they let their taxes run until a complainant legislature provides for a clear-up sale with the expectation that they can get off by paying the State taxes or a little inducement for an individual to pay his taxes promptly. If all taxes were paid promptly the rate of taxation in this State would be reduced at least 25 per cent.

"It is high time the laws were construed in the interest of the taxpayers. Anyhow, the taxpayers are certainly entitled to a little consideration. Up to the present time the tax-evaders seem to have decidedly the best of it. I sincerely hope county officials will stand pat and refuse to refund a dollar collected under the forfeited tax sale until the supreme court of our State direct it, and I hope every individual case will be fought to a finish. The case of Farnham vs. Jones, 32nd, Minn., will be cited. The decision was rendered sixteen years ago, and as I have said at the outset the forfeited tax law of 1899 are not similar in their provisions."—Pioneer Press.

WATER RATES.

The Village Council Has Partially Completed a List of Charges.

The village council at its last meeting established a partial list of rates for the use of water furnished by the municipal plant. Rates not already specified will be made in a few days when they will be printed in a pamphlet which will be furnished to appli-

cants. The annual rates so far established are as follows:

Tapping the main.....	\$20.00
Water for lawn, one lot.....	8.00
Water for lawn, two lots.....	10.00
Water for lawn, each additional lot.....	1.00
House, in connection with lawn.....	3.00
Stable, three stalls and buggy.....	2.00
Residences without lawn.....	5.00

Each user of water is to keep his own taps, valves, faucets and pipes in repair and the charge made by the city for tapping takes the water only to the outer edge of the sidewalk. All rents are payable annually in advance on April 1. Where meters are used the bills will be collected monthly the same as the electric light bills. The use of water on the lawn is restricted to three hours in the morning, from 6 to 9, and four hours in the evening, from 6 to 10. If an alarm of fire is given at any time all connections must be closed.

All applicants must make application to the council in writing, stating exactly for what purposes the water is to be used and customers are restricted to use the water only as set forth in their application. The next meeting of the council will probably be the time for the completion of the schedules and the result will be given in these columns.

PRINCETON CELEBRATES.

An Old-Time Fourth of July Celebration in Princeton.

Preparations are being made for a Fourth of July celebration in this village and a committee is at work already on the arrangements. They propose to give the people a regular old-time Fourth, and starting with a salute of 100 guns at sunrise the citizens and visitors will be kept busy all day enjoying a program of exercises and sports.

The morning will be given to parades and the program of appropriate exercises, which will consist of a speech by Judge C. A. Dickey, music, songs, etc., which will be given at the opera house. In the afternoon there will be a ball game; a 2:30 trot, purse \$70; a running race, purse \$30; a gentlemen's roadster race, purse \$30; a farmers' green trot, purse \$18; a slow race, purse \$5; a bicycle race, purse \$10 and a 100-yard dash, purse \$6.

In the evening there will be a dance in Jesmer's opera house and a good display of fireworks. The affair is under the management of a couple of wide-awake "sports" and will probably be a successful celebration.

CROP CONDITIONS.

The Report of the Weather Bureau for the Week Ending Monday.

The temperatures during the week have been reasonable. There were local rains in many parts of the State, on different days, most of them being on the 23d, 24th and 25th, but with a very few exceptions they were merely passing showers, which gave only momentary relief to the drouth, which is now very serious. From a little distance it appears that the early wheat and oats continue healthy and vigorous, notwithstanding the dry weather, but it is said by several correspondents that a close examination in some localities discloses the fact that the process of stooling is checked or entirely stopped, and that in places the stools already started are drying up. The late sown grains show the effect of the drouth more than those which secured a good start under better conditions early in the season. Barley is feeling the need of moisture, and winter rye is very thin, and it is heading short. Early sown flax, corn and potatoes are doing fairly well, but with stands that are not the best. Late planted corn is not coming up well, some of it lying in the dry soil unsprouted. New ground breaks up dry and dusty, and flax sown in it will not germinate till rain comes. Pastures are generally poor. Grass for hay is at a standstill, and it is certain that the hay crop is much shortened. Strawberries are setting fruit well, but there must be abundant rain to bring a crop. There are some who still believe that copious rains, within a short time, will insure good crops of all the grains.

COMMENCEMENT.

The Princeton Public Schools Will Close Next Week.

Wednesday evening of next week will occur the fifth annual commencement of the Princeton high school, at which time Miss Myra McCarriel and Clifton Cravens will receive their diplomas. A chorus of the pupils of the public schools will furnish the music, Miss McCarriel will read an essay on the class motto, "To Be, Not to Seem," and Mr. Cravens will deliver an oration, "Our Nation's Debt to Lafayette." The exercises will close with the commencement address by Hon. J. Adam Bede, of Pine City. The exercises will be held in the Jesmer opera house.

ANOKA COUNTY'S MURDER.

A Wholesale Murder Occurred Sunday Night in the Town of Grov.

While Mr. and Mrs. William Weis and their four children were seated at a table in their sitting room Sunday night assassins approached a window unseen and poured a deadly volley into the room. A boy seven years old was instantly killed, the parents and another son fatally wounded, and the room and furniture wrecked. The two daughters ran from the room at the

first shot, and concealing themselves in a closet, escaped harm.

The family came from Wisconsin a few months ago and were not well known. No cause can be found for the awful deed and by some it is thought to be the work of enemies who followed them from their former home. The authorities are at work on the case and everything possible will be done to bring the criminals to bar.

It is thought that the shots were fired by two men, as rifle and shotgun shells were found on the ground near the window.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.

Do You Want to Buy a Good Horse Cheap? Mark Has 'Em.

The regular monthly sale of the E. Mark Live Stock company will occur on Saturday, June 2, and the company is making preparations to fully supply the wants of all its intending patrons. Manager Mark says he has a reputation to maintain now, and promises that this sale will be as interesting as any he has ever held, and those who desire to buy a team, wagon, harness, or anything else in his line will be given an unexcelled opportunity next month. There will be heavy draft horses for the farm or lumbering, brood mares for the stock raiser, drivers for all who enjoy riding behind something speedy, ponies for the children, in fact all kinds of horses for all purposes. The company will also receive stock on that day for which it will pay the highest market price in cash and when Mark says the "highest market price" the people of this section know that he means just what he says. If you need anything in his line you should be present June 2, for this sale will occur on that date regardless of the weather.

Quo Vadis.

The story opens in Ancient Rome during the reign of the Emperor Nero, and depicts the customs and manners of that turbulent age. Lygia the daughter of a Lygian King, is a host-ess to Nero. Vinicius, a noble Roman youth and soldier has met and been cared for by Lygia in her foster parent's home. He falls deeply in love with her and declares his passion.

The girl answers him by drawing the sign of her religion in the sand. Vinicius, a Pagan does not comprehend the christian symbol. At the instigation of Petronius, uncle to Vinicius, the emperor orders Lygia to be placed under Petronius' care whose sole object is to further his nephew's happiness. At the great Bacchanalian feast given by Nero Lygia is forced to become a guest. In the midst of the revelry, Vinicius, under the influence of drink renews his advances which Lygia spurns. At the critical moment she is rescued by her countryman, Ursus the Lygian giant. Vinicius later on plots with the Greek schemer, Chilonides, to secure the girl, who has joined the little band of Christians. At night they are journeying to their retreat when attacked by Roman soldiers and slaves in Vinicius pay. Lygia is seized by Vinicius, but the great watch dog, Ursus, kills the Roman gladiator, Croton, and rescues the girl from Vinicius who is badly injured in the light. He is taken care of by the christians, who are under the leadership of the Apostle Peter. Lygia waits on Vinicius who gladly, under divine influence of christian surroundings, is won over to the faith. Then Lygia and Vinicius confess their love for each other, which is sanctioned by Peter the Apostle.

The Christians accused of burning Rome are imprisoned by Nero's command and sentenced to martyrdom in the Arena. They are brought out to meet death in various cruel ways. Lygia is reserved for the last and is bound upon the neck of a monster bull. Petronius had pleaded for her life with Nero but in vain. Ursus seeing his beloved mistress about to be dashed to pieces, rushes into the arena and grapples the beast by the horns. Vinicius calls upon the God of the Christians to save his beloved Lygia. The struggle between man and beast has reached a breathless point. The man of strength is straining every nerve and muscle to break the neck of the terrible animal who is seeking also to destroy his new found enemy. With superhuman efforts the head of the beast turns until the neck is finally broken. Ursus bears the unconscious girl to Nero, who pardons them. Vinicius and Lygia are happily reunited. Petronius after incurring Nero's displeasure and being sentenced to death destroys himself. Eunice uses the poisoned dagger of Petronius to also end her life.

Tortured a Witness.
Intense suffering was endured by witness T. L. Martin, of Dixie, Ky., before he gave this evidence: "I coughed every night until my throat was nearly raw; then tried Dr. King's New Discovery which gave instant relief. I have used it in my family for four years and recommend it as the greatest remedy for coughs, colds and all throat, chest and lung troubles. It will stop the worst cough, and not only prevents but absolutely cures consumption. Price 50c and \$1.00. Every bottle guaranteed. Trial bottles free at C. A. Jack's drug store.

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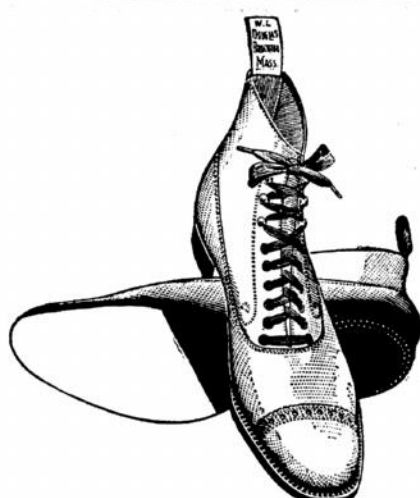
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