

GRIND OF LAW MILLS

Investigation Fever Takes Hold of Legislators and They Propose to Find Out Things.

Story of the Banquet Given Solons by Certain Interests—The Election of M. E. Clapp, Etc.

Union's Special Correspondence.

St. Paul, Jan. 18.—As usual, no sooner has the legislature settled down to business than its members begin to get inquisitive. They want to know, and the easiest way they can think of is to investigate, although that is generally quite an expensive process, and often there isn't much to show for the money spent. Still when the people pay the bills that but rarely phases members of an inquiring turn of mind. Perhaps that is not always their fault. For instance, take the case of the drainage board. The governor may have suggested an inquiry into its affairs by the naive confession in his message that he didn't very well know what it was about although he is at the head of it. Then the Aitkin county commissioners gave the ball a push which the governor had set a-rolling. They resolved to the effect that Mr. Ralph, the engineer of the drainage board, ought in the public interest to be called off from supervising the construction of a judicial ditch in which they were interested, and to supervise which he had been appointed by the court. There had been rumors besides; and all those things set the members to thinking. The upshot of the matter is likely to be a legislative investigation which will open up the whole matter and which may involve others besides Mr. Ralph.

Then there were the forest fires, and, by the way, some curious bills have been turned in by those active in relieving the distress of the sufferers. Evidently the officials and medical men up there had no notion of being philanthropic for nothing. Be that as it may, however, Donald Robertson who, at least, has no ax to grind, wants to start an entirely worthy inquiry as to whether something ought to be done by the state to help out the unfortunate people who were made homeless and in many instances, no doubt, penniless, by the disaster. His idea is to send a joint committee of the house and senate up into the fire zone to make inquiries on the ground and report to the legislature. Doubtless within a short time something of this sort will be done.

Then the state fair is to be investigated once more. Two years ago it was investigated by a committee of the house of representatives. It has been investigated twice since by the public examiner. The other day it was completely overhauled by a board of audit appointed by the governor. Now it is to be investigated by a joint committee composed of five members of the house and four of the senate. The joint resolution which passed both houses without debate, after referring to the irregularities reported by the board of audit and making provision for the appointment of the investigating committee, concludes that there is a demand for legislation putting the affairs of the board on a more orderly and business-like basis. If this shall result from the labors of the committee they will surely be worth while.

Representative Moyle Edwards has touched up a matter which comes home to everyone. Edwards comes from Breckenridge and has there the reputation of being an adept in the gentle art of raising Cain. He used to be mayor of his town, and one time, when he set out to buy its winter's supply of coal, he found out that, although he needed a matter of some 1,500 tons he couldn't get it without paying to the local dealers a rake-off of 50 cents a ton. He tried every way to buy direct, but he found himself up against the determination of the big coal dealers to protect the middlemen at public expense. He seems to think that now is his chance to get even, and so he has made a move to start an investigation to find out whether or not there is an understanding or agreement among fuel dealers in restraint of trade. Incidentally I understand the charge that railroads manipulate shipments in collusion with dealers, so as to make the most possible out of the traffic, is to be looked up. It will be a happy circumstance if, as a result of this proposed investigation, the people of these hyperborean regions can be

relieved of the necessity of paying coal dealers or coal combines any more than a fair profit on this prime necessity of life.

As the readers of the Union are no doubt aware, the state officials and the members of the legislature were given the time of their lives by certain citizens of St. Paul at the opening of the session. There is quite a story to this. It appears that shortly after the election a representative of certain St. Paul interests complained to a member of the last house from this district of a disposition on the part of country members to fight shy when representative business men put in an appearance at the state capitol. "Well," was the retort, "what can you expect? You never bother your heads about the members until you want something, and when you get up there you have to be going around asking 'Who's this and who's that?' The trouble is that you fellows are a lot of tightwads. Why don't you loosen up a little and get acquainted. You can take it from me that that's the proper caper." "Well, confound it, what would you have us do?" was the impatient response of the St. Paul man. That led to the suggestion of the reception, "and let me tell you," added the solon, "you want to do it right. Show them the time of their lives."

That was certainly what was done. And that it was appreciated was apparent. The St. Paul men made themselves solid as the princes of good fellows. The members could do no less than formally respond, and the final wording of the resolution was significant. In it the members pledged themselves to leave nothing undone toward the development of the state "and its capital city." Those who were not completely bewitched are now wondering whether this means larger grounds for the capitol or a new historical library building, whether the St. Paul folks hope to get the legislature to adopt the governor's pet scheme of acquiring the land for and constructing a boulevard from the old capitol to the new, or whether there isn't something else in the wind. At all events they seem satisfied that there must be something behind the extraordinary demonstration for which one must go back to the days when the prospect for a new capitol was being pushed to find a parallel.

Representative Spooner has introduced a bill to increase the railroad gross earnings tax from 4 to 5 per cent. A similar bill is credited to Charley Warner of Aitkin county. Spooner would have made the tax 6 per cent, only 5 was all the tax commission would stand for. The wisdom of making the change is seriously questioned by conservative men. It is possible, they say, that railroads do not pay as high a rate of taxation as other property, although of this they are not entirely satisfied. Farm assessments, it is believed, are not generally as high as one-third their market value. Assessments of merchants' stocks and other personal property are equally low, while a vast bulk of intangible property escapes taxation altogether. The gross earnings of railroads, on the other hand, are shown to the last penny. It is seriously questioned by those who have studied the matter whether, if a full valuation were put on all real and personal property, it would not be found that the railroads pay quite as high a rate of taxation as the average of taxpayers.

There is still another view taken of the matter. The wages of railroad men have in recent years advanced sharply. Material generally has gone up in price. Operating expenses were never so great as now. We nevertheless protest that railroads must not advance rates; indeed are demanding that they be reduced. Is the time, it is asked, propitious to demand from the railroads that they pay more taxes which indirectly in the end must come from the pockets of the people? Is it not of greater importance to them that freight and passenger rates should be kept down? The fact is that there are two sides to this question, and it need surprise no one if the legislature hesitates to approve the increase in gross earnings taxes without giving the matter the most serious consideration, or if the people, when the matter is put up to them, as it must be if either of these bills passes, will be slow to wring from railroads the last cent in taxes they can be made to pay.

There is a disposition to look

RATE OF TAXATION

Increases Are Made in the Rate of Taxation for the Villages of Princeton and Milaca.

Rate in Towns, Villages and School Districts, Also Valuation by Towns and Villages.

The abstract of the tax books for the county of Mille Lacs (as equalized by the state board of equalization) for the year 1910 shows the total valuation of the real and personal property to be \$2,562,375. The valuation in 1909 was \$2,293,258, or \$269,117 less than in 1910. The total valuation of Princeton village in 1909 was \$371,659 and in 1910 \$376,904, an increase of \$5,245. The total valuation of Milaca village for 1909 was \$124,628 and in 1910 \$166,219, an increase of \$41,591.

In Milaca village the total rate for 1909 was 68.31 mills and for 1910 85 mills, an increase of 16.69 mills. The rate in Princeton village for 1909 was 43.10 mills while in 1910 it is 48.70 mills, an increase of 5.6 mills. This increase is due to the amount voted by the village council for corporation purposes. In 1909 \$4,000 was voted and in 1910 \$6,000. The rate for school purposes in Milaca is 53.1 mills, and for state, county and village purposes 31.9 mills. In Princeton village the rate for schools is 20.6 mills and for all other purposes 28.1 mills. Foreston and Onamia have no village tax.

In 1909 the state rate was 2.8 mills and in 1910 2.7 mills, a decrease of .1 mill. The county rate in 1909 was 10 mills and in 1910 8.1 mills, a decrease of 1.9 mills.

To ascertain the total rate of taxation in any school district add the state, county and township or village rates to the school district rate and the total will be the rate of taxation in the district. For instance: In district No. 1 (Princeton village) the state rate is 2.7, county 8.1, village 17.3, school 20.6—total 48.7.

RATE IN DETAIL.		Mills
State	2.70	9.70
County	8.10	11.80
Bogus Brook	11.50	23.30
Borgholm	5.80	17.50
East Side	15.30	29.10
Greenbush	10.50	19.60
Hayland	7.40	15.00
Isle Harbor	15.30	29.10
Kathie	11.10	22.20
Milo	13.60	27.20
Milaca Village	17.30	45.50
Onamia Village	15.10	30.20
Page	6.10	18.80
Princeton	10.80	21.60
Princeton Village	17.30	38.90
South Harbor	11.60	23.20
School District No.—		
1	20.80	69.50
2	15.30	50.80
3	13.00	43.70
4	19.10	62.80
5	13.00	43.70
6	15.30	50.80
7	10.40	32.20
8	10.40	32.20
9	15.30	50.80
10	12.30	37.60
11	14.30	44.60
12	15.30	50.80
13	14.30	44.60
14	13.80	42.60
15	10.80	33.60
16	15.30	50.80
17	10.40	32.20
18	12.30	37.60
19	14.30	44.60
20	15.30	50.80
21	9.20	28.00
22	11.00	33.80
23	15.30	50.80
24	13.60	42.20
25	11.20	34.40
26	21.70	69.90
27	15.30	50.80
28	15.70	51.40
29	28.70	87.10
30	15.30	50.80
31	21.90	69.70
32	19.10	57.90
33	15.30	50.80
34	14.70	46.00
35	15.30	50.80
36	25.20	78.00
37	25.30	78.10
38	25.30	78.10
39	18.20	57.00
School districts 13, 20, 25, 27, 29 and 32 include a tax of 2 mills for Associated Board of Education, voted at annual meeting by the Associated Board of Education of Milaca for the purpose of teaching agriculture, manual training and domestic science.		
VALUATION OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.		
Bogus Brook	\$135,541	
Borgholm	127,289	
East Side	50,237	
Foreston Village	29,680	
Greenbush	164,080	
Hayland	155,250	
Isle Harbor	339,965	
Kathie	142,844	
Milo	110,689	
Milaca Village	376,904	
Onamia Village	38,596	
Onamia	192,888	
Page	176,524	
Princeton	108,016	
Princeton Village	376,904	
South Harbor	95,377	
Total	\$2,562,375	

A Milaca Bank Liquidates. In consequence of the death of M. S. Rutherford, its president and principal stockholder, the Merchants State bank of Milaca has closed up and its affairs are being liquidated. The business has been taken over by the First National Bank of Milaca, which is paying off depositors. The bank was organized in August, 1909, with a capitalization of \$15,000. Its vice president was Jacob Van Rhee and its cashier A. G. Osterberg. Mr. Osterberg will hereafter devote his time to the management of the M. S. Rutherford & Co. land office at Milaca.

At the time of its liquidation the Merchants State bank was doing a rapidly increasing business.

AARON STEEVES DIES

Had Almost Reached Age of Ninety-Five Years and Was a Man Very Highly Respected.

Mrs. J. B. Lane, V. J. Herdliska, Mrs. Charles Peterson and A. M. Thompson Pass Away.

Aaron Steeves, one of the oldest men in Mille Lacs county, passed away at his home in Princeton township on January 14, following a short illness. Had he lived until the 14th of next month Mr. Steeves would have reached the ripe old age of 95 years. For the past year or two he had been subject to attacks of sickness, but in consequence of his rugged constitution they were of short duration. He was indeed a remarkable man for his age, retaining full possession of his faculties until the last.

The funeral was held from the German Methodist church on Monday afternoon and Rev. W. H. Orrock, who conducted the services, paid a deserved tribute to the worth of the good old gentleman whom death had called to his reward. Four pretty selections were rendered by the church



AARON STEEVES

choir and there were many beautiful floral offerings. The interment was in Oak Knoll cemetery and the long procession which followed the remains to their last resting place gave mute testimony of the high esteem in which deceased was held.

Aaron Steeves was born at Coverdale, Albert county, New Brunswick, on February 14, 1816, and passed the early part of his life there, following the occupation of shipbuilding and rafting. He was married in January, 1847, to Miss Catherine Wheaton, and of this union seven children were born, five of whom are living—Mrs. Thomas Scribner, Petiteodiac, N. B.; William Steeves, Mary Rines and Catherine Applegate, Princeton; and Abel Steeves, Spokane, Wash. His wife died in New Brunswick in 1856 and in 1857 he was married to Miss Margaret Vincent. Of this union nine children were born, five of whom survive, viz., Mrs. John Nokes, Cottage Grove, Oregon; Robert Steeves, Seattle, Wash.; Henry and Arthur Steeves, Princeton; and Fred Steeves, Beach, N. D. Twenty-four grandchildren and 40 great grandchildren also survive him. With his wife and family Mr. Steeves came to Princeton on November 30, 1866, and settled on section 14, township of Princeton, where he lived continuously until called by death. His wife died on June 21, 1910.

Mr. Steeves was an honorable man in all his dealings—his word was as good as his bond. He possessed a kind, cheerful nature which rendered his personality attractive—everyone who knew "Grandpa" Steeves loved and respected him. No better neighbor or more affectionate husband and father than he ever lived, and long will his memory be held in reverence by a host of friends.

Mrs. J. B. Lane. Mrs. J. B. Lane, aged 74 years, died at her home in Princeton on Friday, January 13, from the effects of asthma.

Funeral services were held in the Congregational church on Sunday afternoon, Rev. J. O. Fisher officiating. A quartet consisting of Mrs. H. C. Cooney, Chas. Umbecker and Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Taylor rendered impressive vocal selections and were accompanied on the organ by Mrs. B. Soule. The interment was in Oak Knoll cemetery. The pallbearers were Henry Young, Everett Hamilton, Albert Munz, L. S. Briggs, G. A. Eaton and A. C. Smith.

Mrs. Lane was born in Ohio and for 11 years had lived with her husband and family on a farm near Sandy lake, moving to Princeton last spring. Her husband and two sons survive

her. The sons are Samuel Lane of Baldwin and Sidney of Princeton. She was a true christian woman whom to know was to love and respect.

V. J. Herdliska. Vensel J. Herdliska, father of J. C. Herdliska, died at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning from a general breaking down of the constitution as a result of old age. The old gentleman had suffered much of late and death came as a relief.

The remains were taken to Tower City, N. D., where Mr. Herdliska's wife is buried, for interment.

Vensel J. Herdliska was born in Bohemia in 1832 and, with his wife, came to the United States in 1864. He had lived with his son, J. C., since last July, coming here from Richmond, Minn. Three sons and a daughter survive him, Jay C., Princeton; Frank, Richmond, Minn.; Fred, Montana; and Mrs. Retzlaff, Oregon.

Those who became acquainted with Mr. Herdliska during his short residence in Princeton speak very highly of the old gentleman.

Mrs. Charles Peterson. Mrs. Chas. Peterson died at her home in Greenbush on January 10, aged 69 years.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Lundquist, at the Swedish Lutheran church, Freer, on Saturday, January 14, and the interment was in the Freer cemetery.

Mrs. Peterson was born in Germany and was married in that country in 1879. She came to the United States with her husband in 1883. She is survived by her husband, one son, Honus of Greenbush, and one daughter, Mrs. Annie Hanson of Marble.

Mrs. Peterson was a kind, christian woman who was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

A. M. Thompson. A. M. Thompson, who formerly lived at Brickton and moved to Jennings, Mich., last October, thinking that the change of climate would benefit his health, died at that place on January 6. His death was due to dropsy. He was born at Luzerne, N. Y., in 1858, and is survived by his wife, five sons and two sisters. Mr. Thompson was a good citizen and a man well liked by his neighbors.

Illustrated Mission Lecture. On Monday evening, January 30, unless otherwise announced, Rev. Reinke will deliver an illustrated lecture on Nicaraguan mission work in the Swedish Lutheran church, Princeton. Rev. Reinke labored for almost six years as a missionary in Nicaragua.

New State Fair Officers. C. W. Glotfelter of Waterville has been chosen president of the Minnesota State Fair association to succeed J. M. Underwood of Lake City and John Simpson of Des Moines, Iowa, succeeds C. N. Cosgrove of Le Sueur as secretary. Mr. Simpson is said to be one of the ablest state fair managers in the country. E. L. Mattson of Minneapolis is the new treasurer.

A Christening. At the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Caley last Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. Frank Morneau's son—born on Christmas day—was christened. Rev. Father Levings performed the ceremonies and the boy was named Ward Paul. There were a number of the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Morneau present and following the baptismal ceremonies Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Caley entertained the guests at supper.

Muscular Christianity. This is the season of the year for the development of muscular christianity—with a snow shovel.—St. Cloud Journal-Press. This reminds us that a number of our citizens are neglecting this well-named muscular christianity—they are apparently either too lazy or too negligent to shovel the snow from off the sidewalks in front of their business places. They trust too much to Old Sol, whose efforts at this time of the year are hampered by cold waves and are consequently feeble. Go to it, brethren; go to it! The exercise will tend to put your stagnant blood in circulation and you will receive the thanks of your neighbors besides.

AT NORTHWESTERN HOSPITAL. Miss Rachael Townsend of Princeton was operated upon on Monday night for acute appendicitis and there is every indication that she will make rapid recovery. Miss Clara Dennison of Foley underwent a surgical operation on Tuesday for the drainage of an abscess on the lungs.

OFFICERS INSTALLED

Modern Samaritans, Workmen and Maccabee Fraternal Orders Install Their Officers.

Wallace T. Rines Post, G. A. R., Installs Its Officers With F. W. Lowell as Commander.

Princeton council, No. 22, Modern Samaritans, installed officers for 1911 at their hall on Friday evening. The installing officer was Deputy Grand Good Samaritan Smith of Duluth, who, following the installation, delivered an able address on matters pertaining to the good of the order. Past Good Samaritan L. S. Briggs also made a speech that was well received. The officers installed were as follows: Past Good Samaritan, Oscar Peterson; Good Samaritan, M. L. Wheeler; Vice Good Samaritan, F. W. Manke; financial scribe, Sylvia Hatcher; scribe, Mrs. J. H. Reichard; treasurer, L. S. Briggs; chief messenger, Mrs. Hulda Johnson; junior messenger, Miss Jennie Abbott; Levite, Ernest P. Moeger; centurian, Allen Hayes; watchman, Verge Hatcher.

An oyster supper and card party followed the installation ceremonies and a very pleasant social time was passed.

Workmen. On Thursday evening, January 12, the Workman lodge installed the following officers for the ensuing year: L. S. Briggs, master workman; Wm. Griep, foreman; M. A. Carlson, overseer; O. M. Radeke, recorder; T. F. Scheen, financier; Gus Swanson, receiver; A. P. Larson, guard; H. Markgraf, inner watchman; J. L. Jones, outer watchman; representative to grand lodge, J. E. Juddins; alternate, A. C. Smith.

J. E. Juddins was the installing officer and at the close of the interesting ceremonies a luncheon was served, which was followed by a smoke social.

K. O. T. M. The Maccabees, on Thursday evening, January 12, installed the following officers for the ensuing year: J. A. Leathers, commander; N. M. Nelson, record and finance keeper; L. G. Byers, chaplain; H. L. Zimmerman, sergeant; W. G. Fredericks, first master of guards; S. Long, second master of guards; Oswald King, master at arms; W. D. Steadman, picket.

Grand Army of the Republic. Last Saturday, at its regular meeting, Wallace T. Rines Post, No. 142, G. A. R., installed the following officers for the year 1911: Com., F. W. Lowell; S. V. C., Christopher Bridge; J. V. C., Solon B. Heath; Q. M., W. H. Townsend; Chap., R. W. Freer; C. D., Martin Leach; O. G., James Stevenson; Adj., A. Z. Norton; S. M., G. H. Chalmers; Q. M. S., W. J. Applegate.

Hot Bricks Were Flying in the Air. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Erickson, Miss Maggie Neumann, Mr. and Mrs. August Thoma, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Anderson and Mrs. Ecklund, with John Olson as driver, made a trip to Jim Chisholm's in a sleigh on Friday evening. There they were royally entertained, and on the return trip the sleigh encountered a snow drift, tipped over, and there were hot bricks, used for foot warmers, flying in the air. One of these bricks struck Oscar Erickson on the nose and scraped off an inch of skin. The ladies received no injury, but they were pretty chilly after being dug out of the snow bank.

The Terrible Turk Coming. Everyone who keeps posted on wrestling events has heard of "The Terrible Turk." He is a whirlwind on the mat and champion in his class. On Tuesday evening, January 24, he will enter into a contest with Ben Hass at Armory hall in this village for a finish match, and it goes without saying that it will be a hot engagement, for Ben is, as all know, no easy mark—he can put up a wrestle with the best of the mat artists. Two good preliminary bouts will also be pulled off. For a good evening's entertainment go to the armory on Tuesday evening, January 24.

Rev. Lundquist Married. At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Swanson on Thursday morning, January 12, Rev. August Lundquist of the Princeton Swedish Lutheran church was married to Mrs. Anna E. Erickson of Baldwin. Rev. C. Larson of Princeton was the officiating clergyman and the witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Gust Swanson. A reception at the Swanson home followed the ceremony.