

NO RAISE IN TAXES

County Commissioners Pledge Themselves Not to Increase Taxes a Fraction of a Mill.

The Thinking Voters of Mille Lacs County Will Vote for Road-Improvement Tuesday.

NO ADDITIONAL TAXES.

To the end that there may be no increase in the aggregate road and bridge taxes of the county if the proposition to issue the bonds of the county for road improvement at the election to be held on Nov. 7, 1916, carries and the bonds are issued, we, the County Commissioners of Mille Lacs County, Minn., do hereby pledge ourselves to reduce the annual tax levy for road and bridge purposes from three to two mills during our term of office. Furthermore, we believe that a one mill tax levy will care for the interest and principal of said bonds, if they are voted and issued.

Dated at Princeton, Minn., October 28, 1916.

F. C. Cater,
Carl Eckdall,
F. W. Thomas,
J. F. Warren,
County Commissioners of Mille Lacs County, Minn.

Just as we expected and stated in last week's issue of the Union, the county commissioners pledge themselves not to increase the tax levy to meet either the principal or interest on the seventy-five thousand dollars issue of bonds if the same are voted and issued—for reasons best known to himself Commissioner Grow refused to sign the above pledge, but we take it for granted that he is not in favor of increasing the tax levy. So the question of an increase of the tax levy for road and bridge purposes is disposed of.

There will be no increase of the tax levy for road and bridge purposes, directly or indirectly, if the \$75,000 bonds for road improvement are voted and issued.

Now for the figures to prove that a one mill tax will more than care for the principal and interest.

Assuming that the bonds are voted and issued the indebtedness created would be \$75,000; interest on that amount at 4 per cent would be \$3,000. The present valuation of the county is in round numbers \$4,500,000; a one mill tax on that amount would produce \$4,500, \$1,500 more than would be necessary to meet the interest on the bonds. In five years the surplus produced by a one-mill tax over and above the amount required to meet the interest on the bonds would be \$7,500, that amount deducted from the principal of \$75,000 would leave a remainder of \$67,500 at the end of the five year period, and that is assuming that the valuation would remain stationary, which is a violent assumption, as the valuation would undoubtedly increase year by year as the county settled up and its resources were developed.

Then estimating a gradual increase in the valuation of the county until at the end of the twenty year period it amounted to \$7,000,000—and that is a very reasonable estimate—the principal would be reduced annually and the interest would be correspondingly decreased, and, as we have repeatedly stated, a one-mill tax would amply care for the interest and principal, until at the end of the twenty year period the debt would be completely wiped out.

Hence we unhesitatingly assert that it would never be necessary to levy more than a one-mill tax to meet the interest and principal on the bonds.

To put the proposition in another form. Under the present valuation, \$4,500,000, it would require a tax levy of 16.7 mills to raise \$75,000 in one year. By letting the bonds run for 20 years, with the privilege of paying them gradually after five years, a tax levy of one mill annually would be sufficient.

We believe it is good business policy to have the bonds run for a series of 20 years. Then there would be no perceptible increase in the road and bridge taxes—no increase over what such taxes are at present.

There is another phase of the road improvement proposition that should not be overlooked: It is proposed to expend \$147,000—\$50,000 Federal aid, \$22,000 State and county, and \$75,000

in bonds,—the great bulk of the money would be paid out to our home people, residents of the county, for material and labor—labor would be the principal item of expense. That would mean good wages and constant employment for a large force of men and teams in this county next year.

We wish the people of the county as a whole would take a broad and comprehensive view of this road improvement project. There is not a single resident of the county but who will say he is in favor of good roads. Good roads cannot be obtained except by the judicious expenditure of some money under intelligent supervision.

We appeal to the thinking, intelligent voters of Mille Lacs county to divest themselves of local prejudices, to forget their personal likes and dislikes, and work and vote for the common good. As J. Adam Bede would say, think in continents not in acre lots.

Mille Lacs county is afforded a splendid opportunity of securing a good road system of hard-surfaced highways at a comparatively small cost to the taxpayers of the county, a like opportunity may not offer again for a generation.

Once more, and for the last time, we will restate the proposition which will be submitted to the voters next Tuesday:

"Shall the bonds of Mille Lacs county be issued in the amount of \$75,000 to run for twenty years at a rate of interest not to exceed five per cent per annum, the proceeds thereof to be used for the purpose of permanently improving and hard-surfacing State Roads Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive in said county?"

If you wish to vote for the proposition place your cross-mark (X) opposite the square marked YES.

Democratic Speaker.

Hon. Niel Cronin, democratic candidate for congress, addressed a small but attentive audience at the Court House hall Tuesday evening, being introduced by Mr. G. A. Eaton.

The speaker dwelt at length on the achievements of the Wilson administration and pledged himself to work with the president if elected.

The good times are not due to the war, said Mr. Cronin, but the commercial development of the United States under President Wilson. Less than ten percent of the steel manufactured in this country is used for war purposes, he said.

Mr. Cronin then said that every republican platform until 1916 had contained planks condemning the currency laws of this country. This year the platform is silent on this important proposition, he said, for the reason that the Wilson administration has given the people of the United States the wisest and best currency law in the world—the Federal reserve act. Wall street cannot control the money market and create a financial stringency so long as we have that law, he said.

Mr. Cronin then denounced as inconsistent and hypocritical the severe criticism being leveled at President Wilson by the city papers. About a year ago these papers were printing editorials highly laudatory of the president, he said, and he read quotations from the papers to prove it.

Mr. Cronin admitted that he had no love for Carranza, but stated that on the whole the president's Mexican policy was right.

The speaker denounced Roosevelt and others for their attacks upon the peace policies of the president, and praised the diplomatic achievements of the administration.

It was an eloquent address, and at the conclusion the speaker was given a generous hand of applause.

Federal Aid Requirements.

Some gentlemen in Milaca labor under the hallucination that the Federal road authorities will require impossibilities in road-building of counties that receive Federal aid. Some time since the Union published the Federal road law in full, but to set at rest the fears of those who believe, or rather pretend to believe, that it will be impossible for the county to comply with the Federal requirements we quote from the Federal law:

From Sec. 6.—"That the Secretary of Agriculture shall approve only such projects as may be substantial in character and the expenditure of funds hereby authorized shall be applied only to such improvements."

Also from Sec. 6.—"The construction work and labor in each state shall be done in accordance with its laws, and under the direct supervision of the State Highway department, subject to the inspection and approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and in accordance with the rules and regula-

tions made pursuant to this act." Is there anything difficult or exacting about these requirements? Are not all of us familiar with the requirements of our own State Highway Commission?

Surely Milaca Will be Right.

It is rumored that there are business men in Milaca who are opposed to voting bonds to meet the Federal aid for road-improvement in this county. We do not believe it. Milaca's business men are not so short-sighted. The plans as contemplated would give Milaca good roads in every direction—to the north, to the south, to the east and to the west.

Milaca is as much of a farmers' town as Princeton is. Both towns owe their prosperity to the farmers. There is no way in which the business men can help the farmers more than by helping them to secure better roads.

What if a business man does contribute a few dollars in taxes towards roads in the county. Indirectly he gets back fifty dollars for every one he pays for roads. And is it not a fact that almost every business man in Milaca and Princeton has an automobile and rides over the country roads, and one heavy automobile going at a high rate of speed will do more damage to a road than twenty heavily loaded farmers' wagons?

We hardly think the business men of Milaca can afford to oppose road-improvement. If they do they will have cause to regret their action.

But we do not for a moment believe that a majority of Milaca's progressive business men will take the back trail in the matter of road improvement.

We believe the business men of Milaca and Princeton are not so blind to their own best interests as to place an obstacle in the path of road improvement.

The more good roads we have the more prosperous farmers we will have, and prosperous farmers spells prosperity for every man doing business in Mille Lacs county.

Succumbs to Pneumonia.

Luzelle Maude Anna, the ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Ecklund, passed away last Thursday after a brief illness, at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Ecklund, in this village. The girl's parents reside at Remer, and were not here when the end came.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday from the family residence by Rev. Samuel Johnson. Interment was in Oak Knoll cemetery.

Among those from out of town who attended the funeral were the following: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ecklund of Cambridge, Mrs. A. D. Ecklund of Pine Brook, Miss Tilda Anderson of Cambridge, and Misses Bertha and Pearl Whitney of Minneapolis.

Luzelle was a bright little girl possessed of a happy disposition, and her sudden taking away is indeed sad. The parents, three brothers and a sister survive her.

The relatives take this means to express their heartfelt thanks to all who rendered sympathy and aid to them during their recent bereavement.

Mullen and Forbes Inspect Road.

That the State Highway Commission is taking an active interest in the proposed improvement of the road between Zimmerman and Princeton and Princeton and Mille Lacs lake, and the obtaining of Federal aid therefor, was evidenced by the fact that Chief Assistant State Highway Engineer J. H. Mullen and District Engineer C. A. Forbes were here from St. Paul Sunday, and went over the entire road, so as to be enabled to make an intelligent report to the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington. Messrs. Mullen and Forbes stopped here a short time on their return trip late Sunday afternoon.

Action Postponed.

The county commissioners met in special session Saturday for the purpose of considering applications of those desirous of filling out the unexpired term of the late County Superintendent Ewing. There were four applications filed, viz: Mrs. Guy Ewing, Miss Spencer of Milaca, Miss Margaret I. King and Olaf Wasenius of Onamia. Miss Spencer withdrew her application. The commissioners decided to take no action in the matter until the meeting of November 9.

Indisputable.

In getting ready for the fall and holiday trade that is sure to come here this year the Lake City merchants should not lose sight of the fact that the best medium of publicity is the newspaper—it goes into the home and is read by those who make the purchases.—Lake City Leader.

A WEEK OF TESTS

Soldiers at the Border Have Been Given Tests of Various Kinds During the Past Week.

Gathering Ebony a New Diversion—Minnesota Brigade May Move to Corpus Christi.

Camp Llano Grande, Oct. 26, 1916. The weather is fine—cool nights and comfortable days, if one is not working.

A division hike was pulled off this week—the first one we have had. It made a line about four miles long and the head of the column was back before the rear reached the turning point.

There is a strong rumor afloat that the Minnesota brigade will move to Corpus Christi. The business men of that city are making a strong bid for it, offering to build mess halls, shell the streets and furnish water and electric lights. If we are to stay in Texas this winter no better place could be chosen.

The baseball season is almost at an end and football and basket ball teams are being organized. A league will be formed and prizes offered to the winners. All spare moments are being utilized practicing kicking, tackling, etc. The boys have also discovered another form of diversion, namely: Gathering ebony and making canes, cribbage boards, etc., of it. The woods are full of it and it seems to be of good quality.

The hunting season is open and those fortunate enough to obtain a shot gun spend much of their spare time around the neighborhood ponds and woods, and usually return with a good bag of duck and quail. All kinds of wild animals have been caught and caged, such as wild bats coyotes, opossum, deer, armadillas, and some monster rattlesnakes. Some of the rattlesnakes measure up to eight feet, and weigh forty pounds.

Over in one of the Nebraska regiments they have a jaguar which a Mexican trapped somewhere around here. He sold it to the Nebraska man for \$5. They have it in a big wooden cage. The jaguar is a good deal like a leopard in looks and it is very pretty and about the size of a dog. They are a bad animal to fool with though, but the Nebraska man plans on taming him.

A serious and probably fatal accident occurred this morning. A four mule team and wagon, driven by an Indiana boy, were struck by the morning train and dragged for thirty feet. The driver jumped the wrong way and sustained two broken legs and probably internal injuries. The mules escaped with a few scratches.

This week has been one of tests for the different companies in this regiment and for days there has been a test of some kind. There have been tests in fast hiking, signaling, sham battle and in fact everything that we have had even as far as the use of the "First Aid." Officers have been witnessing these tests and watching to see just how each company understands the work.

The Third regiment has brand new colors and tonight was the first time they were used in the regimental dress parade. The new colors are of the very best and certainly make the Third show up "some."

Just to show that we are being well fed, here is our Sunday dinner menu: Mashed potatoes, steak, peas, custard pie, bread and coffee. And for Sunday night we had rice and milk, peach sauce, cake, bread and butter and coffee. At the rate we are going we will all be heavyweights when we come home again. MIKE.

Princeton Will be Benefited.

One of Princeton's prominent business men remarked to Judge Keith the other day: "I am against the bonds because the lower end of the county will not be benefited!"

That business man entertains a narrow as well as an erroneous view of the bonding proposition. The agreement is that \$10,000 shall be expended in the town of Greenbush. Greenbush, we believe, is in the extreme south end of the county, and Greenbush is certainly tributary to Princeton. Anything that helps Greenbush must of necessity help Princeton. Princeton, we also believe, is in the south end of the county. The improvement of the main road running through the center of the county, will commence at the north end of the village limits. Is not at least half of the territory between Milaca and Princeton tributary to Princeton village?

Does the gentleman in question be-

lieve that the permanent improvement of the road running north through Princeton and Bogus Brook towns would not benefit him and every other business man in Princeton village? Then the agreement allots \$6,000 for the road leading east from Princeton village to the Isanti county line. Would not the hard-surfacing of that stretch of road benefit him and every other business man in Princeton? Does he begrudge the farmers of the eastern end of Princeton town and those of Wyanett and Dalbo a decent road to haul their produce to Princeton and do their trading here?

Over \$25,000 will be expended on roads in territory immediately tributary to Princeton if the bonds are voted.

Greenbush Gets a Good Deal.

We have always taken a friendly interest in the town of Greenbush and on more than one occasion have given practical proof of our friendship for that town. When the new system of state roads was established three years ago it was largely through our instrumentality that State Road No. 5 was designated—the road running north from the Greenbush town house to Foreston. When we secured an extra \$14,000 from the State Highway Commission three years ago and the county commissioners left it to us to say where it should be expended, \$2,000 of the amount went to Greenbush town, and \$6,000 was expended on the road leading from Princeton to Greenbush.

If the bond proposition carries Greenbush will receive \$4,000 for State Road No. 4 in that town—this is the St. Cloud road,—and \$6,000 for State Road No. 5—the road through Freer—in that town. Greenbush will receive \$10,000 in all, which is several thousand dollars more than it will ever be called upon to pay on account of the bonds. Besides Greenbush will have about 11 miles of its main roads put in good condition at once. It certainly does seem as if there should be few votes against the bonding proposition in Greenbush, for no town in the county will be better cared for if the road improvement program goes through.

If any resident of Greenbush doubts our assertion that \$10,000 is more than Greenbush will ever be called upon to pay, let him take his pencil and figure it out: The valuation of Greenbush at the present time is \$327,290; it would require a rate of 16.7 mills to raise \$75,000 if it were to be all raised in one year. If the valuation of the county remained as it is Greenbush would be required to pay only \$5,465 of the principal. But while the valuation of Greenbush will not be greatly increased in the future that of the newer towns will be, hence, we say, Greenbush's share of the bonded indebtedness would be correspondingly decreased.

To make it plainer, and dealing in round numbers, at the present time Greenbush pays about one-fourteenth of the county taxes because it has one-fourteenth of the valuation. But when the time comes, as it soon will, when the newer towns are more thickly settled and better developed, their valuation will be largely increased and taxes are based on the valuation.

Remember This Next Tuesday.

The proposition to bond the county for \$75,000 for road-improvement, if carried, will never require more than a one-mill tax levy annually to meet the principal and interest. By reducing the tax levy for county road and bridge purposes from three to two mills, as our present board of county commissioners have pledged themselves to do, there will be no increase in the tax levy to meet the interest and principal on the bonds.

Remember, also, that if the bond proposition carries we are assured of \$50,000 of Federal aid for road improvement in this county.

And do not forget that a rigid supervision of the expenditure of money for road improvement will be exercised by the State Highway Commission and the Federal road authorities.

Successful Road Meetings.

E. L. McMillan and R. C. Dunn addressed meetings at Wahkon on Tuesday afternoon and at Bock in the evening, and had attentive audiences at both places. Mr. J. A. Allen of Milaca also delivered a talk at Bock. On Wednesday evening a well-attended meeting was held in the Uglum school house in Greenbush, which was presided over by Mr. James Robertson. Anyone who thinks Greenbush is against road-improvement has another thing coming.

Tonight a meeting will be held in the school house close by Louis Robideau's residence in Greenbush. On Friday evening a meeting will be held in the Woodward Brook school house.

An afternoon meeting will be held in Foreston on Saturday, and on Saturday evening in the high school auditorium at Milaca. There will be short road talks at the Armory in Princeton on Monday evening.

Laid At Rest.

Final services for the late Guy Ewing were held at the Armory on Saturday afternoon, and the seating capacity of that building was taxed to the limit to accommodate the hundreds who gathered there to pay a last tribute of respect to a worthy citizen. All sections of Mille Lacs county were represented, and the adjoining counties were also well represented.

Brief services were held at the family residence first, and the remains were then escorted to the Armory by members of the I. O. O. F. lodge of which deceased was a member.

The floral tributes were exceptionally beautiful and numerous, and included wreaths from various lodges as well as individuals. The casket was literally embedded in flowers, and the stage also contained wreaths.

A quartet composed of Messrs. J. W. Mossman and H. A. Garrison, Mrs. Geo. Ross and Miss Ella Stearns sang three appropriate selections, being accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Benj. Soule.

Rev. S. Johnson offered a prayer, and Rev. Geer of the Methodist church delivered the funeral sermon. It was brief, but very fitting, and was delivered in a sincere manner. A deserved tribute was paid the departed one, whose entire life has been devoted to educational work. Rev. Geer emphasized the fact that the greatest men of all periods have been teachers of mankind, though the work has not always been done in schools. Service to others was designated as the real purpose in life. The sermon contained thoughts that tended to modify the grief of relatives and other friends, and impressed all as a worthy effort.

At the conclusion of the sermon the remains were followed to their last resting place by a long procession, including Oddfellows and Masons. The impressive Mason ritualistic ceremony was carried out at the cemetery, H. J. Plaas reading the ritual part, and at the conclusion all that was mortal of Guy Ewing was given to mother earth.

Rebekah District Meeting.

A district meeting of the Rebekahs was held at the I. O. O. F. hall here yesterday afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock, and about 45 Rebekahs were in attendance from Milaca, Mora, Hinckley and Onamia. Bemidji was also represented, and Mrs. R. W. Radermacher, vice-president of the Rebekah assembly, was also in attendance. The visitors were entertained at dinner at the Merchants hotel by the local lodge. During the meeting degree staff work was carried out, and the school of instruction proved to be the best ever held at a meeting here. The local Rebekahs worked hard to make the affair a success, and feel well repaid for their efforts.

Plenty of Counties Willing.

Federal aid for roads will be eagerly sought for hereafter. At the meeting of the State Highway Commission tomorrow there will probably be applications from almost every county in the State. Mille Lacs county got in on the ground floor several weeks ago, when a promise of aid to the extent of \$50,000 was secured. If the people of Mille Lacs county do not wish to accept the aid that was so generously promised there are plenty of other counties that will only be too glad to do so. Federal aid will not go begging for takers. The only trouble will be that there will not be enough to go around.

Hon. Fred Stevens Coming.

The chairman of the Republican State Central Committee positively assures us that Hon. Fred Stevens, one of the ablest and best representatives this state ever has had in the United States congress, will address the citizens of Princeton and vicinity at the Armory next Monday evening without fail. Mr. Stevens is an eloquent talker, one of the best in the entire state. He will say something worth hearing. It will be a great treat to listen to a man of Mr. Steven's ability.

A Listless Campaign.

Late fall work is largely responsible for small crowds at the political gatherings being held throughout the state. The country people deem "preparedness" at home fully as essential as "preparedness" at Washington, and they are governing themselves accordingly.—Detroit Record.