

## STATE LEGISLATURE

### Welch Nonpartisan League Tonnage Tax Bill is Put to Sleep for at Least This Session.

### Hamer and Serline Bill Legalizing Elections Where Notice Has Not Been Given Passes.

The Welch (nonpartisan league) tonnage tax bill has met its fate—it has been laid to rest for at least this term of the legislature. In fact the nonpartisan league members are responsible for its death. The measure was in actuality beaten by playing the Welch and Bendixen bills against each other. So, as prophesied by the Union, no tonnage tax measure will go through at this legislative session.

A bill was introduced by Senator Hamer to legalize elections by villages, authorizing sales and leases of their electric lighting plants where notice of such election had not been given in accordance with law. The measure was passed under suspension of the rules. A similar bill was introduced in the house by Representative Serline and passed. Governor Burnquist has signed the bill. This makes the sale of Princeton's lighting plant valid.

Only one vote, that of O. A. Devold, socialist, was cast in the senate against Theodore Christianson's sedition bill, when it was brought up on motion of Senator James H. Hall and passed under suspension of the rules. The bill has been signed by the governor. It strengthens the sedition act passed two years ago to cover such things as attacks on the coming Liberty loan, but applies only when the country is at war.

Residences, whether in city or country, are to be assessed at only 10 per cent of their value, under terms of a bill by Senators Bessette, Gandrud and Hegnes. Farm buildings, household goods, agricultural products in the hands of the producer, and tools and implements in the hands of users, also are placed in the 10 per cent class.

The house general legislation committee has recommended for passage the C. H. Warner street railway bill, after incorporating several important amendments. The bill authorizes street railway companies to surrender their local franchises and licenses and to operate thereafter under the license and supervision of the state railroad and warehouse commission. One of the amendments to the bill, as reported out by the committee, gives the railroad and warehouse commission control over the issuance of all certificates. Another requires the maintenance of an adequate depreciation account of the upkeep of street railway property. A third amendment requires that in all cases of appeal of the companies from orders of the city councils the cases will be brought before the railroad and warehouse commission on the same evidence as was brought before the city councils.

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After a hearing the house civil administration committee killed the bill to abolish the state weights and measures department.

With known opponents of suffrage voting for it, the house bill giving women a vote on presidential electors was passed by the senate 49 to 11, and the governor has attached his signature. Men still fighting the measure declare such a bill should be made a constitutional amendment, and it is expected it will be taken to the courts.

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An increase from three to five cents a ton in the tax on ore hauled in freighters plying international waters is proposed in a bill introduced by Senator Magnus Johnson of Litchfield. Senator Hamer introduced the following measures: Relating to oil inspection fees and the collection thereof; relating to duties of state treasurer, and repealing certain chapters, providing for additional report by the state treasurer; relating to receipts and payments of money by county treasurer.

## PLANT DEAL CLOSED

### Waterman Interests Pay \$12,500 and Council Transfers Municipal Plant to Company.

### Outstanding Warrants Against Village to be Paid to the Amount of the Sum Received.

At a special meeting of the village council on Monday evening F. D. Waterman, president of the Elk River Power & Light Company, and A. D. Briggs of St. Paul, attorney of the corporation, appeared before the council and accepted ordinance No. 105, and the municipal plant of the village of Princeton was duly transferred to the Elk River Light & Power company upon payment of \$12,500 as agreed.

A resolution was introduced by Trustee Fred Newton and carried unanimously that the village treasurer be instructed to pay all outstanding warrants against the village of Princeton and the Water, Light & Building commission of said village in any amount necessary up to and including \$12,500.

A resolution was also introduced by Fred Newton ordering the treasurer to issue warrants in the sum of \$6,000 and negotiate same to take care of bonds due March 28, 1919, until such money as was voted to refund such obligations shall be forthcoming from the state.

### Bailey Quits Democratic Party.

Asserting that the democratic party "has ceased to support democratic principles," former United States Senator Joseph W. Bailey of Texas declared in an address at Newark, N. J., that he "never again will vote for the candidate of any party which constantly reduces our liberty and unnecessarily increases our taxes."

Mr. Bailey, who was the principal speaker at the "Victory banquet" of the Road Horse association, blamed the democratic party for the passage of the prohibition amendment to the constitution and for the near passage of the amendment granting suffrage to women.

"I have been a democrat all my life," he said. "A 'color' democrat, if you please, and I have never scratched a party ticket, but those who now control the democratic party have renounced or abandoned one democratic principle after another in such rapidity and bewildering succession they have left us nothing except the name."

The doctrine of reverence for the constitution, he declared, had been altered until the constitution is regarded "as an obsolete scrap of paper."

### Barberry Bushes Must Go.

Campaigned against as alien enemies in war time when maximum food production was being urged, common barberry bushes, blamed for spread of wheat rust, are ordered eradicated in Minnesota under a new law enacted by the legislature and signed late Friday by Governor Burnquist.

Minnesota property owners and occupants who have not done so are required to destroy all wheat rust producing varieties of barberry and mahonia bushes by the new statute which puts the shrubs in the class of public nuisances. It is made the duty of the state entomologist to enforce the law.

Following the verdict of the federal department of agriculture that the barberry bushes were responsible for the spread of rust and consequent loss in wheat production, the public safety commission ordered all such bushes eradicated in Minnesota and the state entomologist directed a state-wide campaign to that end in which hundreds of ornamental hedges were destroyed.

### Bandits Who Rob the Farmers.

Robbing the farmers is a favorite pastime of the big eastern commission and storage companies. A few weeks ago, when country creameries were rushing their butter to the east, attracted by the unusually high prices, there was a sudden big drop in the market. The butter in transit was purchased on arrival at some 12 cents lower than was the price when it left the creameries. Having secured this butter at the low cost, the price immediately began to rise, until it is now to the top notch. Probably the same trick will be played again in a few days. This manipulation of the markets brings the eastern bandits a lot of velvet, and it comes out of the farmers and their creameries. We send bank looters to prison, when we catch them—but these bandits, who take no chances, are never punished and are lauded as clever business men.—St. Cloud Journal-Press.

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Axel Kasperson ..... Borgholm  
Aug. Dahl ..... Milaca  
J. E. Doughty ..... Hayland  
Magnus Sjodin ..... Princeton  
E. E. Dinwiddle ..... Kathio  
A. J. Bullis ..... Princeton  
Wm. Kaliber ..... Princeton  
C. E. Hill ..... Princeton  
Wm. Carlson ..... Milaca  
Frank Bourquin ..... Milaca  
E. Yager ..... Milaca  
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State of Minnesota vs. Christ Leland. Appeal from justice court. Defendant was arrested at Onamia for driving an automobile while intoxicated and fined \$25. His appeal to the district court being defective, the judge granted the motion of the state to dismiss the appeal.

State of Minnesota vs. John Stankevitch. Appeal from justice court. County Attorney Doane for the state, Roloff Vaaler for defendant. Defendant was fined \$10 and costs at Page for assault and appealed. The state moved to dismiss in consequence of a defective bail bond being submitted and the court granted the motion.

As county attorney W. C. Doane made his initial bow to the court, the jurors and the litigants, and "Billy," as he is familiarly known throughout the county, made an excellent impression—he performed his duties like a veteran. In W. C. Doane the county has an attorney who will at all times be on the job, and who can be found at any time of the day or night right here at the Mille Lacs county seat. Billy likes the work and he is a lawyer of pronounced ability, gentlemanly and accommodating. But he also knows how to fight—that's the Irish in his make-up. We feel confident that he will make good in his office and perform his work in a satisfactory manner.

Among the lawyers here from out of town were Donald and W. H. Stewart, St. Cloud; Roloff Vaaler, O. C. Myron and C. F. J. Goebel, Milaca.

## A SUCCESSFUL SHOW

### First Day's Potato Institute at Armory, Despite Bad Roads, Attended by Many Farmers.

### Excellent Displays of Tubers—List of Those Who Were Awarded Premiums on Exhibits.

In spite of the bad roads and weather, more than 75 farmers attended the first day's sessions of the potato growers' institute at the armory. The meetings are being held by the agricultural extension division, university farm, co-operating with the farm bureaus of Mille Lacs, Isanti and Sherburne counties. Instead of the routine farmers' institute of the past the meetings are in the nature of a two-day school on the vital and specific problems of potato growing, a million bushel industry in the Princeton community.

The meetings are in charge of Mr. Kirkpatrick, assistant farm bureau and county agent leader. Other speakers on the first day were C. D. Patterson and A. F. Kranz, university farm, St. Paul; Knute Bjorka, county agent, Isanti county; Verne Steward, former county agent and O. A. Dahlberg, the present county agent, both of Mille Lacs county.

In a study of the cost of growing potatoes conducted yesterday by C. D. Patterson, extension worker in farm management, the farmers at the meeting submitted figures showing the average cost of producing potatoes in the Princeton community under present conditions to be 58 cents per bushel. This took account of labor and all other costs. According to the speaker this was about one-third higher than the pre-war cost of production on farms in this section of the state. At the afternoon session the same speaker pointed out the relation of a good amount of livestock combined with a moderate acreage of potatoes as successful factors in making potato farming profitable.

A. F. Kranz of the horticultural department, university farm, explained factors influencing potato yield. According to Prof. Kranz climatic conditions constitute the one greatest factor limiting yield in this part of the state. Vigor of the seed potatoes, size of seed piece, selection of seed, if closely looked after, will go far to offset bad climatic conditions. At the afternoon session the speaker explained the ways of detecting mixture of varieties in the standard varieties—Early Ohio, Triumph, Irish Cobbler for early, and Green Mountain, Rural New Yorker, Burbank, Burbank Russet and King were emphasized as the eight standard varieties for Minnesota, but each community should, by agreement, further limit its varieties in order to secure more profit in the business.

More clover with a consequent improved crop rotation, more silage saving forage and stimulating the keeping of more livestock, were emphasized by County Agent Knute Bjorka, Isanti county, as a vital part of the potato improvement project. The average acreage of potatoes per farm in that county is about 6½ acres, while the average of corn is only about one-half as great. The potato acreage is about 1½ acres for every man, woman and child in the county. The speaker contended that this was too large in relation to the corn and clover acreage and the small number of silos in the county to fore-run a permanently profitable type of farming.

The potato improvement project of the Mille Lacs county farm bureau was discussed by Verne Steward and O. A. Dahlberg, past and present county agents. One of the biggest problems is the limiting of the number of varieties grown and freeing the varieties from mixture. Accordingly strong attempts are being made to get several good farmers in some town to grow a total of 100 acres of seed fields, which will be inspected and have the mixture culled out while the plants are growing in the fields. This will give a fairly adequate supply of seed of pure strain to furnish neighbors who want to get started with stock.

K. A. Kirkpatrick stated that the Mora community last season, from a survey conducted by the farm bureau there, lost \$40,000 because of mixture in varieties. Brook Park, Browerville and Bertha were cited as other communities where the loss has been recognized and steps have already been taken by the farm bureaus to prevent it in the future.

"Ten Potato Profit Points" was the subject of Mr. Kirkpatrick's talk at the afternoon session. The talk embraced an outline of the practices of the most successful potato farmers in growing their crop. We hope to give this outline in a future issue.

### Premiums Awarded.

There was a total of 54 exhibits, of which 47 were entered in competition for premiums. The varieties were of excellent quality and the show the largest but one in the state this year. Nels Cederquist of Foreston carried off the grand sweepstake prize of \$10 on a very fine exhibit of Rural New Yorkers. Following is a list of the prize winners:

Irish Cobblers.  
1st—Wm. Pierson, Dalbo, Isanti county.  
2nd—Edwin Eastlund, Isanti, Isanti county.  
3rd—Albert Gustafson, Princeton, Mille Lacs county.

### Good Reason for Opposition.

If Nelson and Kellogg are opposed to the league of nations as drawn up and forced on the allies through their sense of obligation to the United States there is a good reason for it. It takes something besides "pussyfooting and mollicoddling" to stand against a superficial stampede toward internationalism, and that at the expense of being called partisan and unpatriotic.—Windom Citizen.

### Community Club Meeting.

At the armory last night a public meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a community club for Princeton and the surrounding country. Judge Wilson of Stillwater was the speaker of the evening and R. P. Morton presided.

The meeting opened with two selections by a male sextet and this was followed by a short talk by C. L. Jump on farm bureaus and county agents, E. K. Evens made a few remarks on the benefits of a community club, and Verne Steward spoke of the rapid development of Mille Lacs county and the bright outlook for its future.

Miss Eva Ross then rendered two humorous recitations which were well received and applauded.

Judge Wilson of Stillwater then delivered a lengthy address on the benefits of a community club, and elucidated the many points in connection therewith. He said there should be hearty co-operation between the town and county, as both are part of the community. The town depends on the farmer and the farmer on the town—a house divided against itself must fall. He explained the form of community service, saying, first get somebody on the job who knows how to run the business. Every man, woman, child, church and lodge should comprise a part of the service. Determine what money is needed then go out and get it. He spoke of marketing, labor, roads, health, play, efficiency, education, and many other subjects which enter into the community project. Labor, he said, is the greatest problem to contend with.

H. A. Garrison rendered a vocal solo which was much appreciated.

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An inquiry into the accounts of the company is expected to bring to light many facts concerning the financing of nonpartisan league projects.

### Victory Loan Campaign.

The big drive for the Victory liberty loan will begin on April 21. The necessity for floating this loan is obvious and it is the duty of everyone to buy to the limit and put forth every effort toward making the campaign a glorious success. Let all be prepared for the drive when the solicitors call.

Short-term notes instead of long-term bonds will be issued in the forthcoming campaign, according to an announcement of the secretary of the secretary of the treasury, as he recognizes they will be easier to dispose of. These notes will mature in five years and will be issued in both registered and coupon form.

Be prepared for the drive.

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The three indictments against Joe Leathers, returned at the March, 1918, term of court, were, on motion of the state through County Attorney Doane, dismissed.

State of Minnesota vs. Christ Leland. Appeal from justice court. Defendant was arrested at Onamia for driving an automobile while intoxicated and fined \$25. His appeal to the district court being defective, the judge granted the motion of the state to dismiss the appeal.

State of Minnesota vs. John Stankevitch. Appeal from justice court. County Attorney Doane for the state, Roloff Vaaler for defendant. Defendant was fined \$10 and costs at Page for assault and appealed. The state moved to dismiss in consequence of a defective bail bond being submitted and the court granted the motion.

As county attorney W. C. Doane made his initial bow to the court, the jurors and the litigants, and "Billy," as he is familiarly known throughout the county, made an excellent impression—he performed his duties like a veteran. In W. C. Doane the county has an attorney who will at all times be on the job, and who can be found at any time of the day or night right here at the Mille Lacs county seat. Billy likes the work and he is a lawyer of pronounced ability, gentlemanly and accommodating. But he also knows how to fight—that's the Irish in his make-up. We feel confident that he will make good in his office and perform his work in a satisfactory manner.

Among the lawyers here from out of town were Donald and W. H. Stewart, St. Cloud; Roloff Vaaler, O. C. Myron and C. F. J. Goebel, Milaca.