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State Historical Society

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

# MOWER COUNTY TRANSCRIPT.

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## FARMER BEN'S COLUMN

One of the boys was showin' me the hot roast on the congressmen which Dr. VanHise, president of the University of Wisconsin, administers red hot. VanHise has ben a member for years of the U. S. Geological survey and is one of the conservation commission. He speaks because he is on the inside and knows. He shows that the measly congressmen are hostile to conservation and showed their spite by withholdin' the money appropriations for the conservation work. This is just on par with the graftin' congressmen who last winter withdrew appropriations for the secret service men to hunt frauds. It all amounts to just this. A lot of Millionaires who own pretty near the whole earth ain't satisfied but are grabbin' for the rest. There's some public timber and mineral land and some water power they ain't yet stolen and president Roosevelt called a halt on 'em and put the secret service on the rascals and started to save the rest for the public to hang on to. That is eggsactly what the conservation commission is to do, to save what's left.

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Now see what the graftin' congressmen did at this point. They forbid payin money to the secret service men that Roosevelt put on the track of the rascals and giv 'em a chance to wiggle out of the toils and save their stealin's. This wan't enuf. When the conservation commission was listin' up what was left and tryin' to hold it for Uncle Sam and cudgel off the robber millionaires here comes congress agen and cuts off all appropriations for the conservation commission and thus lets the millionaire robbers complete their steals before Uncle Sam gets round to claim 'em. This is what president VanHise complains of. He knows just how fur this steal has ben goin' on and he knows that it vigorous work was now pushed these steals could some of 'em yet be headed off. But some congressmen evidently would rather get $25,000 graft from the millionaire robbers and be traitor than stand up and defend the rights of the people. I just hope that VanHise will stick to his posish. The next thing now will probably be some lame congressman tryin' to explain.

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I've alwus ben interested in water transportin'. It's the cheapest and naturalest. It was the furst too. Noah used the water route long before railroads. It looks like Uncle Sam had the best show of any country on earth for waterways. I see that a $10,000,000 concern has ben formed to run from Minneapolis to New Orleans takin' in way towns and side rivers. They claim they can take wheat from Minneapolis to the gulf four cents a bushel cheaper than any railroad can haul it for to any seacoast. That will be true of all kinds of freight. It's the heavy bulky haulage that the rivers can haul to advantage and big savin'. It's on our coal and grain and bulky stuff that rates can be cut right in two and then some by river haulage. It will be only a question of time when the small rivers will be cleaned out for shippin'. My posterity will see boats loaded at Moscow and come right down the Turtle and Cedar to the Mississippi. It looks to Farmer Ben like if this new company would just take things as they are and commence it would be better than to wait twenty years longer for deeper channels. If there aint but six foot of draught now then use that with boats that will work on this depth.

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My paper says that Detroit people are even mortgagin' their homes to buy automobiles so they may keep in the social swim. The dealers won't let lots of 'em go any other way as they've got bit with bad bills comin' from folks buyin' autos when they couldn't really afford to keep a pony and cart. I don't know just how that may be but there does seem to be a craze on to keep in the swim by lots of folks that can't afford it, and in gettin' into the swim they get into hot water. I never had an idee that the real way up folks needed autos and such apin' of the rich to giv 'em social standin'. If lots of folks in moderate means would just be content and liv within their means and enjoy what they had and get the most out of their money they'd be happy and safe and out of debt. I bet O. W. is just as glad to see me today as if I come up to Austin in a auto. Right thinkin' people take to folks for what they are ruther than for what they've got. I bet I'm as happy as some of of the auto riders, and I'm visited just as popularly.

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It's just too funny to see how the congressmen who hav done his dirty work and voted to keep him in his czar power and oppress the people by shuttin' out the needed legislation are beginnin' to trim on Cannon as he is go. in' down hill fast. My paper says that the solid middle west includin' Minnesota will next year instruct every one of their members to vote and work agenst Cannon. Cannon ain't giv the consumer any chance in this tariff revision any more than in other things. He's closeted with the glove manufacturers and such and they seem to dictate what shall go and what not. Cannon put on the conference committee a lot of standpat high tariffers and not one of the insurgent conservativs. What can you expect from such packed juries? Tawney is a part of the present discredited house leadership and has got to go down with it and we recommend him next time for the tail of the committee on improvement of the Potomac. But Cannon and his crawlin' cringin' lickspittles are marked to go.

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I'd just like to get up to the state fair this year and see all the new things. One North Dakota man is goin' to show a grinder worked by real live hogs that ought to be a winner. The feeder is fixed on a spindle so as the hogs root it round when they're eatin' grain they grind their own feed as they eat it. Four hogs will operate a machine. Just think of the savin'. Ground corn and grain alwus goes a deal further than feedin' whole. With this new machine you just throw in the corn or barley and the hogs root and do the rest and get fat on feed ground by their own selves. In this day and age you've got to save every way you can and if you can make the hogs grind and their feed go twice further then you're 100 per cent ahead. It's rite in keepin' with all the other new fangled machinery for doin' farm work. The way to make money farmin' is to get along as much as possible without hirin' high priced help but just do it yourself by machinery and horse and hog power. The wise farmer ain't the one that leaves the old farm but the one that sticks on it and uses the most up-to-date savin' appliances.

FARMER BEN.

## Does Farming Pay?

The Minnesota Experiment Station in co-operation with the Bureau of Statistics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has carried on an investigation as to the cost of producing farm products in Minnesota since 1902 The preliminary results of this investigation have been published by the Government Bureau of Statistics as Bulletins 48 and 73, and by the Minnesota Experiment Station as Bulletin 97.

The actual cost of producing all farm products has been determined upon a large number of farms, with the result that those interested are enabled to appreciate the true economic position of the farmer, and the farmer himself is better able to understand his relation to society.

Data now published indicates that when all items of cost, including wages to the farmer, are taken into consideration, the profits from the average crop are practically nothing. The general impression that the farmer's cost of growing a product is very little is being dispelled, for it is slowly being recognized that when all items of cost are taken into account, labor of men and horses, the various cash expenses, interest and depreciation upon machinery and interest upon capital invested, that the expense is surprisingly high. Even the present high prices of farm products allow only a fair margin between cost of production and selling price. The average crop sold at the average price the past ten years has often resulted in a loss to the farmer.

Taking wheat as an example, the cost of production an acre in southeastern Minnesota was $9.86. An average crop of 15 bushels an acre was raised on these farms; thus the cost of a bushel on the farm was 66 cents. The cost of marketing the product and an averaging of the general expense would make an added 5 cents a bushel, giving a total cost of 71 cents a bushel. The average Dec. 1 farm price of wheat was 74.2 cents a bushel. A similar computation for the oat crop gives a margin of less than 3 cents a bushel. This margin in either case does not equal the 10 per cent profit that is so generally added to cost by men engaged in other lines of business.

The need of investigation has long been felt. Minnesota is the pioneer state to undertake the thorough work required, and in the not distant future should be in position to reap the benefits.

—For Sale, residence property on Main street. Come and look it over. tf C. H. COATS.

## KILLING BY AUTOMOBILE

Judge Mulqueen of New York decides that William Darragh, a reckless chaffeur, committed murder in the first degree when he ran down and killed a thirteen year old child in New York last March. Few citizens who desire the safety of the public or the true welfare of automobilists will object to the sentence imposed upon the prisoner, not less than seven nor more than twenty years in Sing Sing Prison. Neither will they demur to the lecture the judge provided with the sentence. What wiser advice to the owners and drivers of motor cars could be offered than this:

"When you took your seat in that car you were free to drive carefully or recklessly. You chose to go at a most reckless pace. And you know that you bore a message of death for the unfortunates in your path. You know that all the people had at least an equal right to our streets and roads. You cared more for your own pleasure than the life of any other person. You had the power to choose, and you elected to do that which destroyed an innocent life and brought the deepest sorrow to a happy home. A difficult situation confronts us today. The automobile has come to stay. Properly used, it is a source of healthful recreation. It is an important factor in business and affords remunerative employment to many. But it is clear that its use is fraught with the gravest danger to the people. Therefore all drivers and owners of these machines must be extremely careful. Recklessness and negligence will subject them to severe penalties They must not seek their own pleasure or convenience at the risk of the public. It is the paramount duty of the State to protect the lives of our people."

### FOR SALE.

A good second-hand threshing machine run only three seasons. In good condition. Inquire of Mrs. G. W. Nichols, 3½ miles southwest of Austin. Austin rural 2. 19—3

## Foolish Immigration Restrictions.

The government officials who have charge of our immigration laws seem to be unnecessarily particular in some cases. Only last Thursday because the board of immigration refused to allow his sweetheart, Mathilda Kuhlman, to land in the United States, Henry Thons, a prosperous farmer of San Antonio, Tex., sailed with her from New York for Bremen on the vessel on which she is being deported.

While Thons was in Hanover, Germany, he met the young lady and proposed marriage. They sailed for this country intending to be married here. But the immigration authorities do not approve of the landing of unmarried women and would not even permit Thons to marry her here so that she could enter the country. Thons, therefore, purchased transportation on the ship on which she is being deported. They will be married in Germany and come to this country. This is one instance of foolish restrictions regarding immigration.

## Illegal Contracts Of School Officials.

The participation of officers in contracts with their constituents is found by Public Examiner Andrew J. Wasgatt to be the principal irregularity practiced in St. Louis county, according to the reports on twelve school districts and towns examined by him during the month of June. The reports have just been made public.

In nearly every district examined, some officer has received from the district or town money in violation of the law, which provides that no officer shall make contracts with the district or town in the government of which he has a part. Mr. Wasgatt calls the attention of the officers to the fact and in nearly every case he orders them to take steps for the reimbursement of the district or town or calls attention to the law which gives any citizen a right to institute proceedings for the reimbursements. The law is plain. No school official can furnish supplies or make any kind of a contract between himself and the district of which he is an officer.

### For Quick Sale.

Will sell a very slightly used Parsons Feeder for 40-inch separator for $75. When new, this Feeder is worth $220. Talk quick if you want a bargain.

Also a good second hand Parsons Feeder for 36-inch cylinder. $40.

Belt Dressing and Oils at less than one-half price.

Hemp Packing at 20c a pound.

Good second hand Parsons Feeder Rake Slats with attachment links 13c.

Different sized chain links one-half price. JOSEPH KEENAN, Austin, Minn

### Do You?

I remember, I remember,
The snows we had New Year;
The whistling wind upon the hill
That sounded bleak and drear;
The frozen streams, the icy roads,
The rattle of the sleet.
With people wrapped in overcoats
Skihooting down the street.
—Baltimore Sun.

## A Healthy Person Needs a Good Breakfast.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson, iconoclast-in-ordinary to the medical profession, as usual upsets our previous ideas of bodily health in an article in Woman's Home Companion for August. Doctor Hutchinson has a faculty for restoring to us our self-respect, and assuring us that, left alone, we are not such idiots, after all. In this particular article, for instance, he points out that the idea of eating little in the summer time is a fallacy. Of breakfast, for instance, he says:

"It is customary to make the first meal of the day slightly the lightest and distinctly the plainest and simplest of the three. If there be any deficiency of the appetite, breakfast is the meal at which this is most likely to show itself. But this lack of appetite in nine cases out of ten is clearly traceable to sleeping in an unventilated room or to late hours in foul air the night before, or to insufficient exercise the preceding day; and is no indication that the body really requires less food at this time. Perfectly healthy men who sleep with their windows open and go to bed at a reasonable hour will tell you that they enjoy their breakfast as well as any other meal of the day, and many even call it their best meal.

"Another popular delusion in regard to the lightness and unimportance of the breakfast is that wide spread subterfuge, the 'continental breakfast', consisting of a cup of coffee and some fruit or a single roll. This is a very pretty breakfast as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far; and the sole basis for its adoption on the continent is that it is only intended as a temporary tide-over, until the real breakfast of meat, eggs, fish, with beer or wine, which is taken at about ten or eleven o'clock, like a very early luncheon. If you haven't got a good appetite for breakfast, make it your business to go and get one, instead of allowing yourself to be blinded by this morbid state of affairs and deciding that all you really need is a cup of coffee and a roll or orange or a puff of breakfast-bran."

## Men Worth Remembering.

The country has cause to remember with gratitude as well as admiration the ten republican members of the senate who have so nobly stood by the people in the struggle to evolve a tariff bill which would express the will of the people.

By their action they have fully vindicated the confidence and trust which they placed in the promises and pledges made by the party in the last campaign. These men are Senators Nelson and Clapp of Minnesota, LaFollette of Wisconsin, Cummins and Dolliver of Iowa, Burkett and Brown of Nebraska, Beveridge of Indiana, Bristow of Kansas and Crawford of South Dakota. They are the leaders in the progressive wing of the republican party who, while not sacrificing the republican principle of protection for American industries and American labor, yet believe that this principle has been worked to the limit in favor of monopoly and at the expense of the masses.—Albert Lea Times-Enterprise.

## Special Dairy Prizes At County Fair.

Mower county dairymen are to have another inducement to pick out their best cows and exhibit them at the county fair.

We learn that the state dairymen's association, in order to awaken interest in the most improved lines of dairying and in the improvement of dairy cows, has decided to offer a number of prizes in several counties at the fairs to be held this coming fall. These fairs will comprise those held at Northfield, Hutchinson, Owatonna, Austin, Litchfield, St. Peter and Albert Lea. It is possible that some other fairs will be added to the list.

It was the intention to give a silver cup to the best dairy cow exhibited at each of these fairs, but we understand that this has been changed and three cups will be offered at each fair. These cups will be worth $100 and any dairyman could be proud of winning one of them.

## REFORM THE DUTY HIGHER UP

Reform of political corruption or high financial fraud on the people is always chasing the man higher up. The real aim of rational tariff reform is to reach the tariff higher up. Free raw material gives relief at the bottom only and the monopolist higher up puts the saving in his pocket.

Duties on raw materials have little effect except as an excuse for the duties on finished goods by which the consumer is made to pay tribute to privilege. The consumer gains nothing by their repeal unless the duties higher up go with them. Shoes will be no cheaper with hides on the free list, cotton duties have been raised and wool duties are high enough already to allow another 25 per cent squeeze on ready made clothing.

The tariff reform demanded by the president and the people is that which shall check the steady rise in cost of living, if it do not reduce it. Observe what has happened since the beneficiaries of the tariff began to plan to revise it upward after Taft's election. Of twelve articles in common use in Bradstreet's index, ten rose from July 1908, to July 1909, the exception being building materials and metals on which there is to be some reduction. The total rise is eight per cent, and everything for the household costs more than a year ago.

This is the condition the people want reformed. It cannot be done by juggling with the free list. It can be done only by cutting down the tribute the consumer pays to the manufacturer in two prices for adulterated goods.—Minneapolis Tribune.

## W. A. Nolan Will act as Auctioneer at State Fair.

W. A. Nolan of Grand Meadow, member of the house and candidate for the Republican nomination for lieutenent governor, is to blossom out as an auctioneer. Heretofore, J. F. Jacobson is the only auctioneer who has been prominent in politics, but Mr. Nolan is going to break into his class. His specialty will be "red-hots" and other similar provender.

Mr. Nolan's initial appearance as an auctioneer will be made at the state fair grounds, Aug. 7. At 10 o'clock on that date, the Grand Meadow man will expatiate on the value and merits of wienerwurst privileges, "red hot" stands, and other privileges and concessions.

Mr. Nolan isn't so slow when comes to handing out "red hots" himself, and the concessionaires will have to touch the high altitude if they gain the coveted privileges. The auctioneer will gather his herd of bidders on the grounds at 10 o'clock and will march them around in a royal hurdy gurdy, which is expected to net the fair management several golden Simole Sio Simoleons.—Minneapolis Tribune.

## FARMING MODERNIZED.

### Agriculture Has Not Escaped Revolution of Machinery in All Kinds Industries.

Agriculture has not escaped the mighty revolution of machinery that has swept all kinds of production within the last half or even quarter century. Many of our readers can remember the bull plow with the wooden mold-board; when the spike tooth harrow was considered perfection; when seeding and planting of all kinds were mostly done by hand; when the cradle gathered and the flail threshed wheat and other small grain.

But the wooden mold-board plow, which was only a few degrees removed from the forked stick of the savage, has given place to the chilled steel share that cuts and turns a clean furrow to different widths and depths, and under this have been placed wheels so that now the farmer rides as he breaks his land instead of trudging weary miles in the yielding soil. Again, in many places, though not generally, plowing is done by steam and gasoline engines, and these will increase as agriculture is put more and more upon a business basis.

The harrow has followed the development of the plow, the spring tooth and riding disc harrows being quite generally in use and increasing yearly.

The riding cultivator is known in almost every farm community.

Wheat drills and corn planters put in by far the greater portion of these crops, and machines for planting potatoes and other root crops are by no means uncommon.


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