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REPORTS LARGE BEET ACREAGE

Over 13,000 Acres Contracted for Beet Raising this Year is Word.

TWICE THAT OF YEAR AGO

Alma Sugar Plant Expects that It Will Need to Bring in Nearly 1,000 Laborers.

The 1919 acreage of beets for the Alma plant of the Michigan Sugar company will be a large one, according to Jotham Allen, manager of the factory, in an interview with The Record Tuesday. He stated that there were over 13,000 acres under contract for the raising of sugar beets this year or double the number of a year ago.

It was also stated that the company could secure a greater acreage if it so desired, but that it was not making any great effort to increase the acreage over this amount because of the probable shortage of labor that the company would have to contend with this summer. Mr. Allen stated that a few contracts were still being taken, where the ground was in good shape for beets, but that in a number of cases contracts were being refused, because of the nature of the ground, which would increase the labor difficulty, which the company expects to experience from the shortage of labor.

In his short interview he stated that the company would have to bring in about 1,000 laborers this year to take care of the acreage which is now under contract, all of whom would be working in this vicinity during the spring and summer months.

This will mean a large summer payroll for the company, considerable of which will find its way into the pockets of Alma and the banks of the city, and will aid in increasing the prosperity of the community.

AFFIRMS CHARGE

Major Frank Knox Upholds Charges Against Secretary of War Baker.

Major Frank Knox, editor of the Manchester N. H. Union and recently released from the army, in a signed statement said tonight "he was prepared in general terms to support the accusation brought against Secretary of War Baker by Maj. Dick B. Foster, that orders were issued to commanding officers of mobilization camps in the United States which practically forbade effective handling of conscientious objectors who were inducted into the national army under the draft law."

Declaring that as personal officer on the division staff at Camp Dix he was in a position to observe the handling of conscientious objectors, Maj. Knox said:

"From the commanding officer of the division down there was a feeling of outraged helplessness when under explicit secret orders from the secretary of war we were compelled to permit men who were nothing but contemptible slackers, to find shelter behind the screen of a suddenly acquired religious scruple which forbade their bearing arms."

"I say no more than the bare truth when I assert that there was a feeling of universal disgust among army officers over the orders issued by the war department covering the treatment of conscientious objectors."

"The unanimous sentiment of officers who had to deal with such cases was that each case should have been the subject of court martial in which the genuine objector would readily be separated from the cowardly slacker."

Major Frank Knox will be remembered by the older residents of Alma as a former employe of The Alma Record. Since leaving Alma he has been the editor of various papers and met with a good success.

HAVE A HEART FOR CRIPPLED

Saturday will be "Heart day" in Alma. A large number of school girls, with the approval of the mayor and superintendent of schools, are to sell hearts for the benefit of The Michigan Hospital school. This institution is located on Grand River avenue, 17 miles northwest of Detroit, in Farmington. It has the services of a splendid medical staff headed by Dr. W. E. Blodgett, who is one of the two best orthopedic surgeons in the United States. Each child is kept in the hospital school just so long as it can be benefited physically and at the same time has the advantage of an education, keeping it up with its grades in the public schools. The school is for the children of the entire state. Report all cases to business headquarters, 401 Congress building, Detroit.

The sale Saturday will be conducted by Miss Mary Orser with headquarters in Brunner's drug store. Mr. Washburn of the First State bank will have charge of the funds. Remember that your dimes, quarters, etc., help in saving your state's poor crippled children from the human scrap heap.

J. R. Watkins and son, Charles, left today for Chicago, on a short business trip.

MINSTREL SHOW

Republic Minstrel Show Will Be Given Monday and Tuesday Nights.

The Republic minstrel show for the benefit of the Republic Athletic association will be given Monday and Tuesday evenings in the Alma high school auditorium, and gives promise of being one of the best events of the kind ever given in Alma.

An evening of laughter, fun and amusement is promised those who attend the big show. Every effort is being bent to make the affair a big success than the Republic show of a year ago, and indications are that the event of last year will be classed as ordinary when this show has been staged.

Funny and men, clever coin shouters, fortune tellers and others who can furnish fun, will be on the stage. In addition the promoters of this big event are planning on staging two suicides in the final act for the benefit of the heart-broken young swains of the city.

Tickets will be on sale at Brunner's drug store Saturday. On both Monday and Tuesday evening the doors will open at 7:30 and the big show will start promptly at 8:15.

GOOD ROADS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO STATE

Approval of Roads Amendment Means Much to People and the State.

"When Michigan voters take Uncle Sam into partnership in the big enterprise to build a comprehensive system of main market highways throughout the Wolverine state, through the adoption of the Good Roads amendment at the election April 7, they will get more than a mere 100 per cent dividend in Federal Aid," said State Highway Commissioner Frank F. Rogers.

"The United States government not only stands ready to give Michigan better than \$7,000,000 providing a like sum is provided by the state, but it has authorized the war department to turn over all the vast quantities of equipment, material and supplies not needed for the army in peace times to the various states who take advantage of the offer of federal aid for highway construction."

Michigan has already put in official claim for its full share of equipment because, as Commissioner Rogers says, the sentiment of the people is such that the highway amendment and the Legislature is going to have authority to issue bonds from time to time to meet the government's offer on a dollar-for-dollar basis and to build the roads on the deferred payment plan.

The order to turn over all surplus equipment and material which may be available for highway construction and maintenance is contained in Section 7 of the Post Office Appropriation bill already passed by congress and signed by the president. It includes motor trucks, automobiles, rock crushers, industrial railway systems, civil engineers' instruments, concrete mixers, tractors, mules, horses, harnesses, wagons, steam shovels and hundreds of other items necessary to road construction and hard to obtain under the existing conditions of production. The bill provides that the distribution of the equipment and material will be in the same proportion as the distribution of the Federal Aid funds. This means that Michigan will be entitled to something less than four per cent of all the vast stores of machinery and supplies gotten together for the war in Europe and for training in this country, which will be transferred from the war department to the Michigan highway department.

Highway Commissioner Rogers already has received notice of this distribution of equipment and directed to elect what he needs. He responded that Michigan would take its full quota. There came back a direction to specify his immediate needs and he wired the department the following list which he assured the department of agriculture could be put into action within 30 days:

Ten automobiles, twelve heavy duty motor trucks, six power road rollers, twelve transits and levels, three concrete mixers of one-half to one yard batch capacity, six miles of railway, one locomotive, thirty cars, one steam shovel of one-half to one cubic yard capacity, three caterpillar tractors of 35 to 75 raised horse power and six trailers.

This material represents a small fortune and means that the cost of road building will be reduced in just the amount of the cost of the machinery and speeded up by the application of machinery and modern methods.

Grand Rapids will be the hostess city for the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association, April 3 and 4. The meetings will be held in the Pantlind Hotel and a most interesting program has been arranged.

Amendments to the state constitution will be discussed Thursday. Friday morning at 10 o'clock there will be election of officers and other general business.

Suffragists from every part of the state are urged to attend the convention. State and national issues will form the principal subjects for deliberation.

Best ice cream. DeLuxe.—77-7f-c

ENTERPRISING MAN IN TOILS

Started Bakery on Materials it is Alleged Were Stolen From Firm.

IS BOUND OVER FOR TRIAL

Superior Bakery Heads Located Their Missing Goods After a Still Hunt.

A baker, who has been going by the name of Mitchell in this city for some months and who has been employed at the Superior Bakery, is now in the county jail awaiting trial for endeavoring to walk off with the place and establish a little bakery of his own. And he nearly succeeded, it is said.

Mitchell had been working at the bakery for several months, and was said to have been the best baker that the company has had in some time.

A few short months ago, things began to be missed around the bakery. Something seemed to "disappear" into thin air every few days, and simply could not be located.

Mr. Mitchell kindly reported to the management at times that he had seen someone in the basement of the bakery, and his time went on, and he was the only one who was seeing strangers in the basement. Mr. Moore and Mr. Ayrich decided that perhaps Mitchell knew what was becoming of the things that were being missed. They decided that they would "Sherlock" around and see what might be found.

On one of the lovely high water days of last week Mr. Mitchell again is said to have found someone in the basement, and some more things were missing. Mr. Moore scampers around the place in true Sherlock style and finally located the things hid, where it was decided that Mr. Mitchell must have put them. They were marked and left where they were found.

When Mitchell left the plant, it was found that the goods had also left. Hence a search warrant was procured, and Mitchell's home became the scene of action.

A miniature bakery was there unfolded to the eyes of the law, it is said, causing great surprise to the officers and also to the proprietors of the Superior Bakery. Sugar, flour, lard and other things were there located. It was also found that Mr. Mitchell was conducting a bakery of his own in spare time, on goods said to have been taken from the Superior Bakery. It is also stated that he was furnishing some competition for the Alma bakers, by peddling out the wares.

He was taken before William H. Rogers, justice of the peace, and failing to satisfy this particular gentleman as to where the goods have come from, he was bound over to circuit court to stand trial.

"LITTLE WOMEN"

A few years ago copies of "Little Women," "Little Men," and "Joe's Boys" were read and enjoyed by old and young alike. With the multiplication of stories coming from the press year after year, they have passed for a time out of the public mind. But books of such genuine value could not remain entirely forgotten. Their author, Louisa May Alcott, had a special training for her work as a writer. She was a teacher in the country schools, where she met all sorts and conditions of people. She was also a nurse during the civil war. She developed patience, sweetness and love for all those among whom her lot was cast. And these qualities make her books so delightful and helpful to the readers. On Friday, April 4th, at the Idlehour will be shown the dramatized form of "Little Women." This will be an excellent opportunity for young people to see how life was lived in the days of their grandparents' childhood. At the same time there will be presented an example of family love and devotion which cannot fail to have a good effect upon sensitive minds and hearts. There is surprise enough to retain the attention during the entire showing. Fathers and mothers will appreciate the wonderful way in which the general atmosphere of New England during the storm and stress of the Civil war is depicted. Looking upon these pictures one can almost imagine one's self transferred to the time and place of their happening. These pictures are educational in an especial degree and their showing marks an event in the neighborhood. J. Frank Jackson.

Down in Wet Toledo

The following from The Toledo News-Bee, regarding the trials and tribulations of an Alma man down in wet Toledo may prove of interest to the readers of The Alma Record:

Harvey Welch, 50, of Alma, Mich., was robbed of \$400 and beaten by two armed men at East Broadway and Front-st. early on Friday.

Welch's head was cut open by the bandits when they struck him with the butts of their pistols. Welch was taken to Toledo hospital and later removed to Lagrange street station.

Best candies. DeLuxe.—77-7f-c

UNCLE SAM: "HERE'S THE BILL! YOU MUST PAY IT THROUGH VICTORY LIBERTY BONDS."



CHANGE CLOCKS

Clocks Will Be Turned Ahead One Hour at Midnight Saturday.

To conform with the daylight law passed by congress as a war measure a year ago, the clocks of the United States will be turned ahead one hour at midnight Saturday night.

With the war over, efforts were made before congress adjourned to repeal the daylight saving law, but these efforts failed and as a result, the United States will enjoy the privilege of getting around to work an hour earlier during the spring and summer months and having an hour more of daylight for the leisure time in the evening.

Wine Amendment Opens Flood Gate

Liquor Legislation Offered for Approval of Voters Contains Many Catches.

New reasons for a vote against the beer and wine amendment to the constitution, which is to be voted upon by the people of Michigan at the spring election, Monday, April 7, are constantly coming up as the matter is gone into, and which continue to show that this amendment is one of the most dangerous pieces of liquor legislation ever offered to the voters of this, or any other state, and that common decency demands that the public line up solidly against it.

When the liquor traffic in Michigan went out with state wide prohibition, all of the laws of the state regulating the liquor traffic went with it, into the discard. The Wiley law since enacted, is designed only to regulate the handling of liquor as a drug not as a beverage. As a result if the people of Michigan fail to vote on this amendment and allow the liquor forces to carry it, there will be no laws in existence in May to limit or regulate its use.

Open saloons could be established anywhere in the state. Girls could be employed as barmaids. Children under twenty-one years of age could walk up to the bar and drink. Saloons could be established right next to churches and schools. Dance halls could be established in connection.

Such a condition would make Michigan a dumping ground for nearby states, and in the wake of this amendment Michigan would find crime, insults and general lawlessness greatly increased.

Farm Home Burned

Recently the large farm home of James McNamara, southeast of Mt. Pleasant, was burned to the ground, causing a great loss. Most of the furniture in the dining room and living room was saved, but otherwise the contents were a total loss, including six hundred pounds of meat which had recently been placed in the cellar, and nearly one hundred and seventy-five bushels of potatoes, and a large amount of canned fruit. The cause of the fire is not known. Mr. and Mrs. McNamara, who are well known here, are living with relatives until the home can be rebuilt.

Coming Tuesday

Lieutenant Governor Loren Dickinson will be in Alma Tuesday evening of this coming week when he will speak at the Methodist Episcopal church, under the auspices of the Young Men's class of the church.

Important Announcement

Dainty lunches gotten up at any hour. It is a specialty at the European Cafe.—77-7f-c

Best candies. DeLuxe.—77-7f-c

MARRIED TUESDAY

Alma Couple Married Quietly Tuesday by Rev. J. Frank Jackson.

Miss Harriet Willard and Mr. Clifford Bernier were quietly married at the rectory of St. John's Episcopal church Tuesday afternoon by the Rev. J. Frank Jackson.

The newly married couple left immediately after the wedding for Charlotte, where they will spend their honeymoon at the home of Mr. Bernier's parents.

Miss Willard, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Willard, has resided in this city her entire life, and is well known among the younger people of the city among whom she has been very popular. Mr. Bernier has been employed at the Republic Motor Truck company's plant here for some time and is held in high regard by a large circle of friends.

It is understood that the groom has been offered an excellent position in the west, and it is expected that he will accept it and that Mr. and Mrs. Bernier will leave for the west in the immediate future.

X-CEL-ALL HELD A DISTRICT MEETING

Many District Managers and Salesmen Attended the Sessions Held in Saginaw.

A meeting of the division and district managers for the eastern jurisdiction of Michigan of the X-Cel-All company was held in Saginaw about a week ago, being the first of a series of such meetings which have been planned by the company.

The meeting, held in Wartenberg's hall, was called to order by D. A. Kitch, secretary and sales manager of the company, who acted as chairman of the meeting. C. F. Wartenberg gave the address of welcome to Saginaw, and this was followed by an address to the field men by T. A. Bamforth, president of the Alma company.

Following the readings of the minutes of the February meeting, addresses were given by the following men: John C. Jenkins of Big Rapids, Frank Cayfield of St. Clair, George Cassidy of Standish, F. D. Atherton of Flint, P. C. Collier of Mt. Pleasant, H. W. Kiger of Gladwin, A. Alexander of Lansing, and F. E. Green of Jackson.

Following these addresses the meeting adjourned over the dinner hour, when the delegates to the convention partook of a sumptuous repast in an adjoining hall.

When the meeting reconvened, the following district managers spoke enthusiastically and interestingly on matters pertaining to the sale of paint and to the reception with which the Alma made product is meeting: Edmond Moffat of Saginaw, George Rexford of Marion, Paul Olmstead of Lapeer, William Welch of Monroe, F. H. Dewey of Schoolcraft, J. E. Hamer of Marion, and R. E. Denn of Lansing. A very interesting address on the manufacture of paint was given by B. F. Gipeff, factory manager.

Mrs. D. A. Kitch, who has attended many similar meetings with her husband, was then called upon and she gave a very interesting talk on the paint and gave some valuable pointers regarding the field organization which she had taken note of at other meetings.

The next meeting is to be held in Grand Rapids sometime during the month of April, and it is the hope of the officials of the company, that even the good attendance at the Saginaw meeting will be excelled at Grand Rapids.

Robinson Loan Committee Head

Former Army Officer Will Direct the Victory Loan Campaign in Gratiot.

It is Expected that Various Chairmen and Township Heads Will Be Named Soon.

Wednesday evening at a meeting at the Wright House, T. Arnold Robinson of this city was selected to head the Fifth or Victory Loan committee of Gratiot county.

The selection of Mr. Robinson to head this committee in the last loan campaign brings to the front in the Liberty Loan work an ex-officer of the United States aviation service, as he held a commission in this branch of the service, and it brings to the front a man who has been in France and seen active service with the American Ambulance, attached to the French army. He has served in the struggle just closed, under two flags, and at the present time holds a commission as a second lieutenant in the aviation reserve.

Having seen active service in France he knows something of the conditions over there, knows something of the tremendous expense to which the government has been put in building and equipping an army, and as a result has qualities which are needed in the loan work.

He is the son of James W. Robinson, who headed the county committee on the Third and Fourth Liberty Loan campaigns.

Rev. Duffey, appointed a month ago to head the committee, withdrew in order that he might continue his work in preparing for the Centenary campaign of the Methodist Episcopal church. Archie McCall of Ulawa was given the place at the head of the committee last week, and refused it. His refusal resulted in the appointment of the young Alma man.

Mr. Robinson is now busy selecting his committees, and city and township selections will be made next week. It is probable, also, that a date for a county meeting of the loan workers will be announced in the various papers of the county next week, as Mr. Robinson desires to meet all of the workers at an early date and have the county prepared for a red hot campaign when the time comes.

It is expected that most of the workers of the Fourth campaign will be asked to continue the work in the Fifth and last campaign, as they are familiar with the work. There will be a few changes, however, over the county, it is expected.

Plans are also under way to have the women of Gratiot take an active part in the Fifth campaign, and it is probable that in another week a county chairman will be appointed to take charge of the work for the ladies.

Will Entertain Again

The Republic Circle club will entertain the clergy of the city of Alma at a banquet to be given at the Republic cafeteria on Friday evening. Charles R. Murphy and Henry H. Soule, both of whom are candidates for the office of mayor, will also be guests of the club at this meeting. The banquet is for the purpose of creating a feeling of friendship between the city and factory and for the promotion of civic needs.

LARGE INCREASE GIVEN TEACHERS

\$250 Is Average Boost for the Instructors in Alma Public Schools.

LIVING COST ONE REASON

Desire to Retain Good Instructors is Another Explanation of Bigger Salaries.

The school board here has determined that the teachers in the Alma public schools shall have at least a living wage this next year, and the new contracts which have been submitted to the various instructors will carry increases which will average in the neighborhood of \$250.00 for the year.

This means that the teachers in the Alma public schools next year will have a salary of at least \$1,000, or more near enough to allow them to least make both ends meet.

In granting the salary increases for the coming year the school board has been actuated for a number of reasons, which are sound and important. Perhaps the first of these is the fact that there is a scarcity of teachers throughout the state, and that salaries must be increased to hold the instructors. Another reason for the higher salaries for the teachers is the preparation which they must have in education to fit them to teach, and the requirements for constantly acquiring knowledge, all of which costs considerable money, and it is felt that they should have a fair return on this investment in such an education. Another reason is the increased cost of living, which has become so great that it has been difficult for the teachers to make both ends meet on the salaries which they were receiving.

The board feels that the corps of teachers in the Alma public schools is a good one, and that the present high standard should be continued and if possible bettered, that the young of the city may have the best educational advantages which can be offered. As a result contracts for next year have been tendered to most of the teachers of the present corps, and the board hopes that most of them will return next year. It is expected, however, that there are a few who will not return, even at the increased salaries which are offered.

ARE TAXED

Persons Who Rent Passenger Automobiles Must Pay a Tax.

Under the revenue act of 1918, persons who carry on the business of operating or renting passenger automobiles are required to file a return and pay a tax of \$100.00 per year for autos having a seating capacity of more than two and not more than seven; for machines having a seating capacity of more than seven persons the tax is at the rate of \$200.00 a year.

"Under the terms of the law," said Collector of Internal Revenue James J. Brady, of Detroit, "the effective date of this tax is January 1, 1919, and one-half of the annual rate is now due and payable. Return forms are now available, and every person liable to the tax will be required to make a separate return and pay tax for each taxable machine. The tax due now will pay until June 30, 1919, when the full amount of the annual rate must be paid."

Taxable owners, jitney drivers, liveries, undertakers, sightseeing automen and other automobile owners who rent or operate machines for hire should at once write the internal revenue office and secure forms on which to make returns for the tax from January 1 to June 30, 1919.

FARMERS' CLUB

The April meeting of the Seville and Summer Farmers' club will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burton Gee on April 3. The following is the program for the meeting: Song by club. Invocation. Minutes of last meeting. Unfinished business. Song by club. Good Roads amendment. Discussion, led by Mrs. James Garrett. Marking and Folding the Ballot, Mrs. Gee. Song by club. Question box. Closing song by club.

REPORTS THIS WEEK

"Ike" Field, new coach at Alma college, who will direct the work of the baseball and track teams, will take up his work with the two squads this coming week. The new mentor will have two weeks and a half in which to get his baseball team in shape for the annual M. A. C. game and just two weeks in which to get the team into shape for the opening game with the Mt. Pleasant Normals.

The candidates for the baseball team will be called out just as soon as the men return from their spring vacation which comes to an end Tuesday. One of the largest squads of recent years is expected to turn out to greet the new mentor.