

THE ALMA RECORD.

VOL. XLII.—NO. 29

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 16, 1919

WHOLE NUMBER 2117

CORNERSTONE OF CHURCH IS LAID

Fitting Exercises Held Sunday as Stone is Laid by Officials of Denomination.

WONDERFUL RECORD IS MADE

Members of Church of Christ Pledge Enough to Insure Opening of Edifice Debt Free.

Sunday's services of the Church of Christ held at the high school were without question among the finest of the kind ever held in Alma, and the day had not passed before the church members of friends of the denomination had come forward with pledges totalling nearly \$25,000, thus insuring the new church being opened this fall free from debt, from the funds which these pledges will provide.

All of the services of the day were held in the auditorium of the high school, but at noon, following the morning service, adjournment was made to the gymnasium, where a splendid basket picnic dinner was held, which held the close attention of a large crowd for over an hour.

At the morning worship the attention of the church membership was called to the needs of raising funds for the payment of the debt which the erection of the handsome new edifice was making, and Rev. G. L. Snively of Lewiston, Illinois, made a plea, and at the Reminiscence and Memorial service held in the afternoon another plea was made for pledges to the fund, Rev. Snively asking for pledges which would total \$22,500. Nearly all of those in attendance in the afternoon had attended the morning service and made pledges, but still further pledges were forthcoming and the amount rapidly grew until almost all of the entire \$22,500 asked for had been pledged.

Payments are to be made within three years. This insures the opening of the new Church of Christ this fall with the church practically free from debt, and the answer to the plea of Rev. Snively must stand out as one of the finest contributions ever made in Alma in a like period, for religious work.

The Hon. William A. Bahkik was then called upon for an address on the early days of Alma, an address which proved highly interesting to those who crowded the large auditorium and the balcony of the high school. He spoke of the days of "starving" Gratiot, leaving it to his hearers to make the comparison with the Gratiot county of today.

Mr. Bahkik told of the early days in Alma and its moral tone, as compared with that of today. He told of six saloons in the struggling hamlet, and of another at the race track, where the Republic plant and the plant of Libby, McNeill & Libby now stand, with its saloon to cater to the thirst of a public that couldn't wait until it could get across the river to the half dozen located in the village. He told of the banishing of the saloon from Alma a decade ago, and in closing said that it was his belief that the liquor question was settled forever.

The early days of the Church of Christ in Alma was given by Mr. Winchell, who carried the growth of the congregation down to the present from its formation in 1911, when church meetings were held from house to house. The purchase of the old M. E. church, used for some years as a bowling alley and pool room and its conversion into a church was told, as was the continued growth of the religious institution, which has made necessary the handsome new Superior street edifice.

Professor Albert P. Cook, representing the Presbyterian church of Alma, spoke of the departed Presbyterians who had done so much in church work in Alma, paying a tribute to their memory.

Rev. Priest of the Baptist church read extracts of a diary, which was the work of the late Samuel Anderson, which spoke of the first formation of a Sunday school in Alma in 1864, and the formation of the Congregationalist church in the village in closing he extended to the Church of Christ his best wishes for its success.

Professor Hansford McCurdy, representing the Methodist Episcopal church of this city, extended congratulations to the Church of Christ on the great work that it was doing.

Sunday evening a highly interesting service was held which attracted a large audience, who greatly enjoyed the services.

It was stated that it would be a month before the heating plant for the new church would be ready for installation, and as a result it has been announced that services for the balance of the present month will be held in the old church.

Verne E. Rogers was in Grand Rapids the first of the week attending the state convention of the American Legion.

I'll take another slice of that good Pan-Dandy bread please. Model Bakery—14-4-c

Best ice cream. DeLuxe.—77-tf-c

EASY VICTORY

High Schoolers Romped Over St. Louis High in Easy Style.

The Alma high school football team returned to form in Tuesday's battle with the St. Louis high school eleven and trampled on that aggregation to the tune of 43 to 0 on the St. Louis gridiron.

Alma opened the game by kicking to St. Louis and soon after the kick-off intercepted a pass, which was carried over, and from that time on St. Louis did not have a good scoring opportunity, being compelled to play a defensive game for the greater portion of the bout as the local were in possession of the ball for the greater part of the game.

Three touchdowns in the first period and two came in each of the succeeding quarters of the grid battle. Only one goal was kicked during the game.

The Alma team displayed the best brand of scrap that it has shown this season, and had it played the same stellar football in the previous contests would not have lost a single game.

Stan Sartor, Ellis, and Creech were the main lights in the victory of the local team. Captain O'Melia of the St. Louis aggregation was the star for his eleven.

SUGAR COMPANY HAS

STARTED CAMPAIGN

Alma Plant of Michigan Corporation Was Opened for Annual Run Today.

The Alma plant of the Michigan Sugar company was opened this morning for the annual fall campaign, with prospects of the brightest for a run of three months at least, and possibly for a longer period.

During the summer months some thousands of dollars have been spent by the sugar company in repair work to get the factory in first-class condition for the run and it is expected that there will be little trouble experienced in the various departments as a result. Among the improvements which have been made during the past summer has been the almost entire rebuilding of the extensive beet sheds at the rear of the plant.

The company had a large acreage this year, there having been over 16,000 acres of beets under contract. A small part of this acreage was ruined but there is a huge acreage that is now being harvested.

It is reported that the beets will have a heavy tonnage this year in this part of the state, but that the sugar content will not be as heavy as had been expected, late rains which started the beets to growing again, having kept down the sugar percentage, while boosting the tonnage.

During the past two weeks hundreds of wagon loads of beets have been hauled to the factory, and many carloads have also been received, and when the factory opened this morning for the campaign, the sheds were well filled with beets. If fair weather continues during the next few weeks, it is certain that the company will be able to cut to capacity, and thus cut down the length of the run. Poor weather is very liable to slow up the slicing, because of the increased difficulty with which the farmers will meet in bringing their beets to the factory.

TAG DAY PRIZE WINNERS

The Tag Day committee for the Starr Commonwealth announce the result of their drive \$198.75 and express their gratitude for the co-operation of all who in any way assisted in making the day a success.

Prize Winners

Margaret Reynolds 1st prize for girls
Margaret Joiner 2nd prize for girls
Arlene Smith 1st prize for boys
Clayton Cummings 2nd prize for boys

Winners of Candy Prizes

Helen Murphy
Thelma Woodward
Alice Dumas
Glenn Sherman
Lester Miller
Loren Bement

In addition there were a number of flags given to those who had near a prize winning amount.

BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

Friday, October 17, is the anniversary of the birth of the double barred cross, as the tuberculosis red cross is known, and as the annual tuberculosis campaign is about to start in Michigan, the question is being asked by state leaders, "How many people know what the double barred red cross stands for?"

The Gratiot County Good Health society is planning on a big campaign in this county during the fall and early winter months, and within the next few weeks will announce its plans for the sale of the double barred red cross, which has its birthday tomorrow.

The first regular meeting of the Alma Delphian club was held at the residence of Mrs. H. M. Glass, 256 Allen avenue, on Monday evening. After the regular program a social was enjoyed. A special musical program was rendered by Miss Spinney and Miss Myers. The next meeting will be held Monday, October 20, at the home of Mrs. Wm. McFadden, 604 Pine street. All members are invited to be present.

SLEEPER WAS HERE MONDAY

Chief Executive of State Was a Guest of the Gratiot Club at Smoker.

HIS ADDRESS WAS FEATURE

Michigan's War Record and Vital Legislative Matters Were Taken Up by Him.

Monday evening Albert E. Sleeper, governor of Michigan, was an honor guest of the Gratiot club of this city, the occasion being the biggest night in the history of the Alma club, which was started here a year ago. The fact that the governor was to speak at the meeting held that evening, and the added fact that the annual business meeting of the club was to be held drew out almost the entire membership, almost all of whom remained after the business meeting for the reception for Governor Sleeper, and to hear his address.

Following the reception Michigan's first citizen was introduced by President H. M. Crooks of the club.

In opening his address Governor Sleeper spoke of the richness of the state in agriculture and in manufacturing industries, notable among which are the automobile and truck concerns.

He then turned his attention to the various acts of progressive legislation passed by the last legislature, mentioning among the more important the budget system, the system of uniform accounting, the good roads system, the state park system, and the central purchasing agent plan. He enlarged upon each to some extent in the effort to show the audience the importance of these measures to the people of the state of Michigan.

The part that Michigan played in the great World war was brought to the front by him, and it was shown that Michigan was among the leaders of the union in the support of all war activities, bond issues, Red Cross work, K. of C., Y. M. C. A., and kindred organizations.

He also spoke very feelingly of the brave Michigan men who went to the front, and paid the glowing tribute to them, which brought rounds of applause from the members of the club.

The high cost of living was also taken up, and Governor Sleeper pressed it as his opinion that Herbert Hoover, should have been continued on the job in this country after the termination of the war until such a time as normal conditions came back. It was evidently his belief that with Hoover on the job costs would not have mounted skyward as they have done since the war came to a close. Only through increased production to meet the demand for foodstuffs will remedy the present high cost in his view.

In closing Governor Sleeper made a plea for clear-cut Americanism, and said that those who had no desire to become citizens of the country, should return to their native lands.

Earlier in the evening the business session of the club was held, but this was adjourned so that plenty of time might be devoted to the feature of the evening, the reception for the governor and for his address.

At the business meeting nominations were made for the officers and the directors of the club for the coming year. The officers nominated on one ticket were J. W. Blakley for president, A. W. Brunner for vice president, and Ernest E. Seig for secretary and treasurer. On the other ticket the nominees were for president, E. L. Smith; for vice president, Dr. F. J. Graham; for secretary and treasurer, Ernest E. Seig. The directors nominated for the two year term were Francis King, Charles G. Rhodes and H. M. Crooks, and those for the one year term, George Ogden, Henry H. Soule and Rev. J. Frank Jackson.

The business meeting was adjourned until November 13, at which time the election of the officers and directors will be held by secret ballot.

At various times during the evening musical selections were rendered, among which were some very interesting piano and violin selections by Mr. Henry and Mrs. Olmstead. Others also contributed some pleasing musical numbers.

ASSESSMENTS RAISED

The state board of assessors has finished its work in Gratiot county, and while the rolls of the county have not yet been submitted to the supervisors, who are now meeting in Alma, it is known that the valuation of the county has been boosted greatly by the board, but until the rolls are submitted the exact amount will not be available.

The amount of the raise in Alma is large, and it is being freely estimated that the assessed valuation of the city, when the rolls are submitted to the supervisors, will show that Alma has been boosted about one hundred per cent in valuation.

This will be nearly in keeping with the state average in the counties where the board has finished its work, as the assessed valuation in such counties has been increased on an average of slightly over ninety per cent.

PUSHING WORK

Michigan Northern Railroad Pushing Survey Work at Present.

Of the 123 miles of the route of the proposed Michigan Northern Railroad company, 80 has already been surveyed by the Esesselstye, Murphy & Hanford Company, engineers, Detroit. The company has now four crews in the field, one of which is now operating in the city of Lansing where terminals and egress to and in the corporate limits are to be determined.

But 43 miles of permanent survey are to be made. The company has procured options on rights of way extending in the aggregate over forty miles. The company is having but little trouble in getting rights of way as community committees and a general disposition to boost for the project, have eliminated many embarrasments generally attending railroad promotion. While the tentative survey of the entire line has been made, corrections and other work along this line will require some time yet.

The engineering firm, besides the crew operating in and around Lansing, and two others along other parts of the road, has started one crew west of Grand Ledge toward Portland. Surveys are completed from Woodbury to Maple Rapids; from Midland to Mt. Pleasant, and from Mt. Pleasant to St. Louis. The work is being pushed while good weather lasts.

STOCKHOLDERS HELD

A MEETING MONDAY

Owners of X-Cel-All Stock Met at City Hall to Discuss Their Problems.

A meeting of the stockholders of the defunct X-Cel-All Paint company of this city was held in the assembly room of the city hall Monday evening, called by a committee of stockholders, who had retained a local attorney to look into the affairs of the Alma corporation, which is now in the bankruptcy court. The meeting had for its object the marking out of a course to be taken by the stockholders.

Attorney William A. Bahkik, retained to look into the affairs of the company by the committee, was the first spokesman of the meeting, and he pointed out a violation of the present "blue sky" law, and told the stockholders that they could seek the recovery of their money from those who had sold them stock, or could secure prosecution, without a doubt. He also stated that a referee in bankruptcy would probably comb the affairs of the concern and trace matters to a letter extent than he had been able to do.

M. A. Bamborough, president of the late Alma company, was present at the meeting and was called upon, after Attorney Bahkik had left. He unfolded a plan, whereby he believed that the debts of the company might be paid within a matter of months, and also gave it as his opinion that in time the stockholders would also receive their money under this plan.

Following the plan given to the stockholders a short discussion followed, and it became evident that some of the stockholders were for following the outlined plan given by Mr. Bamborough, and that others of the stockholders were of the opinion that the stock should be pooled and suit started to recover the cost of the stock from those who sold it, because they had not secured the necessary permission from the Michigan Securities commission to offer it for sale.

Since the meeting, it is understood that stock is being pooled with a view of following both the plans of Mr. Bamborough by some of the stockholders and that others are pooling their stock with a view of retaining Attorney William A. Bahkik to sue the sellers of the stock to recover its purchase price.

HOPE NEXT

Dutchmen Will Meet Maroon and Cream on Local Field Next.

The Hope college football team will meet the Presbyterians on Davis field Saturday, October 18, and a hard game is being expected by Coach Wood's eleven, as the Dutchmen have a strong aggregation this year and are being placed among the strongest football aggregations in the state.

Alma fans who know of the strength of Kalamazoo college will be surprised, no doubt, to learn that last year the Hopes defeated the Kazoo team on the Kalamazoo field, and if nothing else would mark a team as being strong this would. It is reported that Hope has most of her last year's eleven back this season.

Saturday the Kalamazoo college eleven defeated the Hope college team by a score of 30 to 0, and this game will give the first real indication of the strength of the Maroon and Cream with its Kazoo rivals of the M. I. A. A.

The battle will be the first game of football ever staged between the two colleges and as a result, it promises to hold an unusual interest for the Alma fans, who time and again have seen Alma orators and debaters forced to bow their heads to Hope in that field.

CITY TO HONOR ITS BENEFACTOR

Monument to Be Erected Here to Memory of the Late Ammi W. Wright.

WILL BE PLACED IN PARK

Field Boulder With Bronze Tablet Containing Inscription Will Be Secured.

The city commission has taken steps looking forward to the early erection of a memorial monument in Wright park, that beautifully wooded tract of land almost in the heart of the city, to the memory of the late Ammi W. Wright, whose individual efforts in the progressiveness of Alma during its early days, will not be forgotten as long as the city exists.

Remembering the gift of this beautiful park to the city, and his enterprise in private matters which made possible a sugar factory for Alma, a plant which grew into Swift's plant, the sanitarium, which through his gift to the Masons of Michigan, became the Michigan Masonic Home, the Wright House, the Wright block, and remembering his gifts to Alma college, without which Alma probably would have had no college within its bounds, and feeling that perhaps it was only the former home of the Alma Manufacturing company, another Wright institution, which made it possible for the Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., an Alma institution, it was plain that the seeds of his industry and labor, planted in Alma, should be recognized, as should the memory of the man, who, more than any other one man, has made possible the growth of Alma.

As a result a boulder monument with suitable bronze tablet, is to be placed in the park, which he gave to the city, and which bears the name of the donor. The commission in taking up the matter Tuesday evening instructed the city manager to procure a suitable inscription, which is to be placed upon it.

When the monument is completed, it will be unveiled with appropriate exercises.

INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK

Splendid Article on Present Outlook Submitted to Record.

The First State Bank of this city has submitted to The Alma Record the following article regarding the industrial outlook, which had been brought to the attention of the bank. It is laden with thought and will prove of great interest to all Record readers.

The retarding influences in American enterprise and business at the moment are psychological rather than actual. It could hardly be expected that the people of the world would go through the enormous mental strain incident to the war without manifesting signs of mental disturbance. Attention has been directed from the daily tasks and problems of life and concentrated on the economic and political upheaval which the European conflict has wrought. Meanwhile, seed time and harvest do not fail, and even the complex machinery of industrial production and the delicate mechanism of finance perform their accustomed functions. Never was labor so well employed at such good wages; never did the masses of the people anywhere have such full measure of individual prosperity as the men, women and children of this country now enjoy.

And yet there is widespread discontent—a disposition to quarrel with prosperity itself. Actual conditions being such as they are, this disposition must be ascribed largely if not altogether to the mental disturbances which the war has engendered. But it is the natural tendency of hysteria to exhaust itself, and this is what may be expected to happen with the present situation. To produce more crops and goods of all kinds, is the real problem before the nation at the present time; to make the individual share of such production measure up to the highest attainable standard in quality and quantity, is the immediate duty of every worker in whatever field he or she may be engaged.

But while it is the duty of employees to produce all they can, it is likewise incumbent upon the employer that real grounds of complaint be investigated and remedied wherever possible. Public opinion has scant tolerance for strikes and industrial agitation unsupported by any real grievance. The innate sense of justice which the American people possess may be relied upon, in the long run, to keep the scales fairly balanced in contests between the employer and the employed.

Despite some disquieting happenings—such for example as the Boston police strike—there has been as yet no general paralysis of industry on account of industrial strikes. On the contrary a number of threatened strikes have been postponed and several serious labor troubles have been amicably settled. Indeed taking all the general business situation in the United States continues sound and strong."

NEW FIRM

National Clothing Company Has Secured Quarters in Alma.

The National Clothing company has secured a lease for the store in the Church block, which has been occupied by the A. R. Smith shoe store, and the latter part of the month will open an up-to-date clothing store here that will cater to the wants of men, women and children.

The National Clothing company is a well known firm, which has been in business in various places for some years, and it is certain to find Alma a live town. The firm has a page announcement on another page of this week's Record.

The A. R. Smith shoe store is going out of business and the stock is now being sold by Wallace Smith, who has just acquired it.

Circulation counts—we have it.

POLICE WOMAN

Alma's First Police Woman is Salvation Army Captain.

Daysie B. MacCleave is Alma's first police woman, by virtue of authority extended to her by the city.

The appointment of Daysie MacCleave was made by the city, after she had done considerable work in aiding young girls of the city to keep off of the seemingly primrose path, which has for its end a blind wall of sorrow, pain and desolation.

Of late she attracted the attention of the officials to her work with the Salvation Army here and recommendation was made by the health department that she should be given authority to carry on this work in a much better and more efficient way.

Recently Daysie MacCleave was promoted to the captaincy in the Salvation Army in recognition of the good work which she had been doing, and the city officials feel that with the authority with which she has been clothed, she will be able to do a great deal more in the future than in the past in aiding to clean up the city.

It is regarded as more than probable that Miss Peck, social worker of the city, will also be appointed as a police woman, so that she will have greater authority in her work in aiding in crushing some of the social evils with which the city has to contend.

ALMA LEGION POST

IS AFTER MEMBERS

George W. Myers Post, No. 132, is Waging Campaign for 500 Members.

A vigorous campaign for memberships for the George W. Myers Post, No. 132, American legion, which was formed two weeks ago, has been started and every effort is being made by the officers of the post to secure a membership of five hundred men.

Every former soldier, sailor or marine of Alma or vicinity is eligible and should join the order, through the local post, as this national service organization promises to become one of the greatest potential forces of the country. At the present moment the United States Congress is awaiting an expression from the Legion before it enacts some vital legislation, among which is the "bond a month" bill which if passed would give every former service man a fifty dollar Liberty bond for every month spent in the service of the country.

Among the important functions of the organization is the securing of information relative to insurance, bonuses, government homestead grants, vocational training, compensation for injuries, and to help and assist the ex-service men. Another of the features of the Legion is the fact that it is seeking to enroll all former service men in a peace army which is to wage a battle for the maintenance of one hundred per cent Americanism.

At the recent organization meeting officers were elected and at the present time there are over fifty men enrolled.

Those desiring to enroll should send the following attached blank to the American Legion, Alma, Michigan.

I wish to enlist as a member of the American Legion. Please accept this as my application. I hereby express my wish to subscribe to the constitution of the American Legion. I wish to enroll in Post No. 132, Alma, Mich. Full name Present address Permanent address I served in Unit or organization Present occupation

OBITUARY

Walter C. Vliet was born in St. Louis, Michigan, on October 9, 1871. He was married on November 20, 1894, to Miss Blanche Hyde of Alma, Michigan. To this union were born four children three of whom died in infancy. The larger part of his life was lived in St. Louis and Alma. He was manager of the Stockbridge Elevator Company from which position he entered the automobile business.

He became assistant manager of the Buick agency in Chicago and from there he went to Washington, D. C., and later Fargo, N. Dakota, where he was manager of the Studebaker Sales rooms. From Fargo he returned to Chicago, where he became assistant manager of the L. Markle Company. Seeing the great possibilities of the auto truck he and others organized the Chicago Republic Truck company of which organization he was president and manager.

He continued in this position until last spring when his health drove him from the office to the road with the hope that his health would be better in the open air. As he grew no better he gave up all work September 1st and came home to rest. Instead of regaining his health he rapidly failed and the end came October 9, 1919, the anniversary of his birth. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. W. L. Gelston assisted by Rev. J. W. Priest, from the family residence, 426 Wright avenue, on Saturday, October 11, at 2 o'clock with burial in Riverside.

He leaves his wife and son, Stanley, his mother, Mrs. S. A. Vliet, of Alma and his sister, Mrs. George W. Bates, of Detroit beside a host of friends to mourn their loss.

PRESBYTERIANS

MEETING HERE

Synod of Michigan Holding Its Eighty-Fifth Annual Meeting in Alma.

FOUNDING WAS OBSERVED

Hon. Gerrit J. Diekema Gave Principal Address at Celebration of College's Birth.

Pastors and other prominent Presbyterian workers from all parts of Michigan are meeting in Alma this week for the annual meeting of the Presbyterian Synod, which opened on Tuesday evening and closes tonight with a popular meeting in the interests of the New Era movement.

Following a divine service Tuesday evening, a business session of the Synod was held at which time Rev. William S. Jerome of White Pigeon was elected as moderator of the Synod for the ensuing term, to succeed Rev. George J. Rea of Grand Rapids.

At yesterday morning's business session the stated clerk and the permanent clerk of the Synod were elected, these being Rev. William Bryant of Birmingham, as stated clerk for five years, and Rev. Willard K. Spencer of Ionia as permanent clerk for a period of five years.

Following the business session on Wednesday the report of the Synodical Home Missionary Society was given. Advance steps had been taken, according to the report, which gave a foundation for a large program looking towards the building up of the church in Michigan. The superintendent of the society is to be given several additional assistants to aid in carrying out the program outlined.

One of the features of the program which proved highly acceptable was the plan that every regular pastor shall receive at least \$1,200 and a home this coming year, and where possible this amount shall be made \$1,500 and a home.

Following the report an address was given the Synod by Dr. John McDowell of New York, who for five years was a member of the Michigan Synod, when he had a pastorate in Detroit.

The report of the Foreign Missionary society was given by Mrs. J. K. Mitchell of Detroit and was followed by an address by Dr. George H. Trull of New York City, the able secretary of the Foreign Missionary Society.

Last evening the members of the Synod were entertained at a dinner at Wright Hall, which was followed by the celebration of Founders' Day in the Alma College chapel.

Rev. James Barkley of Detroit, chairman of the board of trustees, presided at the meeting and following the invocation called upon President H. M. Crooks, who gave a short sketch of the founding of Alma college, which had its beginning in the sermon of Ambrose Dunkle of Bay City, which opened up the heart of Alexander Folsom, a Bay City lumbriger, who contributed \$50,000 towards the foundation of a college; the action of the Synod of Michigan at its meeting in Grand Rapids in 1886; and the first gift of the late Ammi W. Wright for the Presbyterian college, the grounds and two buildings in Alma.

The Hon. Gerrit J. Diekema of Holland, the principal speaker of the evening was then introduced, and gave one of the most glowing tributes to the small Christian colleges that has ever been heard in Alma. It held the close attention of the entire audience which packed the chapel, and time and again as he pounded home his points he was greeted with rounds of applause from the appreciative college people and members of the Synod, who heard him.

The two strongest points which were brought out in the address in the favor of the smaller sectarian institutions were character building and the Christianizing influence which they have.

In bringing his address to a close Mr. Diekema made a wonderful plea for a continued support of the college, that the dream of its founders might be continued and its great work of character building and its Christianizing influence might be spread still more, and make of us a better people.

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