

THE ALMA RECORD.

VOL. XLII. NO. 32

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 6, 1919.

WHOLE NUMBER 2120

Million Dollar Building Company Launched

Fund of Up to One Million Dollars to be Provided As Needed for Construction of Homes in This City.

A THOUSAND DOLLAR CLUB

Enterprise Being Started to Furnish Alma With Homes That Are Needed.

Alma's long felt need, and at the present time its most pressing demand—more homes for home seekers—seems about to be realized, as it is certain that as it is needed there will be a million dollars available for home building in this city.

The new enterprise, which will be known as The Thousand Dollar Club, will have plenty of finances to take care of the great demand which there is in Alma at the present time for homes, and promises to have the funds which will be needed for this work in the years which are ahead for the city, full in promise of a fine growth for the community if it will prepare the way by the construction of homes. It has the promise of being the link that Alma needs, to keep the city in the ranks of the progressive communities of the state, as only by the building of needed homes can a community hope to thrive, to enlarge, and to enrich itself, and by so doing make itself so attractive that industrial institutions will seek locations here, and thus serve to still further enrich the citizens and its residents.

It is an established fact that few enterprises of an industrial nature will seek to put their factories and plants in communities which do not have facilities to take care of workers, and this means just one thing, that being homes in which workers may live in comfort.

The need for homes in Alma has been apparent to the most casual observer for some few years past, and this need has continued to grow, until it has become the most serious problem that Alma is facing today. At the present time Alma is unable to take care of all of its people in the way that should be done. Many are forced to exist in "light housekeeping rooms," devoid of the comforts and the conveniences that people have every reason to expect in a thriving well-to-do industrial community.

Individual effort has been put forth in the home building proposition, but it has failed to give the needed relief, and during the past three or four years Alma has been falling behind the growth that it should and would have enjoyed had it been able to provide houses for those who have sought to locate here.

At the present time the outlook is more serious than ever. New industries are about to start here, which will demand their hundreds of workers, and Alma has not the houses in which to put them. It creates a condition that must speedily be solved and which must be solved by Alma and Alma alone, as funds for this purpose from other places are out of the question as every industrial community of Michigan is finding just such a building problem on its own hands.

The present plan to provide a million dollars for homes in Alma is the result of some months of work on the part of a committee which was selected by the Board of Trade for this purpose. A plan has been evolved which will furnish the needed money through The Thousand Dollar Club, the details of which are expected to be ready for publication next week, at which time memberships in the club can be had.

That it will require co-operation on the part of Alma people to make the building program a success is certain, but it is understood that practically everyone will be able to join the club, derive the benefit that is to be secured, and yet aid Alma greatly by making it possible for the city to supply the houses which are so badly needed.

PARENT-TEACHERS CLUB

The new Parent-Teachers club of East Alma will give a program Friday evening at 7:30 in the Republic school. Dr. Randels and Miss Conyne of Alma college will speak. The 5th and 6th grades of the school will give a folk dance and the 1st grade pupils will sing. Refreshments will be served. All parents and friends in the community are asked to attend this event. The teachers are anxious to get in touch with the parents of the children. This will help forward the task of making loyal citizens.

WILLIAM HOWE DEAD

Word received from Seattle, Washington, is to the effect that William Howe, former Alma resident, died in that city on Thursday, October 30, of Bright's disease. Howe, who had lived in Alma for years, and was a graduate of Alma high school and of Alma College went west about eight years ago.

LIBERTY DAY PROCLAMATION

By THE GOVERNOR

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The eleventh day of November next will be the first anniversary of the signing of the armistice in the Great War, and, inasmuch as the Michigan Legislature in the session of 1919 passed an act making it the duty of school officers and teachers to have the schools under their charge observe said day with appropriate commemorative exercises, it seems fitting that the day should not be allowed to pass without attention being called to its significance.

Therefore, I, Albert E. Sleeper, Governor of the State of Michigan, do issue this my proclamation and hereby request a proper and appropriate observance, on the part of the people of this State, of the

Eleventh day of November, 1919.

I further request that this proclamation be read in all the schools of the State.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, and of the Commonwealth the eighty-third.

By the Governor:

COLEMAN C. VAUGHN,

Secretary of State.

ALBERT E. SLEEPER,

Governor.

AFTER BUSINESS

Magnetic Mineral Springs Investment Company Seeking Business Here.

The recently formed \$250,000 Magnetic Mineral Springs Investment company of St. Louis, is now ready for business and is seeking a share of that which is to be had in Alma, according to Mr. F. D. Walker, representative of the company, who was here Monday.

He stated that while the company was located in St. Louis and had St. Louis men for its officers and directors, it wanted business here, as a good field was offered in Alma for the company.

An advertisement of the Magnetic Mineral Springs company appears in this issue of The Record.

COAL SHORTAGE IS IMMINENT IN ALMA

Nearly All Dealers of the City Are Reporting That Their Stocks Are Depleted.

Alma apparently is about to face a coal famine just as serious, if not more serious than the one that hit the country during the first winter of the war, as there is practically no available coal in the city at the present time, four of the five Alma dealers reporting Tuesday that they were not taking any more orders.

The coal strike caught most of the Alma dealers without coal, although some of them had coal on the way. This was taken by the railroads under direction of the government, and left them with only that which they had on hand, most of which had already been sold.

When the strike became a reality numerous orders for coal naturally were entered with the firms, and while in most cases the orders were filled to a load or a ton, the supply on hand quickly became sold, or so near to being entirely sold that it was out of the question for the dealers to take further orders, except in cases of emergency.

Tuesday noon the Home Lumber & Fuel company reported that it had stopped taking orders, as those on hand would practically consume the coal that the company had. It was also stated that the company had been limiting the amount of coal sold to one load to the family.

The Michigan Fuel company when called by telephone stated that it had ceased taking orders for coal in the morning as its supply was practically all sold.

The Little Rock Coal company had about exhausted its supply and was limiting sales to a few emergency orders.

P. M. Smith stated over the telephone that it could be stated that his supply was exhausted, as it would be when orders on hand were filled.

Only the Alma Elevator had coal on hand at noon Tuesday, and was still taking orders, but it was certain that this would not last a great while with the other dealers reporting their stocks practically exhausted.

The Ithaca Board of Trade will give a big booster banquet at the armory there Friday evening in the interests of the proposed Michigan Northern Railroad, at which time it is expected that all of the officers and most of the directors of the proposed rail link through central Michigan will be present.

The Presbyterian ladies will hold a rummage sale Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 13, 14 and 15, at the Edson-Moore building on State street.—adv.

IS NOW SEEKING TO INCORPORATE

Officials of Proposed Michigan Northern Asked Authorization of Commission.

HEARING IS NOVEMBER 10

Petition Submitted Sets Forth the Route of Road, Stock that is Subscribed, Etc.

On Wednesday, October 29, the officers of the proposed Michigan Northern Railroad company filed an application with the Michigan Public Utilities Commission, asking that the commission authorize the incorporation of a company known as the Michigan Northern Railroad Company.

In the petition they ask for permission to file articles of incorporation with the secretary of state, organizing the railroad with a capital stock of \$3,000,000, to be divided into 30,000 shares having a par value of \$100.00 per share. It is set forth in the petition that 3,210 shares of the stock have been subscribed, with \$16,950 paid in cash.

The capital stock of the company is to be divided into common and preferred stock, \$600,000.00 being common stock.

The towns and cities to be connected by the railroad are Bay City, West Bay City, Bangor, Coryell, Auburn, Fisherville, Plajoles, Midland, Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, Coe, St. Louis, Alma, Ithaca, Perrinton, Middleton, Maple Rapids, Fowler, Westphalia, Portland, Sebawa, Sunfield, Woodbury, Woodland, Coates Grove, Hastings, Scholtz, Cloverdale, Delton, Milo, Cressy, Richard Junction, East Cooper, Kalamazoo, and also from Sunfield through Mulliken, Grand Ledge, Lansing, Dewitt, St. Johns and Maple Rapids.

It is set forth that the officers of the company are president, Clinton Nelson; vice president, Charles F. Warden; secretary, Charles A. Hervey; comptroller, William D. Patervey; treasurer, Isaac Hewitt. The directors are Clinton Nelson of Alma, Charles F. Warden of Worcester, Mass., Frank L. Dodge, John B. Spitzley of Westphalia, D. H. Beckwith of Perrinton and Charles A. Hervey of Lansing.

The utilities commission has set Monday, morning, November 10, 1919 as the time at which the application for the incorporation of the company will be heard. The hearing will be held in the House of Representatives in Lansing.

THOSE SIX QUESTIONS OF MR. DUFFEY'S

A copy of a letter sent by Rev. M. W. Duffey of the Methodist church to many men in Alma and over the state and to men of National prominence, appeared in The Record last week. This letter sought answers to questions regarding the church: Why more men in Alma did not attend, what they thought a minister ought to preach, etc. Some most interesting replies have been received from men in many walks of life, representing various ideas of the church and the ministry.

These will form the basis of a series of Sunday evening addresses to be delivered by Rev. Duffey, the first of which will be given next Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock. The non-church-going as well as the church-going public will be interested in these addresses.

CASES SETTLED

Grand Rapids papers this past week mentioned the settlement of cases brought by E. L. Wellman against William G. Griffin, and by Griffin against Wellman. Griffin, a former resident of this city, was sued for fraud on a capias by Wellman. Thereupon Griffin sued Wellman for false arrest.

The trial of the first of the cases started in the courts there last Tuesday, and before being brought to a finish Wellman settled all of the cases, which were being watched by grain men in all parts of the state. The amount paid to Griffin in settlement was not announced, but is said to have been a substantial one. Attorney J. M. Dunham, formerly of this city, handled the cases for the former Alma man.

AGED PIONEER OF CITY DIED FRIDAY

Joseph Grover, Sr., for Many Years a Resident of Alma Died After Long Illness.

Joseph Grover, Sr., one of the pioneers of this city died Saturday, at the advanced age of 82 years, the end coming after over four years of ill health.

Mr. Grover was among the early residents of Alma, having come here with his parents in 1856, at which time his father purchased considerable land in the eastern part of what is now Alma, along what is now known as Grover avenue. The tract was then a wilderness, and he aided his father during that time in carrying a farm out of the woods, but it was almost seven years before the woods had been cut away sufficiently so that the village of Alma could be seen on the west side of Pine river.

Until overtaken by ill health about four years ago he had been a constant resident of the community, and was long regarded as one of the successful farmers of this section.

He was married in 1869 to Miss Mary Ann Barnes of North Star, to which union were born several children, five sons of whom survive the father. Mrs. Grover preceded him in death in 1910. The five sons who survive are Joseph, Jr., and Fred of Alma, Charles of Lansing, William of Jefferson, Ohio, and Thomas A. of Seville township. He is survived by four brothers, Charles of Ohio, John of California and Henry and Thomas of Alma.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon from the Episcopal church. Rev. J. Frank Jackson officiating and interment was made in Riverside cemetery.

GET OPTION ON BUILDING

That Detroit interests, which are now rushing the construction of Alma's new theatre just to the west of the city hall, have plenty of confidence in the future growth of the City of Alma, is judged from the fact that they have secured an option on the John D. Spinney property on East Superior street, in which the Geneta theatre is located. It is expected that the Detroiters will close a deal for the property in the very near future.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

It is requested that all property owners, who have rubbish, which they desire to have removed, to place same in a pile at the edge of the alley, where it may be easily secured, and to leave their name and address at the city hall. The rubbish will be collected this coming week, and disposed of.

20-1-c
William E. Reynolds, City Manager.

MEET INDIANS

High Schoolers Will Meet Strong Indian Eleven of Mt. Pleasant.

On Friday afternoon the Alma high school footballers will play what is expected to be the last home game of the season, when they meet the strong Mt. Pleasant Indian aggregation on Davis field.

The Redskins are reputed to have one of the strongest of the three aggregations that are representing Mt. Pleasant, and promise to make things interesting for the locals. With Tibbetts, former Carlisle star, coaching that government school gridders, the Indians should have a well polished capable bunch of players, that will put up a great battle. The Indians have made an excellent record this year and are figuring on annexing the scalp of the Alma team.

The high schoolers did not have a game last Saturday and as a result every man on the aggregation should be in fine shape for a gruelling battle this week, and Coach Mullin believes that his youngsters can take the measure of the Indians in the coming battle. He has been giving them two or three trick plays this week, during the long hard workouts, which he believes will work for good gains on the Indians, and is counting heavily on them and the forward passing game for a victory Friday afternoon.

PURCHASES WERE MADE FOR STORE

City Officials Have Secured Large Quantity of Army Goods for Alma.

The store, which the city officials had contemplated opening this coming Monday for the sale of government foodstuffs and clothing will be delayed somewhat in being started as it is not expected that the goods, which were purchased will arrive here in less than another week.

Charles R. Murphy, mayor, and John C. Chick, city commissioner, were in Detroit Monday, making purchases of the goods in the warehouses there, where it was stored. They secured a large quantity of bacon, 2,000 pounds in strips and 1,000 pounds in cans, one hundred fifty cases of tomatoes, peas, beans and corn, and other foodstuffs, which can be sold at a very small figure. Some of the food which they desired to secure, could not be had because the Detroit Government store was out of those things the first of the week and could not promise that further stock would arrive before the goods purchased were sent to Alma.

Considerable clothing, including underwear, woolen socks, mittens, etc., was secured, as were a number of blankets, hip boots, hand towels, and other desirable goods, in which Mr. Murphy and Mr. Chick believed the people of the city could make some big savings.

Just how soon the store will open in the city hall is problematical at the present time, but it is expected that it will not be later than a week from Monday or November 17. It was expected that the goods would be shipped from Detroit this week, and that it might take several days for them to reach Alma by freight.

The city is required to sell the goods at a certain price, fixed by the government, and is prohibited from selling the goods for resale. The city is given a slight discount from the list prices for overhead expense, so that it will not lose money in selling the goods. It is equally certain that with the small margin allowed for overhead, that the city will not make any profit.

It is expected that the city officials will have advertising in next week's issue of The Record if the sale is held later than next Thursday. If it is held earlier than that handbills will announce the time of sale.

NOT AT FAULT

Cold-Pack Method of Canning Not to Blame for Detroit Deaths.

Decayed products, not the cold-pack method of canning, are responsible for the recent deaths of five people in Detroit who ate ripe olives, say scientists in the United States Department of Agriculture. They also say that if people would throw away or refuse to eat food that smells spoiled they would be insured against poisoning by the bacillus botulinus, the bug that has come into the limelight recently through its nefarious behavior. This organism when present in canned food is the cause of active decay.

It is poor economy to eat food which has begun to spoil or rot. The person who does so runs the risk of death. In every case observed of botulinus poisoning, the people who served the food knew that it had an unpleasant stench—a smell of decay or putrefaction, and it should never have been put on the table.

Ripe olives, which the Detroit health commissioner claims caused the death of five in Detroit, are not canned by the cold-pack method. The process usually employed to preserve olives is to dip them several times in lye, rinse them in fresh water and then put them in a weak brine. No heat is used and the brine is not strong enough to prevent toxin formation.

20-1-c
Best ice cream. DeLuxe.—77-1f-c

NEW THEATRE NOW STARTED

\$60,000 Will Be Used in the Construction and Equipping of Show House.

WORK NOW BEING RUSHED

Management Expects That the New Place Will Be Ready to Open February 1.

Active operations towards the construction of Alma's new theatre on East Superior street, just to the west of the city hall, started on Monday, and from now on there will be no let up, except for possible shortages of material or labor, until the new place is finished and in operation, which is expected to be about February 1, or very soon thereafter.

It is expected that the cost of the ground, the building and the equipment of the theatre will be more than \$60,000, about half of which will be expended upon the building, which will be one of the most modern up-to-the-minute show houses in the smaller cities of the state.

The theatre will be 53 feet in width and 132 feet in length and while only one story in height will be about as high as most of the two-story buildings of the city. It will be of brick construction, and will have an ornamental brick front.

The plans for the structure are the work of one of the foremost theatre architects of the country, and are very similar to those of the Majestic theatre in Detroit. The seats will gradually slope up from the orchestra pit at the front of the theatre to the back, and will extend clear to the street. This will give a seating capacity in the new structure for nearly one thousand people.

There will be a basement under a portion of the theatre, which will provide room for the heating plant, coal bunkers, etc.

The new theatre is being constructed by E. S. Murphy & Hanford of Detroit, owners of the Idlehour theatre here, and like the Idlehour, the new place will be under the management of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Miller.

BUY ICE BUSINESS

H. Miner & Son Purchase Business of Their Alma Competitor.

Through a deal consummated last Friday, the V. C. Fuller & Son ice company of this city was sold to Henry Miner & Son, and has been consolidated with the business which the latter firm has been conducting in Alma during the past few years. The business was taken over by the new owners Saturday.

Seen Saturday Verne Miner, the junior member of the firm, which secured the business of its competitor, stated that it would be the intention of the H. Miner & Son company to give Alma people a first class ice service in the future, and that every endeavor would be made to see that Alma people, who wanted ice were kept supplied constantly.

During the past summer Miner & Son have confined their attention principally to the business part of the city, doing practically no house to house delivering. The firm believes, however, that with the entire business under its control that it will be able to do away with trips that have been duplicated, to some extent at least, in the past, and in other ways cut down the overhead cost of ice delivery, and while giving Alma people the best possible service keep the costs of ice down to the lowest possible point. Mr. Miner made it clear that it was the intention of his company to operate the business in Alma at as small a profit as possible, and consistent with good service, as it was his belief that this would keep hardship again in Alma.

CHAMBERS REAPPOINTED

Acting under the law passed by the last legislature, Governor Albert E. Sleeper, the latter part of last week appointed county agents throughout the state, C. J. Chambers of Ithaca being appointed for Gratiot county. The appointments were made on the recommendation of the state board of corrections and charities, as the new law requires. The compensation has also been increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day.

FALL TAX RATE

Those who had been expecting to pay less money for tax this fall are due for a little surprise, because while the rate per thousand dollars is less this year than last, being approximately \$13.00 per thousand, the raise in valuations in Alma and Gratiot county is such that practically every property owner will play considerably more tax this year than last to the state and county.

FACULTY RECITAL

The faculty of the department of music of Alma College will give a recital in the College Chapel Wednesday evening, November 12, at 8:00 o'clock. The public is cordially invited. Admission free.

20-1-c
Best candies. DeLuxe.—77-1f-c