

Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS HERALD CO. (Incorporated.) PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS. Entered at Grand Forks, North Dakota postoffice as second-class matter. Published every morning except Monday morning and every evening except Sunday evening. All papers are continued until an explicit order to discontinue is received, and until arrears are paid. Subscribers desiring address changed must send former address as well as new one. Subscription Rates: Morning or Evening Edition, if paid in advance— One year by mail or carrier... \$4.00 Six months by mail or carrier... 2.00 If not paid in advance, per mo. 15c Morning, Evening and Sunday Editions, if paid in advance— One year by mail or carrier... \$7.00 Six months by mail or carrier... 3.50 If not paid in advance, per mo. .30 Foreign Representatives: Carpenter, Scherer Special Agency, Fifth Avenue Bldg., New York; Peoples Gas Building, Chicago. THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 14.



PURE WATER. The state university has done much valuable work in the past in bringing to the people of the state a better knowledge of the importance of uncontaminated water for domestic purposes, and some of the means by which contamination is to be prevented. It is a fact, not only in North Dakota, but everywhere, that typhoid is exceedingly prevalent at times in the rural districts. Occasionally a city has a typhoid epidemic, but as a rule this is due to some special cause which is quickly ascertained and removed. But perhaps for the very reason that the dense density of population in the country renders the sweeping epidemic less likely to occur, the causes which tend to produce typhoid in localities here and there are permitted to continue for months or years. There is an occasional case of typhoid, perhaps several; the patients die or recover, and for a time there are no more cases. The disease is not traced to its origin, and in process of time there are other cases from the same cause. A well which receives the drainage from the surface, or occasionally the contamination of a vein of water by some cause at a considerable distance may account for all the trouble, but because large numbers of people are not involved, there is no systematic investigation, and no remedying of the condition. The university is preparing to circulate information prepared and presented in a simple manner and in convenient form, and this knowledge, in the hands of large numbers of people, may be expected to do much to stay the ravages of typhoid and allied diseases. It may be worth while to offer a reminder on the subject of the use of ice in drinking water. Most of the bacteria whose presence in water make trouble for human beings are not destroyed by ordinary freezing. If a pall of contaminated water is set out to freeze, is permitted to freeze solid, and is then thawed out, it will still be found, when analyzed, to contain large numbers of active and vigorous bacteria whose experience has in no matter lessened their power for evil. Such water is about as dangerous after as before freezing. Freezing under certain circumstances does, however, provide a measure of safety. Where clear block ice is taken from an open body of water which has not frozen solid, water melted from such ice is found to be relatively free from bacteria. The bacteria have not been frozen to death, but in the process of freezing they have been excluded from the ice. They have been crowded out of the ice and into the unfrozen water. But even the use of ice, even from open bodies of water, has its dangers if the water itself is impure. Cracks form across the ice, and water trickles through and runs over the surface, to be frozen solid with it. In that case the bacteria which it contains become a part of the ice, and, after melting, of the water. Again, the lower side of the ice is always in con-

tact with the water, and some water adheres to it as it is removed. This fouls the surface of the blocks even though they themselves should be pure. About the most that can be said for ice is that if one must choose between water known to be contaminated and ice formed on the surface of the same water, the ice is a little safer. APPLICATION OF THE REFERENDUM. A remark made by Insurance Commissioner Taylor in a recent statement affords a basis for some speculation as to the real scope of our referendum law. Mr. Taylor suggests the possibility that the submission of a hail insurance amendment as passed by the last legislature, and should it be passed by the coming one, may be prevented by the use of the referendum against it. The referendum provision of the constitution is that all laws save those declared to be necessary for the preservation of the peace, public health and so forth, and passed by appropriate majorities, are subject to the referendum. On the presentation of a properly signed petition within a specified time, any law, with these exceptions, must remain dormant and be submitted to the people at the next general election for their approval or rejection. It is assumed in the statement cited that a resolution providing for the submission of a proposed amendment, being an act of the legislature, is subject to referendum in the same manner. If that is correct we would have a curious situation. Two legislatures might agree on the submission of an amendment, and the amendment, if finally passed by the coming legislature, would be voted on by the people at the 1918 election. But, if this is subject to the referendum, the mere filing of a petition against it would prevent its submission at that election, and even if a majority of the people favored it, it could not then be submitted until two years later, for while proceedings under the referendum were pending the proposition could not be certified by the secretary of state for action. It does not seem possible that the use of the referendum can extend this far. The resolution submitting an amendment to the people is not a law. It is merely an act providing in an orderly way for the declaration of the will of the people. And it would be absurd for the people to say, under the referendum, whether or not they want to vote on a subject, when they could just as readily vote on it at that time and approve or reject, as they see fit. COMPULSORY HAIL INSURANCE. Insurance Commissioner Taylor is not in favor of compulsory hail insurance, or of state insurance of any kind. The state now operates an insurance business, and has done so for some time. It has not been successful. Most people seem to prefer a private company which will insure them for a definite sum and pay that sum in case of total loss, rather than a plan like that now operated by the state in which the insured may in case of total loss receive only a fraction of the sum for which he is insured. The losses of the line companies in some years exceed their receipts in a given territory. North Dakota, for example, but unusual losses in one state may be offset by unusual profits in another, and even if the entire business of the company is conducted at a loss one year, it may recoup itself out of the profits of other years. Our state insurance business is not conducted on that basis. The premiums for the year must pay the losses for the year, or, if insufficient, the losses will be pro-rated, and only a percentage of them paid. The commissioner also points out that the progress of state insurance is likely to be much less rapid than many people suppose. It has been assumed by a good many who have spoken on the subject that the legislature which is about to convene will have the authority to frame and put into operation at once a compulsory hail insurance measure. Mr. Taylor suggests that the constitution must be amended before the property of an individual can be taxed for the insurance of another man's property, and he notes that an amendment conferring the necessary power on the legislature was proposed by the last legislature, and will be before the coming legislature for action. This, he says, must be passed at the coming session, and voted on by the people in the fall of 1918, unless it should be defeated by referendum. Should it be approved by the people, the legislature of 1919 may enact the necessary law, and the law will then be subject to the referendum and to review by the courts. But there is an alternative which Mr. Taylor does not seem to have considered. The coming legislature can pass a compulsory insurance bill, any legislature can pass any bill. Then, should some person contest the validity of the law on the ground that it is unconstitutional, it will be for the supreme court to ratify the action of the legislature, or to declare one of its acts unconstitutional. And is it conceivable that we have passed through the throes of reorganizing and reforming our supreme court only to have it declare laws unconstitutional? Perish the thought!

KRYPTOK CHRISTMAS CERTIFICATE. A Christmas Surprise for Mother's Eyes. A pair of glasses for Mother through which, without changing them, she can see to read and sew, and to look at distant objects! How she would appreciate that! Can't you just see her happy smile? KRYPTOK (pronounced Crip-tock) Glasses will give her, or any member of the family who needs double vision glasses, permanent satisfaction. KRYPTOKS do not look like old-style bifocals, but like single vision glasses. We have a simple plan by which you can give KRYPTOKS for Christmas. Come in and let us explain it. Look for the KRYPTOK Christmas Gift Certificate in our windows. Carl Hendrickson

What More Could You Want? There isn't an epidemic in any part of the United States. The Doctors tell us that the nation is healthier and the death rate lower than in any other winter in years. There hasn't been a financial epidemic during the past twelve months nor a complete crop failure anywhere this year. Bankers tell us there is more money per caput than there has been before in our history. Our birth rate has increased and there are even fewer divorces in Chicago. So what more could you want? Get out today and celebrate. Go buy what you have wanted most—or better still, buy what you know some one else has wanted for a long time. And buy a good one—whatever it is.

SEND YOUR CLOTHES BY PARCEL POST TO THE PANTORIUM. 1190 1st St. Grand Forks, N. D. DACOTAH CLEANERS AND DYERS. 607 2nd St. Grand Forks, N. D. THE MEN SHE MARRIED. A Story Unique in Its Treatment and in the Collection of Stars Who Appear in Equally Prominent Roles. Also Grand Comedy "PRINCE OF THE BEACH." 10c All Seats All Times 10c

Montana Notes

MONTANA BANKS MAKE BIG GAIN

Number Raised from Nine to \$245—Resources over \$100,000,000.

Helena, Dec. 14.—The amazing growth of Montana's banks in 21 years were set forth in an address before the commercial club by State Bank Examiner S. A. McGraw. "Twenty-one years ago," he said, "when the state examiner's department was created, there were nine banks under his supervision in the state, with total resources amounting to \$3,420,000. "On Nov. 17, 1916, there were 245 state banks with resources amounting to \$104,287,000. "On Nov. 10, 1915, the 235 state banks showed deposits amounting to \$53,616,000, and the same date the 63 national banks showed deposits of \$43,910,000, making a total of \$97,526,000. "Nov. 17, 1916, the 245 state banks showed deposits amounting to \$92,335,000 and on the same date the 75 national banks had deposits estimated at \$2,451,000, or a total of \$154,786,000. "This is a wonderful showing considering the fact that all the information I have received from the country banks show that not over 50 per cent of the grain crop has been placed on the market. "I feel more gratified over the manner in which the Montana bankers have cooperated with me in the supervision of the overdraft than any other thing that has occurred during my administration, but all the credit is not due to the superintendent of banks or the bankers for the business men surely deserve their share of credit, for so readily complying with the request of the bankers to 'cut out the overdraft.'"

Montana Wholesale Grocers to Combat High Living Cost

Helena, Dec. 14.—Ways and means to combat the high cost of living will be considered in Butte some time in February by the Montana Wholesale Grocers' association, organized here yesterday. The association, which, as well as the retailers, are operating on the smallest margin of profit in many years, and that it is hard work to make both ends meet. Amos Booth of Butte is president of the new association and F. E. Kell of Billings secretary-treasurer. An executive committee was named consisting of F. W. Thompson, Missoula; J. G. Gies, Great Falls; T. J. McDonough, Billings; Paul W. Taber, Livingston and C. E. Youden, Butte.

New Mining Company Incorporates in Mont.

Helena, Dec. 14.—Secretary of State A. M. Alderson records the incorporation of the Britannia-Butte Mining company of Butte by W. L. Creeden, H. Bruce Kromer, Wm. Frazier, J. E. Murphy, R. S. Blittz; capital \$500,000. It is not stated where the company will operate. Mr. Kromer is a former secretary of the national Democratic committee and a prominent Butte lawyer.

Woman on Trial for Murder at Missoula

Missoula, Mont., Dec. 14.—A jury was secured today in the trial of Mrs. Bessie Leigh, charged with first degree murder. Mrs. Leigh shot her sweetheart, Fred Hoffman, on October 4 while he and she were riding in the sheriff's automobile to the jail, after she had sworn out a warrant on a seduction charge. Hoffman was a former resident of Westfield, Iowa, and he and his wife were born and reared at Cadmus, Mich.

Mont. Motion Picture Exhibitors Elect

Butte, Mont., Dec. 14.—President Phil Levy and Secretary-Treasurer C. W. Eckhardt of Butte and Vice President A. Heinke of Lewistown were re-elected at last night's session of the Montana Motion Picture Exhibitors' league in this city. It was decided to object to the changes of the big producers for feature films which are forced upon all holding regular contracts. The convention will close with a banquet and show party tonight.

Food Embargo Objected to at Spokane Meeting

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 14.—Resolutions opposing an embargo on the export of foodstuffs were adopted here today at the closing session of the convention of the Washington-Idaho division of the Educational and Co-operative Union of America.

Peace Offer is Ridiculed by General O'Moore Creagh

London, Dec. 14.—General Sir O'Moore Creagh, who succeeded Lord Kitchener as commander in chief in India in 1909, ridiculed Germany's offer of peace in a statement made today. "My opinion can be expressed in a few words: 'I can only characterize this official peace offer as pure rubbish.'"

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State of North Dakota, ex rel. its Attorney General, Henry J. Lande, Relator, Plaintiff, vs. James E. Robinson, R. H. Grace, L. E. Birdzell, Chas. J. Piek, E. B. Goss and E. T. Burk, Respondents. Syllabus: (1) District judges, when called by members of the supreme court, upon reporting for duty are clothed by the constitution with all the powers of justices of the supreme court, to the same extent as though they had been regularly elected and qualified to fill such positions. (2) Certain well known canons of interpretation and construction of the constitution announced and followed. (3) Territorial enactments were by the constitution carried forward and became the law of the state of North Dakota. The constitution was adopted in view of a general statute of the Territory, Section 10, Chapter 9, of the Code of 1877, which, by its terms, fixed the date of the commencement of the terms of all state officers upon the first Monday in January, succeeding their election. (4) References in section 92 of the constitution to the tenure of office of the judges of the supreme court and their holding such offices from the first Monday in December, 1892, having reference wholly to the three judges first elected, were (5) Judges of the supreme court are state officers, and all the members thereof, save the first three, begin their terms of office on the first Monday in January following their election.

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Mandan, N. D., Dec. 14.—It was in the Morton county district court, O. Breedlove, colored, was on trial for selling liquor, and an unwilling witness was on the stand, with the attorney attempting to bring forth the story of Breedlove's supposed law-breaking. "What did Breedlove do?" was asked. "He played the fiddle," responded the witness. "Then what did he do?" questioned counsel. "He rested," was the come back. "And when he got through resting, what did he do?" was asked. "He fiddled again," responded the witness.

BRIQUETTING PLANT BEING CONSTRUCTED

Scranton, N. D., Dec. 14.—Rapid progress is being made in the construction of the Scranton Briquetting company plant, backed by local business interests. It is proposed to briquet lignite coal of which there is a vast store here. Fifteen briquetting units will be in operation next fall.

Supreme Court Decisions

State of North Dakota, ex rel. its Attorney General, Henry J. Lande, Relator, Plaintiff, vs. James E. Robinson, R. H. Grace, L. E. Birdzell, Chas. J. Piek, E. B. Goss and E. T. Burk, Respondents. Syllabus: (1) District judges, when called by members of the supreme court, upon reporting for duty are clothed by the constitution with all the powers of justices of the supreme court, to the same extent as though they had been regularly elected and qualified to fill such positions. (2) Certain well known canons of interpretation and construction of the constitution announced and followed. (3) Territorial enactments were by the constitution carried forward and became the law of the state of North Dakota. The constitution was adopted in view of a general statute of the Territory, Section 10, Chapter 9, of the Code of 1877, which, by its terms, fixed the date of the commencement of the terms of all state officers upon the first Monday in January, succeeding their election. (4) References in section 92 of the constitution to the tenure of office of the judges of the supreme court and their holding such offices from the first Monday in December, 1892, having reference wholly to the three judges first elected, were (5) Judges of the supreme court are state officers, and all the members thereof, save the first three, begin their terms of office on the first Monday in January following their election.

PRO-GERMAN NOVEL WRITTEN IN STATE

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 14.—"The Neutral's Portion" is the title of an interesting new novel of strongly pro-German bias, written by Peter Edwin Lorraine of Ray. This latest addition to North Dakota's native literary products has been received by Mrs. Minnie C. Badlong, secretary of the state library, who now has a place on the shelves of the state library. "The Neutral's Portion" deals with the evils of the present war, and is well written and, the librarian states, shows genuine literary talent. The volume is from the publisher of New York city. So far as known it is the author's first literary effort.

HAS EXPERIENCE WITH BIG RACCOON

Milton, N. D., Dec. 14.—While Jess Teichbold, a farmer near here, was hunting, recently he came upon a raccoon, which he shot and kept for a fight. The animal was tamed and the man went after him. His hands were badly scratched and blood poison set in later. The raccoon was the largest ever seen in the state.