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BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 12, 1911.

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STEPHENS FIGHTS IN SENATE AGAINST ODDS

Crookston Banker's First Skirmish Shows that Election Committee Intends to Be Stumbling Block.

"FOOLISH" YARN IN CITY PAPERS

Ridiculous Report Spread That "Mysterious" Methods are Being Used to Oust Saugstad.

(By F. A. Wilson)
Bemidji Pioneer Legislative Bureau
St. Paul, Jan. 12.—It doesn't look overly bright for Andrew Stephens, the Crookston banker, in his contest in the senate against John Saugstad, the county optionist who now occupies the former seat of the contesting senator.

At a meeting of the election committee of the senate in the judiciary committee room yesterday afternoon, the spirit of the elections committee was revealed for the first time and it seems to favor Saugstad and the indications are that to win their fight the friends of Senator Stephens will have to clash with their opponents on the floor of the senate.

Senator Julius E. Haycraft of Madelia, representing the thirteenth district, is chairman of the elections committee and is close to Lieutenant Governor Gordon who, of course, is an out and out county optionist. Other members of the committee are Senators Hackney of St. Paul, Carl Wallace, Minneapolis, Jas. P. Boyle, Eveleth, Cashman, Owatonna, Dale, Madison, Putnam, Blue Earth, Cook, Lake City, and Gunderson of Alexandria. All were present with the exception of Senator Gunderson.

There was a lively discussion over the proposition to have the evidence in the contest printed. This the committee refused to do on the ground that the contestants should furnish the printed evidence and run the risk of reimbursement from the state.

Because of the state wide reputation of the Crookston banker and because county option enters so largely into the affair, the Stephens contest is one of the most interesting things which has so far featured the new legislature.

The twin city papers have printed a good many foolish things about the contest, chief of which may be mentioned the yarn to the effect that Senator Stephens is hiding in St. Paul, directing his campaign from a secluded room in the St. Paul Hotel. Senator Stephens has been in St. Paul since the legislature convened but he has at no time attempted to appear "incognito." He has met his friends fearlessly and frankly and declares this to be his policy throughout the contest.

Senator Stephens has a Herculean task in unseating Senator Saugstad, first because it is extremely difficult to oust a member once he has been sworn in and, second, because of a none to friendly elections committee whose duty it is to pass upon the evidence and report its findings to the senate which must of necessity be influenced largely by the committee's decision.

"I am well satisfied with the way Speaker Dunn handled me in making his committee appointments," said Representative P. D. O'Neil. "I didn't land as chairman of any of the committees but that was only to be expected after the antagonism I have shown the Speaker and his crowd. I landed on four important committees and that is enough for me. I didn't care so much about the drainage committee as I don't expect to see much legislation along that line."

An effort is being made to revise the game laws to permit the hunting of game birds beginning with September 1, a week earlier than the present law provides. A bill to

this effect is now pending in the house.

Both houses have now settled down to the usual grind. The committees are practically all organized and good progress is being made. The first bill to pass the senate was an emergency appropriation of \$17,000 for the St. Peter hospital for the insane.

K. K. ROE RECEIVES LETTER

Mankato Mayor Writes Bemidji Alderman on Commission Plan.

Alderman K. K. Roe of the city council has received the following letter from Mayor A. G. Meyer, of Mankato, in regard to the commission form of municipal government which has been in operation in that city for some time:

Mankato, Minn., Jan. 10, 1911.
Mr. K. K. Roe,

Bemidji, Minn.

Dear Sir:—

The commission form of government is an improvement over the old form; I have been alderman and mayor under the old form and I know that this is way ahead of the other form. The business is more direct, and more like the business of a corporation or like bank directors. We have a mayor and four commissioners. I will mail you a charter so you may see from that how they are divided.

Yours truly,
A. G. MEYER.

Mr. Roe has received the charter and all who are interested in the plan may look over it at any time, by securing it from him.

THREE TOTS DIE IN BURNING HOME

Minneapolis Children Lose Lives in Blaze.

MOTHER BADLY INJURED

Fights Frantically to Rush Into the Flames in Attempt to Rescue Her Babies—Combined Efforts of Several Persons Necessary to Save Her From Meeting Same Fate as Her Offspring.

Minneapolis, Jan. 12.—Three babies, Gladys Rooth, four years old; Andrew Rooth, two years old, and Evelyn Rooth, one year old, left alone in their home, were burned to death. Their home was destroyed and their charred bodies were found in the smouldering ruins beside the body of their pet dog.

Mrs. Rooth went to the house of a neighbor, Mrs. Jean Coudroy, on an errand and, looking from a window, saw smoke and flames leaping from her home.

Rushing back through the snow bank she burst through the rear door only to be felled by a flash of flame.

A second attack in a frenzied attempt to reach her children was likewise repulsed and when Mrs. Charles L. Dean, another neighbor, attempted to prevent Mrs. Rooth's rush to certain death into her home, which by that time was a seething furnace, Mrs. Rooth turned on her and fought desperately.

Seems to Lose Her Mind.

Throwing Mrs. Dean into the snow Mrs. Rooth seemed to lose her mind and, screaming at the top of her voice, she stood knee deep in the snow bank and tore great bunches of hair from her head. Finally the combined efforts of neighbors forced her into Mrs. Dean's home, where she was temporarily cared for and later removed to the city hospital.

Meanwhile Dan E. Richter, attorney, and a laborer named Anderson, both of whom happened to pass, broke in the front window and attempted to enter, but were driven back by flames, barely escaping injury.

The bodies of Gladys and Andrew were found on the south side of the house, while that of the baby, with the dog beside her, were on the north side next the window. Gladys' body was lying over that of her little brother and it is thought that when the fire started Gladys carried the baby sister to the window away from the flame and was returning for her brother when she was suffocated. The building was a frame structure.

STODDARD FAILS TO SECURE FREEDOM

State Board of Pardons Asked to Annul or Commute His Sentence, Can Renew Request.

OTHER APPLICATIONS REFUSED

Itasca County Murderer Must Remain in Prison—Martin O'Malley to Die on Gallows.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 12.—(Daily Pioneer Special Service.)—Justin Stoddard, sentenced to the Minnesota state prison at Stillwater, from Beltrami county on a statutory charge, Sept. 23, 1908, for a term of 20 years, has failed in his effort to secure freedom.

Stoddard made formal application to the state board of pardons to commute or annul his sentence but there were so many applications ahead that Stoddard's case was given but little attention and no definite action was taken. Stoddard can renew his request but favorable action on his case does not appear to be the intention of the board of pardons.

George J. Ferguson, sentenced from Itasca county, June 19, 1899, to the state prison for life, on a charge of murder in the first degree, also made an unsuccessful attempt to procure clemency at the hands of the state pardoning board.

The board also turned a deaf ear to the dramatic entreaties on behalf of Martin O'Malley, the Le Sueur county murderer, who is under sentence of death and the final decision of the only persons between him and the gallows was that he must die.

O'Malley was convicted on the charge of murder in the first degree on October 9, 1910. It developed at the hearing that O'Malley and his wife are unable to converse in the same language, he being a Bohemian unable to speak English, and she speaking English and not Bohemian. The woman was a widow with two children while O'Malley was a widower with seven children.

It now remains for Governor Eberhart to designate the day on which the man is to be hanged.

In the case of Martin Ellison, serving a 25 year sentence on the charge of highway robbery, the board of pardons yielded to the pathetic plea of Mildred, the 20 year old wife of Ellison, and commuted the sentence to ten years. Ellison was convicted in Minneapolis in 1906 at the time that city was experiencing the terrors of a carnival of crime and the severe sentence was imposed as a warning to other highwaymen.

The board of pardons denied 18 applications for clemency. With the exception of the two cases noted above, there was none from the northern part of the state.

FEDERAL LAND SUITS FILED

Action Taken to Recover Property for Indians.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Announcement was made at the department of justice of the filing of nearly 700 bills in equity in the United States circuit court for the district of Minnesota to recover several thousand acres of valuable timber in the White Earth reservation.

According to the statement issued at the department white speculators have attempted to deprive the Indians of this land and while some of the land is actually in possession of persons who have no legal right to it the officials are hopeful of being able to recover for the Chippewas in every case.

SENATOR HUGHES IS DEAD

Colorado Member of Upper House Expires at Denver.

Denver, Jan. 12.—Charles J. Hughes, Jr., United States senator from Colorado, is dead at his home here after an illness extending over several months.

Death is believed to have resulted from paralysis. The senator had been ailing for two years, but his real breakdown came at the "chuck dinner" given by the Denver Press club to Colonel Roosevelt here last August.

A PLACE WHERE THE TARIFF BOARD WOULD BE USEFUL.



—Bartholomew in Minneapolis Journal.

MORE COUNTY FAIR MONEY

State Federation Will Ask Legislature to Double Appropriation.

The Federated County Fairs of the State of Minnesota will urge the Legislature at least to double the appropriation for county fairs, which at present is \$34,000, said sum not to exceed the amount paid for premiums.

A resolution to this effect was unanimously adopted at the third annual meeting of the federation at the Merchants hotel in St. Paul recently. It also was decided that a uniform classification of all exhibits be adopted by the different counties.

The federation will recommend a law to be passed limiting the membership of the state agricultural society to representatives of only such societies as are recognized as strictly county agricultural societies.

The question of encouraging boys and girls to exert their influence in making the county fair a success was discussed. In several counties, according to delegates, prizes are offered for essays written by children on subjects dealing with industrial life.

That the amusement end of the county fair is essential also was the sense of the meeting.

J. J. Furlong of Austin was re-elected president; E. E. Miller, St. Paul, was elected vice president; John H. Brown of Tyler and Thomas R. Johnston of St. Paul were elected secretary and treasurer. As directors E. H. Smith of Austin was chosen from the first congressional district, John Timpane of Waterville from the third, C. B. Wadell, St. Louis Park, the fifth; S. Hutchins, Glenwood, the seventh, and A. D. Stephens of Crookston from the ninth. Directors from the other districts hold office for another year.

W. R. MacKenzie represented Beltrami county at the meeting.

JUDGE DISCHARGES THOMAS

Man Given Freedom and was Promptly Rearrested.

James Thomas, the lumber-jack, who was arrested last Monday on a charge of securing money under false pretenses, was granted a release yesterday before Court Commissioner H. A. Simons.

The moment Thomas stepped out of the office of Judge Simons he was met by a deputy sheriff from Fergus Falls, who had a warrant for his arrest, on the same charge as the one on which he was arrested on here Monday.

It appears that Thomas has been in the habit of sending drafts of the "nothing doing" kind to the banks at Fergus Falls.

COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Wherever one may mention the commission form of government in Duluth, he hears much favorable comment and little that is unfavorable. Some Duluth men—in fact the majority of those who have been approached on the subject—have only hazy knowledge of the details of the plan. They have not made a study of the variations used in the different cities and the results attained in each.

On one point, there is little difference of opinion. The commission form of government is right fundamentally and it would be the proper thing to adopt say all. It is scientific government, and if properly applied with the distinctive conditions and needs of each city in mind, it cannot but be successful and an improvement on the old wardline, partisan style of government.

Knowing the needs and conditions in Duluth and feeling assured that the commission form of government is right fundamentally, business men have no hesitancy in asserting that the charter commission should begin immediately a thorough investigation of the subject. They agree that the charters and the results in all cities having the commission form should be studied with a view to getting the details which might best be applied to Duluth under conditions here.

The feeling is growing all over the country that a municipal corporation is just as much of a business enterprise as a private corporation. The property owners are the stockholders and the council is the board of directors, with the mayor as president. They hold that there is no more reason for government of a municipal corporation by political parties than there is for similar practice in a private corporation. They hold that there is no more reason for the removal of a municipal corporation for political purposes than there would be for similar action in a private corporation. The feeling is growing that business methods have too long been kept out of the administration of municipal government and the commission form of government is a remedy.—Duluth Herald.

A. O. U. W. Hold Installation.
At a joint installation of the A. O. U. W. and D. of H. lodges held recently the officers for the ensuing year were put in office. The Grand Chief of Honor Mrs. Duffy, conducted the ceremonies for the D. of H. and Clayton Winter installed the Workmen. About eighteen members from Cass Lake were present. An oyster supper followed the installation.

Town of Taylor Man Arrested.
Constable John Gravin, of Tenstrike, arrived in Bemidji this morning with Dan Robinson of the Town of Taylor in custody. Robinson was arrested on a charge of obstructing a public highway. It is said that Robinson has even gone so far as to be dangerous in his method of keeping the highway free from travelers.

Nymore Hotel Burned.
Fire which totally destroyed the Krog Hotel at Nymore occurred Tuesday night. The cause of the fire is unknown. A small amount of furniture was saved from the ground floor of the building, but the property in the upper story was a total loss. The fire department at no time had control of the conflagration.

SALOONS DOING BUSINESS

All Liquor Houses Which Have Goods and License Open.

All of the Bemidji saloons which have liquor on hand and those which have either received new licenses or have licenses which have not yet run out, are back at their old stands and doing business.

A Duluth brewery shipment of beer arrived in the city this morning. It is said by a number of saloon men that they have at the very least lost not less than \$35 a day, since the closing of northern Minnesota saloons was begun by "Pussyfoot" Johnson and his agents.

From present indications it is very evident that there are some saloon men in the district which was affected by the closing law who will sue the government for the amount to which they believe their liquor to have been worth which was destroyed by the agents.

TOWN OF AITKIN IN DANGER

Water Supply is Nearly Exhausted, and Users are Cautioned.

In its last issue the Aitkin Age sounds a note of warning to the people of that city and says that "the city water supply is in serious danger of being exhausted. Mud river, from which the pumping reservoir is supplied, is for the first time in all the years it has been used, showing signs of going dry as a result of the small flow of water and the freezing of the stream to the bottom in some places.

"The council has sent men up the stream to try and keep the channel open and requests the press to give the users warning not to use a particle more water than is absolutely necessary. The N. P. road has been notified not to pump any more water from the reservoir and those who have other water sources for watering stock and for other purposes are urged to use them and relieve the city supply.

"The new artisan well is flowing into the reservoir, but the pipe is very small and the supply is almost nothing compared with the demands."

BEMIDJI MILITIA IN GOOD STANDING

Inspecting Officer Pratt Well Pleased With Showing Made By Company K.

GUARDSMEN WILL RECEIVE PAY

Some Property Lost—Preparations Being Made For July Civic Celebration.

At the inspection of Company K, the Bemidji company of Minnesota National Guard, held last evening in the Armory, the affairs of the company were found to be in fairly good condition.

The inspection was conducted by Albert Pratt, major of the third regiment of the guard, and Captain Hatcher, military store keeper.

Captain Hatcher examined the property of the company and found that it was in good condition, although there were several articles missing.

There is a clause in the "Laws and Regulations of the Minnesota National Guard" which reads as follows:

"Whenever information is received that animals or other property belonging to the military service of the state are unlawfully in the possession of any person not in the military service, the quartermaster, or other proper officer, will promptly cause proceedings to be instituted and diligently prosecuted before the civil authorities for the recovery of the property, and, if the same has been stolen, for the arrest, trial, conviction, and due punishment of the offender and his accomplices."

It is therefore urged that if there are any people in Bemidji who have property in their possession belonging to company K to return same at once.

As the matter now stands the company commander, Adam E. Otto, together with his officers, are held responsible for all lost articles.

Major Pratt after inspecting the company said that the company was about on an equal footing with the other companies of the state militia.

It was made known last evening that it is very likely that after the first of July, this year, that all enlisted men in the national guard will be paid a salary. It will be a certain per cent of the salary paid the regular army men, and will amount to from \$5 to \$50 a month. This will be done to cause more interest in the National Guard of the United States.

Major Pratt also explained to Captain Otto about the Civic Celebration, which is to be held in Minneapolis in July. The major said that all of the state militia of Minnesota would be in attendance, including the artillery. The program for the opening day of the celebration has not been arranged for as yet but this much is known, that during the morning a parade will be held in which the militia will take part. During the afternoon competitive drills will be had and the three companies to win the highest honors are to receive prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200. The expense of the company will be paid by the city of Minneapolis during the celebration.

It is thought that the annual encampment of company K will be held immediately after the Civic celebration, at either Lake City or somewhere between Brainerd and the Twin Cities.

The annual government inspection will be held in March.

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