

EMMONS COUNTY RECORD

Linton, - - North Dakota.
BY F. B. STREETER,
"PIONEER PAPER OF THE COUNTY"

The Record is entered at Linton Postoffice as second-class matter

The columns of the daily press are filled these days with reports of the administration program for enlarging our army and navy. The plans are on a most extensive scale and have the backing of Pres. Woodrow Wilson and the members of his cabinet. The terrible war now raging in Europe has brought home to the people of this nation the folly of depending on treaties or other peace pacts, also the folly of depending on unorganized patriotism to provide adequate means of support. In the first place, it is a long and tedious business to prepare a navy amply large to care for our thousands of miles of coast line. And a war of any magnitude would find this nation napping in the way of army preparations.

In an army several things are necessary which cannot be supplied after the war-clouds have darkened the horizon. Military training is necessary and today there is not one per cent of the fighting population of a nation that knew even the first rudiments of military tactics. During the Civil War incidents gave rise to a noted story of fiction relative to an imaginary character, "Si Klegg." Klegg is pictured as a raw recruit and one of his pet tricks was to go marching bodily to the right when his company had received the opposite command. It takes time to train soldiers and time is precious when there is a war on. Then, another thing that this nation requires is an ample reserve supply of ammunition. We see what a terrible frenzy to secure munitions of war from American factories have seized the European powers. They suddenly precipitated into a fight for their very existence only to find that their military supplies were unequal to the occasion. This condition resulted in disaster for the Russian arms that came near to bringing defeat. Even the great English nation was hindered from pushing the fight on the same account. All these things need close attention.

A million men without proper training and ample equipment are no match for a tenth of their number where the latter are seasoned troops with plenty of war material. With the steady development of ocean-going vessels it has finally come to pass that the Atlantic or Pacific is but a mere stream in the way of protection. In the days of old each castle was the owner's stronghold and was protected by an artificial stream of water surrounding it. Such a thing would be a joke in this day. Just as rapidly is the great seas on our east and on our west losing their protective power.

Assuming that one of the strong military powers of Europe should be

decisively successful in this great conflict we can readily believe that in a relatively short time they might find cause to attempt to bring this nation to its knees. Preparations on a large scale could be undertaken and an attacking fleet with a large convoy of troops might gain a foothold on our territory before we could organize to prevent their intrusion. This fact is vouched for by many army and navy men who have studied the matter deeply and know whereof they speak.

It has been often remarked that there was little danger of any more great conflicts between first-rate nations because of the awful cost in men and money. The present European situation has given the lie to any such theory.

The American people are peace-loving by nature. Yet they believe in being ready to fight and protect their homes if need be and they cannot relish the idea of being at the mercy of some unscrupulous military power that might choose to make trouble. We have watched the fate of China, a nation larger than this population. We want no such condition at home.

It is most unusual to find such a military program emanating from democratic sources. But, no matter whence the source, the subject is one that should have the hearty co-operation and support of the entire citizenship. We are entitled to command respect from all nations of the world. And many of them, as events have shown, respect nothing but ample power to enforce such respect.

Saturday of last week Gov. Hanna dismissed the Lynn removal proceedings without a line of testimony having ever been taken. The grounds for dismissal were purely of a technical nature and the result of a ball-up by the state authorities. That such a ball-up was intentional it is impossible for any one to say. State officials are prone to err just as any others and they may have been honestly mistaken in their procedure.

However, the Bismarck Tribune, in reporting the matter seems to show a hand that would cause Emons county people to be anything but satisfied with the manner in which the case was conducted. The hearty manner in which that much cussed and discussed daily handled the dismissal, taken in connection with the gentle, refined, unobtrusive manner that they announced the original action easily shows that there was "a nigger in the woodpile" so far as the Tribune was concerned. That newspaper goes so far as to state that there were no grounds whatever for starting the action and that it was all the result of meddling by F. L. Watkins, of the state enforcement league. To the uninitiated it would appear that the Tribune was much more concerned with finding a chance to take a slap at Watkins than in honestly reporting the proceedings. It goes on to state that Watkins will likely take another tack and will "scurry the county" to find five

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qualified petitioners in order to begin the action anew. For the benefit of the Tribune and the public generally the Record will state that Mr. Watkins will have to do little "scurrying" to find the necessary five petitioners and will go farther and state that the Tribune is most absolutely and unqualifiedly "talking through its hat" when it advances the statement that there was absolutely no grounds for removal proceedings and that it was only an attempt to embarrass Mr. Lynn.

The Record is perhaps just as familiar with this case, or a little bit more so, than the Tribune. The Record is in possession of sufficient information in connection with the whole case to convince it that not necessarily Mr. Watkins, but other state officials, are in a position where it is "up to them" to straighten out their mix-up.

Last week the supreme court passed upon the case from Bowman county wherein one Edward P. Totten advertised before election that he would refund to the county all money in excess of fifteen hundred dollars should he be elected county judge.

Totten was elected and Frisby E. Diehl, his opponent, refused, to turn over the office to him on the grounds that Totten had violated the corrupt-practice act. The case was heard before Judge Hanley, sitting for Judge Crawford. Totten lost one and appealed to the supreme court. The body sustained the finding of the lower court.

In holding for Diehl the courts held that Totten's proposition was in reality a bribe of the voters as the law provided that the salary of the county judge should be eighteen hundred dollars. Totten was in reality paying the people of the county collectively three hundred dollars per year for the office as a sort of commission.

The courts held that this sort of thing would result in candidates bidding for the positions which they desired and the rich men could well underbid the poorer candidates and thus only the rich would be enabled to secure public office.

In view of the fact that the present primary law has resulted in giving the rich candidate a decided advantage over the poor one, it is most fortunate for the people of the state that the courts have held as above. The present primary law makes it possible for any sort of a candidate to make strong headway politically where he is financially able to carry on a sufficient campaign of publicity. This is because the rank and file of the voters of cause know none of the candidates for state office personally and will vote for such names as appear familiar to them when they glance over the mass of names on the ballot.

About the next move that can be expected on the part of the ever-ready candidate for political preferment will be petitions to the legislature to dish out names that will take well with certain classes of the voting public. For instance, a man with a Scandinavian name is quite certain to carry the Valley territory strong. In some states it is the Irish vote, in others the German vote. Hence, in this particular state it may not be long before we will see Murphys and Schmidts asking the legislature to change their names to "Murphyscn" and "Schmidtstrom."

One of the most fiendish pieces of business yet brought to light in the European war was the recent shouting of an English nurse who had spent months nursing both English and German wounded. The nurse had assisted countrymen to get out of Belgium and it was this technical charge that caused her death. Even the leading Germans of this nation are indignant at such barbarity and Herman Ridder, the leading German editor of New York, has denounced the action in no uncertain manner. No other event of the war has done so much to stimulate recruiting in England. It is no wonder that most of the people of the entire world shiver at the thought of German dominance at the end of this war.

In view of the late developments in connection with the attempt to get some action out of the local state's attorney in enforcing the laws of this state or to get some one else who would, it appears about time that the people of this county were perfecting some sort of organization that will care for their interests and that will be powerful

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enough to prevail upon public officials to do their sworn duty, irrespective of the effect that it may have on their political lease of life.

There are plenty of taxpayers in this county that desire something akin to honesty and straightforwardness in public office. That their rightful demands are not always complied with is due to the fact that the individual voter and taxpayer has no organization and that professional office-holders are enabled to work their will in a more or less degree first because all their actions are not and cannot be known to the general public and second that it is expecting too much for some one individual or two, who has no particular personal interest, to shoulder the burden.

Any man that knows anything at all knows that pressure is at once brought to bear in many ways on any individual that shows signs of kicking up a ruction where conditions are not right.

This county needs an organization of citizens whose interest will be to see that public officials follow the straight and narrow path, whether it be to enforce the law, meddling in bridge matters, neglect of duty or an inclination to assume that the salary of the various positions have been earned at election time when the necessary plurality has been registered.

So far as the management of the Record is concerned there is every inclination to do its share as an individual unit in the local government. It is the function of a newspaper to call public attention to matters that seem to need the same. It is not proper, however, that any one individual should be called upon to shoulder undue responsibility. There is always an inclination on the part of many to sit quietly by and see accomplished those things which are to be desired.

It is generally believed that only the fear of Lynn's removal has held down the blind-pigging element for the past few months and it is just as generally believed that conditions will be worse than ever just as soon as that element believes all danger past. It is time that all right-thinking men of the county got their heads together. A non-partisan, non-political organization composed of all law-abiding citizens of the county is needed. With honest, efficient officials to direct the energies of such an organization it would require only weeks to show an improvement.

In addition to the blind-pig matters which have been generally discussed by the Record this year, there are some other important affairs which are to have an airing in the next few months.

The Record will be glad to lend its columns to furthering any plan which will appear to give promise of improved conditions. Letters will be considered confidential and will be used only to secure ideas along this line. It is up to the people of the county. While it does not necessarily follow that some county officials cannot be made to do their duty under present conditions, the matter can be handled much easier by a definite organization. So wake up.

Carranza is IT now, the United States and other world nations having recognized him as president of Mexico. It ought to be a few months at least now before our blue-jackets will have to seize Vera Cruz to get rid of the latest Mexican president.

Ft. Yates Facts

Sioux County Pioneer, Oct. 22.
Wm. Pagel, of Linton, the Standard oil agent, distributed a tank of oil among the stores Tuesday.

J. A. Stiles returned Tuesday from Big Sandy, Montana, with a shipment of 800 calves for his ranch which were unloaded at Chadwick.

E. Jarvis, foreman in charge of Sid Parkin's ranch across the river in Emons county, was in town Friday on his way to Chadwick to see Sid who is on his ranch there.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hart were in the city from their farm near Winona Monday. Mr. Hart came over to see the Agency doctor to have a barley beard removed from one of

SEE CALIFORNIA'S EXPOSITIONS IN OCTOBER

This will be farmers' month at the San Francisco Exposition, and agriculturalists and stockmen of the nation will meet to view the products of efficient husbandry. Live stock exhibits, horse shows, cattle parades, and other events of importance will be held. Nearly a half a million dollars will be awarded in premiums. Plan now to see the great California Expositions—enjoy your trip—

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his eyes, but as the doctor was away he was obliged to go to Linton.

A. U. Ostrum and crew of carpenters left Sunday for Henry Azure's place in Porcupine Hills, where they will build a new barn.

The government hospital built at Fort Yates last year to take care of the Indians on the Standing Rock reservation in need of hospital treatment, will be opened this fall, according to Acting Superintendent Giegold.

Cliff Putnam was over from his home in Emons county Wednesday on business and stated that there were a number of threshing rigs working in his locality and with a few weeks of fair weather threshing would be completed.

The Standing Rock Indian Band returned Monday from Bismarck, where they furnished music during ten days of the State Exposition. The boys evidently made quite a hit, as Manager Howard says on Bankers Day he was approached by a committee of Twin City bankers, who made an offer for the services of the band during the Minnesota

State Fair next fall. No better advertisement for this section could be had than the sending of the band to the biggest annual agricultural fair in the country.

Gust Hokanson took Samuel Solmanson down to Tuttle Monday to look over a quarter of land owned by Hokanson-Turner Company. Mr. Solmanson is looking for a location for his three sons and will no doubt close a deal for this tract of land for one of the boys and have the others homestead in the same locality.

Sammel Solmanson, of Winona, was a Fort Yates visitor the first of the week and stated that only about one-fourth of the threshing in his neighborhood was done. If favorable weather does not set in soon much grain will not be threshed this fall. The farmers' elevator on the Missouri river north of Winona is practically finished and ready to receive grain.

S. C. Rhode Island Red Cockerels for sale, all of a brilliant red and sired by cockerels from prize winners owned by Wm. Rodman, of Eagle Bend, Minn. For sale by H. H. Adamson, Linton, N. D.—Adv.

FOR SALE—160 acres good land, 6 miles northeast of Hague, N. D., Emons county; 40 acres plowed, 40 fenced pasture; small house, barn, granary, \$27 per acre. Secs. 16 and 22, Township 130, Range 74, Henry Leaman, owner, 2701 15th av S., Minneapolis, Minn.

Taken-Up.
A red steer which came to my place some time in August. It is described as follows: About one year old, has red ring around right eye, rest of head white, no brand. My place is located twenty miles southwest of Linton on section 12-131-79. Owner please call, pay charges and take the animal away.
FRED OCHSNER,
Linton, N. D.

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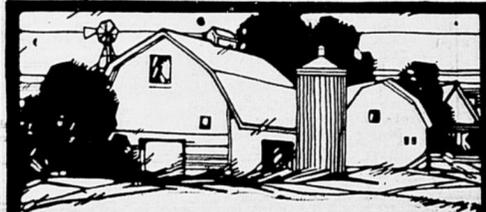
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