

# The Bowbells Tribune.

AND A CONTINUATION OF THE BURKE COUNTY BULLETIN AND THE BOWBELLS BULLETIN

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Bowbells, Burke County, North Dakota, Friday, August 5, 1921

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## FIRE COMPLETELY DESTROYS THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

The Bowbells electric light plant, owned by R. H. Schweb and Frank Luckman of this city, was totally destroyed by fire shortly before four o'clock Wednesday morning, and the city will be without light or power until new machinery can be installed and the building repaired. The total loss is estimated at over \$10,000, and was insured for \$5,000.

The exact origin of the fire will never be known, but Mr. Schweb, who was in charge of the plant that night, says it must have started from the muffler of the 25 horse International engine, that was running when the flames were first noticed. Some of the people of the city had been objecting to the noise that the exhaust of this engine was making, and in order that things be as quiet as possible after midnight Mr. Schweb fixed up a muffler which seemed to reduce the noise on the outside to almost nothing. Everything was running fine after midnight when Mr. Schweb went into his house just a few rods from the plant an hour or two before the fire was discovered. He took a bath and made preparations to drive to Scooby, Mont., to look after some business matters that required his attention. While getting ready Dr. Hiltz, who had just returned from the country where he had made a call, noticed the flames shooting through the roof of the building, and called Schweb. The interior of the building was then a mass of flames, and nothing was saved with the exception of a Chevrolet car which was standing near the front door. Mr. Schweb succeeded in pulling this out by the fender in spite of the terrific heat, and burned his hands in doing it.

The firemen were unable to do anything toward putting the fire out on account of the distillate and kerosene in the place, as well as the wood work being more or less oil soaked, so confined their efforts to keeping the flames from the surrounding buildings. There were 250 gallons of kerosene and 200 gallons of distillate, as well as a quantity of oil in the place at the time. Either the oil, the distillate or the air tank exploded after the flames had burned for a time, and

this scattered the fire to some extent, and the noise shook the whole city.

Everything in the building is a total loss with the exception of the big Muncie engine, which Mr. Schweb thinks might be rebuilt, but it now is a heap of scrap iron, and probably only the larger pieces can be used. The smaller engine is of no value except for scrap iron, as even the larger pieces are warped and twisted. The dynamo and oil tanks, as well as the air tank, and a large new stock of lamps, switches, and other new material which Mr. Schweb just shipped in, are a total loss. In addition to this a cutting car belonging to Joe Waldeen, which had been stored at the plant, went up in smoke.

The light plant was originally started about six years ago by H. C. Potter of Portal, who after operating it for a time, sold it to the Northwest Power Co. of Minneapolis, which firm intended to run a cable up here from the Kenmare plant and discard the local plant. On account of not being financially able, and on account of the high prices of material due to the war, the Northwest Power Co. gave up the idea of running a cable up from the Kenmare plant after operating here for about a year, and sold the Bowbells plant to J. H. Mohr, who conducted it for three years, during which time he made several changes in the machinery until he had things running very smoothly. Last January he sold the outfit to R. H. Schweb and Frank Luckman, who conducted it until the present time.

In talking to The Tribune a few hours after the fire, Mr. Schweb told us that it would be a matter of but a short time before he would have a new outfit running in place of the old one, and that he would be at work right now making arrangements for a new dynamo and repairs for the Muncie engine if it were not for the fact that he was waiting for the insurance adjuster. Just as soon as the adjustment of the loss is made, he says he will get busy on fixing up an engine and getting another dynamo, and that it should not take over ten days or two weeks before a temporary outfit will be doing business until a permanent one can be installed.

## WOULD CANCEL FEDERAL SEED LOANS

Washington, Aug. 2. — County agents in North Dakota will be asked by the department of agriculture to make a report on the number of farmers who were given seed aid by the government last spring and have suffered crop failure. When this information is obtained it will be turned over to Senator P. J. McCumber of North Dakota, who expects to introduce a bill in congress relieving these men of their debt to the government.

Senator McCumber conferred with Secretary of Agriculture H. C. Wallace today to see if the department can cancel the obligations of the farmers. Secretary Wallace suggested that it is a matter for congress, but he volunteered to collect information about conditions in North Dakota.

## THRESHERS AND FARMERS TO MEET

A meeting of the farmers and threshers of Burke county will be held at the court house in Bowbells on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 13, at which time a schedule of wages to be paid to men, and prices to be charged for threshing will be set. The date is rather late in the season, considering the fact that harvesting has started so early, but it is believed that all work to be done here even before the date of the meeting will be charged for at the rate set at the meeting. At the meeting of this kind held in Ward county last Saturday the prices to be charged for threshing there were reduced 20 to 30 per cent under last year, and on account of the short crop in that county it was decided to thresh by the hour again this year. The schedule agreed on is as follows: For threshing with

10 teams, two spike pitchers and cook car, \$23 an hour, deducting \$1.50 an hour per team for less than 10 teams and adding the same amount per hour for more than 10 teams. The same terms apply to spike pitchers if less than two are used. If wages for threshing are increased, threshing charges will be increased commensurately. The charges for threshing without crew range from \$5 an hour for 24 inch separator to \$10 an hour for 36 inch separator. The schedule of wages for men was 40 cents an hour for men and 20 cents per hour for teams, 45 cents an hour for spike pitchers, \$6.00 to \$8.00 per day for engineers and separator men, and cooks \$6.00. In talking with a number of the threshers in Burke county all seem to be pretty well agreed that the grain is uniform enough, and will yield well enough so that it will be safe to thresh by the bushel, and it is believed that most of the threshing here will be done on a schedule set by the hour.

## GOSECKY IS RUN OVER BY BINDER

While trying to stop six horses hitched to a binder last Tuesday forenoon Ike Gosecky of Clayton was run over by the horses and also the sickle part of the binder in such a way that he was severely cut about the hip and head, but unless complications set in he will recover. The horses were driven by one of the men employed by Mr. Gosecky and took fright at something or other, causing them to run. Mr. Gosecky ran in front of them in an endeavor to stop them, but they did not slacken their speed in the least. He was knocked down, and an instant later was run over by the sickle part of the binder which was in gear. It was a miracle that Mr. Gosecky escaped alive, or that he did not receive any more serious injuries than he did. He is a man over 50 years old, though as active as a person half his age. Had the bull wheel run over him, or even the platform wheel there is no question but that he would have been killed outright. Even the grain guards on the platform might have torn him up badly if they had hit him right. As it is Mr. Gosecky will be compelled to spend some weeks in bed during the busiest time of the season, when his time and attention are needed to look after his harvest and threshing, and he can consider himself lucky that he is alive after an ordeal of this kind.

## LARSEN MANDAMUS CASE CONCLUDED HERE SATURDAY

The taking of the testimony in the case of the State of North Dakota against former County Treasurer Lawrence Larsen and 15 bankers of the county was concluded last Saturday noon, and the attorneys will submit their argument to the court in brief form some time this week. A decision in the case might be expected either the latter part of this week, or the fore part of next week.

The preliminary hearing of Lawrence Larsen, who was arrested last week on the charge of embezzlement of county funds, has been postponed until Aug. 10, when same will be held in Bowbells before Judge John C. Lowe, as committing magistrate. The hearing was scheduled to take place immediately after the conclusion of the civil case, but Judge L. J. Falda, who is attorney for Mr. Larsen, was not ready, and asked for a continuance until the 10th. He said he had some points of law to look up, and as the civil case was taking up much of his time he wouldn't have time to give the criminal case the attention he would like to unless given more time.

Last Thursday afternoon the bankers started giving evidence, and to listen to them squirm in an endeavor to prevent any of their private dealings with Mr. Larsen from getting into the records would make an elephant weep. Klinkenberg of Portal knew absolutely nothing at all. He didn't know whether John O. Grubb was an I. V. A. or a Nonpartisan, he didn't know whether the bankers or someone else financed the contest started last fall against the county officers elected by the farmers, and in fact he didn't even know if there was a Nonpartisan organization in the county. Even when shown a copy of a letter he had written himself, he did not remember of writing it, but said he might have.

Some of the bankers would admit one thing, and others would admit another, but from the whole bunch Attorney Sinkler was able to get the evidence that he wanted. The bankers failed miserably in their attempt to show that Treasurer Jensen could pay warrants now, or at any other time since he started registering them, although they used both Commissioner Grubb and Commissioner Kirkelle on the stand for that purpose. The bankers admitted having held conferences with Mr. Larsen on several occasions when it was agreed to let the bankers have more of the county's money, and agreed to make a final cleaning the latter part of April to prevent Jensen from sending the county funds to the Bank of North Dakota. A schedule was made out distributing the county

funds among the friendly bankers, and this schedule was placed at the First National Bank of Bowbells. Most of the bankers came to Bowbells and wrote those certificates of deposit at the First National, and procured their illegal loans of county funds. Most of the bankers who could remember at all admitted that the certificates were written at the First National, and that they came to Bowbells for the purpose of writing them.

Some of the bankers explained how the garnishments of the county funds were brought about. It appears that when a banker knows that the county is about to draw on him, and it is inconvenient for him to pay, he gets into his automobile and rounds up a friendly school district or township to garnish the money temporarily so the county cannot get it. In this way the bank pays no interest on the money, and neither the county or the school district is able to get it for 30 days. After the 30 days are up, another garnishment is usually put on, but of the 20 or more garnishments put on by the townships and school districts of the county at the request of the bankers, not a single action has yet been brought. The garnishments are automatically dismissed at the end of 30 days if no action is brought, and come in handy to prevent the bankers from returning money so the county can use it to pay county warrants.

Commissioners Grubb and Kirkelle admitted that they authorized Larsen to make these illegal loans to the bankers, and if Larsen is guilty of embezzlement they are as guilty as he is. Evidence submitted also showed that they authorized Larsen to pay out county money to friendly persons on bills presented at the treasurer's office. It seems that if a person was a friend of the treasurer, all he had to do was to make out a bill for work he had done, present it to the treasurer and get his money. Larsen would carry such bill on his books as a cash item until the county board met, when the board approved his action and ordered a warrant issued to Larsen for all the money he had paid out. This is contrary to law, and is diverting county funds illegally. The county board also admitted juggling the seed and feed fund illegally, and the evidence shows that they paid very little attention to the law when the bankers wanted anything done. Some of the actions of the county board were so rank that they justify their removal from office, and we learn that action has already been started to file the necessary application with the governor asking for the removal of Mr. Grubb and Mr. Kirkelle.

## TO USE GRAY TRACTOR FOR THRESHING

Lawrence Larsen last week received his new Red River Special 28 inch separator which he will use with his Gray tractor in threshing the crop on his own place this fall, and will be ready to use the outfit just as soon as he gets all of his grain harvested. Mr. Larsen owns over a section of land just south of town, and during the past two seasons has been doing most of the work on same with a Gray tractor. This machine was not only used in plowing, but drilling, discing, packing, harvesting, and even hauling several tank loads at a time. It had been giving Mr. Larsen absolutely no trouble whatever, so he finally made up his mind to even make it do his threshing. He ordered a separator of a size that has been used most with a Gray with full satisfaction, and intends to do his own threshing in the future. The separator is probably the smallest in size in Burke county at the present time, and will by no means pounds out as much grain in a day as the larger ones will, but it will not take a very large crew to run it, and we'd be willing to bet our last dollar that Larsen gets his crop threshed long before many others are able to get a rig on their places. In case he has any large amount of success with the outfit other farmers are planning on also buying small tractors and small threshing machines later.

## CHILD FIRES GUN THAT KILLS MOTHER

Warwick, N. D., Aug. 4.—The fingers of her little son pulled the trigger and fired the gun, whose discharge instantly killed Mrs. Clyde Reeves of near Warwick. Mr. Reeves was examining a rifle, preparatory to unloading it, when his small son, unnoticed by the father busy at his task, approached, grasped and pulled the trigger. The bullet pierced the father's hand and struck the mother in the back of her head coming out at the top, and causing instant death. The dead woman was about 35 years old, and is survived by the husband and four children.

## GARNES TOWNSHIP TROUBLE SETTLED

The squabble in Garnes township in this county was settled last week out of court, and a complete settlement of all differences between the Van Berkoms and Township Clerk John McCue has been effected. The trouble started several weeks ago when the Van Berkoms put in a bill to the township for about \$1,000 for doing some road work for the township. The bill was allowed by the township board, but McCue refused to issue a warrant in payment of the bill. Later, or on July 9, McCue was arrested on the charge of failing to do his duty as a public officer, and after a hearing in Justice Randall's court here, was bound over to the district court, but he still refused to issue the warrant. This gave the Van Berkoms no relief, and they next sought to mandamus him to write the warrant. Judge John C. Lowe issued an alternative writ of mandamus the fore part of last week, and set the date for hearing at Minot on Wednesday of last week, but before such hearing was held McCue agreed to issue the warrants within fourteen days if the case would be dismissed against him.

**NOTICE FOR BIDS**  
On or before August 15th the directors of Little Butte School District No. 25 will receive sealed bids for the transportation of pupils to School House No. 3. The board reserves the right to select any or all bids.  
By order of School Board,  
MRS. PAUL KELLY, Clerk.

## BANDITS HOLD UP KENMARE MAN

Kenmare, N. D., Aug. 4.—William Callous, proprietor of the Kenmare Candy Kitchen, had an experience with tough characters which he does not care to repeat. When returning home from his store at 12:30 a. m. Saturday, two men covered him with a gun as he was about to put his car into the garage near his home. They ordered him to drive them to Norma, a town in Renville county. While on the way they advised him that they were going to rob a bank at Norma. On arriving there they blindfolded him, tied a gag in his mouth, tied his hands and feet and threw him into an empty boxcar, closing the door after him. About 4:30 a. m. Callous succeeded in freeing one hand and then the other. On removing the gag and blindfold he hammered on the door of the box car and a railroad employee set him free.

He has had no trace of his machine. Its license number was ND 959 and engine number 554393.

## COLORED LABOR IS NOT WANTED

Minot, N. D., Aug. 4.—Farmers in northwestern North Dakota may need harvest help, but they are not hiring colored men.

David John Henry Allan, Zemrose Swackhammer, born in Haiti in 1886, wearing brown shoes rolled down socks, doctored overalls, abbreviated shirt, white vest, Prince Albert coat and wool skating cap, hobbled into Minot from the west Saturday. He had come to grief at Williston in a law suit over wages and started out in search of work. He applied at almost every farmhouse along the way, he says, but the farmers refuse to hire colored men. John Fletcher, in charge of the Minot labor bureau, tried several men who needed laborers, but they refused to take colored men.

David John, son, became disgusted and decided to walk on east. He carries a 75-pound pack of dishes, cooking utensils and personal effects on his back. He claims to have served in the war with a colored unit but his teeth are missing, and is all except one. It is presumed.

## FARMER DIES IN AUTO CRASH

Williston, N. D., Aug. 4.—Harry Butterfield, 45, McKenzie county farmer, was instantly killed in Williston, when the auto in which he was riding swerved in trying to clear another auto, and crashed into a telephone pole, throwing him head first against it. Other occupants of the two autos escaped with minor injuries. The dead man leaves his wife and a family.

## "DE DUCKS" GOT FARMER'S CORN

Dubuque, Iowa, Aug. 4.—A farmer here tried today to explain to a local banker the necessity of a loan to tide him over a lean period. "I don't understand," said the banker, "why you should want to borrow when you have just shipped your corn. What did you do with the money?"

"De ducks got it," replied the farmer.

"What do you mean by 'De Ducks'?" "Well," explained the farmer, "I shipped the car to market and sold it for 52 cents. They deduct freight, that left 31 cents; deduct one cent commission, that left 30 cents; deduct elevator charges, that left 27 cents; deduct husking, that left 16 cents; deduct hauling, that left five cents; deduct that the hired man's wages from that, and you are a darn sight better farmer than I am if you can find anything left."

## FREIGHT ON TWINE STEEP

The freight rate on binder twine from Bismarck to Fairmount, N. D., is 54 1/2 cents per 100 pounds, the distance being 275 miles; twice 275 miles makes 550 miles, and twice 54 1/2 cents makes \$1.09 per 100 pounds for 550 miles of transportation. The rate from Chicago for 277 miles is \$1.10 per 100 pounds of twine. Take 550 from 277 miles and you will see that Chicago twine houses are given 277 miles of free transportation, 550 miles of it in North Dakota. According to Warden L. L. Sklar, this discrimination in freight rates costs the State Cordage plant, and therefore our farmers, \$7,500 a season on their twine.

E. A. Statespaw, Notary Public, has office in The Tribune Building, Bowbells, N. D.



The Rocky Road to Dublin