

# THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

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## Michael McGrath Dies at Asylum

### Ward County Man Who Went Violently Insane, Died at Jamestown, Where His Wife Was Taken but a Few Days Previously

Poor Michael McGrath. Word comes from Jamestown that he died there the other day, having gone violently insane after his wife had become demented and was taken to the asylum. This leaves five little McGrath children with the mother hopelessly insane. After the poor mother had been taken away, the man began brooding over his

trouble, and decided to sell his farm, machinery and all, but before he could leave the desolate home, he grew violently insane, and was brot to Minot. He died after being in the asylum but three days. Mr. McGrath was a steady hard working farmer, who lived about nine miles southwest of this city.

## Farmers May Be Barred

### South Prairie Agriculturists Who Want to Build a Telephone Line into this City Find the Expense of Maintaining the Line to Much

Forty-five farmers, living in the country south of Minot, are making an effort to build a telephone line to connect with the Minot central but the outlook is not very flattering at the present time. They can build the line all right, but do not think that they afford to pay the rate that the local telephone company asks, for the privilege of talking to the Minot customers. The local company asks each of the farmer subscribers to pay sixty cents a month, if the farmers build their own line and keep it in repair. A committee of the farmers consisting of O. L. Tottner, Geo. Newport and A. C. Gull conferred with the local telephone company last Saturday, but did not receive a great deal of encouragement. The company asks the farmers \$30 a year for each telephone in case that the local company builds the line. The farmers say they can construct their own line, and do much of the work themselves, thus saving considerable money. They intend to put in a line with 32 twenty foot

poles to the mile. The local company asked them to put in 35 poles, 25 feet in height to each mile, but finally stated that they would allow them to plan their own line. The farmers intend to keep their own line in repair. The committee will meet again with the local company on March 4. The Independent does not desire to tell the telephone company how to conduct its business, but for the sake of Minot, we do hope that satisfactory arrangements can be made with the farmers who desire to become connected with our city. Minot depends largely on the trade of the farmers and it has been found that a farmers' telephone line, always produces more farm business for our merchants. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the Minot company, the farmers say they are going to run the line to Sawyer. The Commercial club will probably do what it can to bring about satisfactory arrangements.

### A Woman Possessing Tact is She.

Who makes her greeting a pleasure, her visit a bright spot and her "Good-bye" a hope that she may come again.

Who feels that the unkind story told about her is inconsiderate and bad manners of the teller.

Who laughs with the youth and is ever courteous and considerate for the old.

Who is as courteous and polite in the home of the poor as of the rich.

Who loves humanity and condemns only by silence.

Who does not shut out the light of happiness by the shadow of suspicion.

Who does not spend all her efforts in giving advice.

Who does not say what she really thinks when her husband is the subject of conversation.

Who forgets the peculiarities of her friends and thinks only of the qualities that makes her fond of them.

The North Dakota representatives in congress have been in a bad jackpot in their effort, to save the claims of the homesteaders on the coal lands—and to avoid knocking the lignite coal fields of the state.

Four months from the day that Taft will be inaugurated, the Independent predicts that every bank in the United States will be closed.

It is reported that there is considerable agitation among some of the anxious ones at Rugby to have the office of mayor held by Andy Jones—declared vacant, and a special election called at once, and that incidentally, there are several majority candidates busily engaged in handing out their lightning rods and setting them up.

## STENERSEN IS BUSY Minot the Gateway to Montana

The Stenersen Chattel Abstract Co. and court house information bureau is one of the busiest offices of the court house, in a way. John H. Stenersen, the manager, is well qualified for this particular work, which consists looking up taxes, Mens, judgments, and probate court matters. He will furnish pencil notation to any real estate in Ward county. There are times when one wishes to know the condition of

titles to a certain piece of property but does not wish to go to the expense of having an abstract made. Mr. Stenersen will also look after that work. He is very familiar with the court house records having been connected with the register of deeds office for two years, and prior to that was with the company of Devine, Stenersen & Co. official abstracters.

### Prominent Capitalist from Montana Says Minot is the Natural Distributing Point for a Great Western Empire

James Helmer, of Poplar, Mont., a wealthy stockman, stopped off in Minot a few days to visit his old time friend, John Maloney. John and Mr. Helmer used to be chums more than thirty years ago, when they were youths, seeking their fortunes in Montana. They used to sit down to a delicious meal of elk steak and other wild game. Both have become wealthy since those days, yet they like to get together and talk over their happy youthful days. Helmer is a great big good hearted jovial westerner, with not a care. He believes Montana has a great future, and says that Minot wholesale houses must supply the rapidly developing country. "I admire Minot," he said. "I spent the day looking over your wholesale jobbing houses and am surprised. But they will not be half big enough in a short time. Our country is

growing. Minot must feed us. This city will be the jobbing center of our great northwest. Why we have an empire out there in Montana, and Minot is our nearest city of importance. Our country is fast settling up, but still we have plenty of fine land left. The government is getting ready to open the 2,000,000 Fort Peck Indian reservation at Poplar. Of this, 180,000 acres comes under the irrigation project and the balance will be sold to actual settlers at a price to be appraised by the board. Settlers will be allowed to commute or pay off the price of the land in five years. There will be no free homestead land, but this will bring in a lot of moneyed men who are anxious to get hold of a chunk of fine land for a little money."

## EXSTROM IS GOING SOME

Sawyer, Feb. 19, 1909. Gentlemen—Please find enclosed \$2.60 for which renew my subscription for the Independent, and send the other four papers as per advertisement. Would like to be up and have a chat with you but it is so hard to get away, but you may let the tillers of the soil know that I am still the same old boy; that

I last year farmed 108 acres with three horses, one of them raised a fine colt. I threshed 2300 bushels of grain; not so bad for not having hardly any rain during the summer. This together with cooking and bread baking, garden and the one acre of bananas means all the exercise I need. Chas. Ekstrom.

## LIKES COMMERCIAL CLUB

The editor of this paper while in Minot on Friday attending the meeting of the Ninth Judicial District press association was particularly impressed with the completeness of the equipment of the Minot Commercial club rooms. They boast of the best equipped club rooms in the state, and while we are not

acquainted with the club rooms in many of the cities of the state we judge after visiting their splendid rooms, that it is no idle boast. The Minot Commercial club is certainly a live organization and is doing a splendid work in advancing the interests of the "Magic City."—Lansford Times.

## A STRANGE ACCIDENT

Seems like we have read something like this before, but here it is, anyway from the Mondak News: "A very queer accident occurred a few days ago a short distance from town. Some coal miners had secured a fresh supply of dynamite for blasting purposes and left it on the outside of their shack. In the morning it was nearly all missing and what was left was all crumbled and chewed up, and from the tracks around it was plain to be seen that

it had been eaten by cattle. In a short time there was a terrific explosion down by the river. Upon investigating it was found that a large steer had fallen over the river bank and the impact of the fall set off the explosion. A large section of the bank was blown away and the ice was broken one-third of the distance across the river. The steer was killed by the accident.

## BURNED BY GASOLINE

Albert Walton of St. Thomas is carrying his right arm in a sling and extremely glad he has the opportunity to still carry it, even tho it is very sore. Last Friday he was draining some gasoline from the overflow cup of his engine into a container, and some of the fluid leaked down on the sleeve of his undershirt. A little later he lighted

a match which ignited the gasoline and in an instant his whole arm was ablaze. He ran to the cooling tub in the shop and immersed his arm in the water, smothering the fire, but not until he had received painful burns. It will be some time before he can use the arm again.

## OIL FOUND AT BERTHOLD

Hans C. Hanson, while digging a well at Berthold has struck what appears to be a well developed deposit of kerosene oil. Mr. Hanson lives about nine and one-half miles from Berthold on a farm and when about twenty feet down in the digging of a well he struck a liquid which on rising to the surface appeared to be one-half water and one half kerosene oil. In speaking of the product of the well Mr. Morris

Thompson, a neighbor of Mr. Hanson, who is in the Magic City today said: "The substance found by Mr. Hanson not only resembled kerosene oil in looks but it also has the same odor as kerosene. The well was dug to about eighteen or twenty feet from the surface when the oily substance started to rise to the top. A sample of the product will probably be sent to Fargo to be analyzed."

### While trains are getting lost,

people are dying from exposure to the cold and great suffering is existing in the eastern states, North Dakota is enjoying ideal weather. If the people of the east want to enjoy a winter thoroughly, they should come to North Dakota, which Rev. Hale of Minot says is "pe-watching in spring, charming in summer, delightful in autumn and dignified in winter."

In our announcement of the marriage of R. I. Clemings and Miss Besse Moore, in our last issue, a slight error was made. The couple were wed at the Baptist parsonage by Rev. Mr. MacMullen, and not at the Methodist parsonage, as we stated.

Mrs. Dunaeval, of the Minot Academy of Music, will leave in a few weeks for her old home, London, England, where she will remain for several months, in the hopes of recovering her health.

### A Bismarck special says the three

most freakish bills now before the legislature in the general estimation are the following: That prohibiting the sweeping of passenger coaches while passengers are in them, and making the offense a misdemeanor; requiring a physician's certificate as to physical condition as a prerequisite to marriage, and that compelling druggists selling liquor to publish monthly the names of buyers, quantity, disease it is for, and quality, with dates chronologically. These bills are being strenuously advocated by their sponsors, and when they are reported an interesting debate is looked for.

T. D. McNeil will soon start a prohibition monthly paper in Fargo. He seems to be getting some good support.

One week from today Taft will be inaugurated and Roosevelt will be free to take to the woods of South Africa.

### Edw. Larson, a prominent farmer,

southwest of Minot, has purchased his mother's farm in Minnesota, and expects to leave for that state soon. Mr. Larson will be missed, as he is one of our best farmers.

The legislature took a three days' vacation in order to properly observe Washington's birthday, Monday. Senator Wallin, Rep. Schull, Rep. Davidson of Portal and some of the other Ward county solons were home during that time.

The Lidgenwood Broadaxe has organized the new county of Burke, and has appointed Sandy Wiper of Bowbells treasurer and Sam Lockery, states attorney. Andrews rejected Bowbells for county seat.

The Ross Valley News contained last week, its first batch of commissioner's proceedings from the new county of Montrail.

Rev. C. W. Harris, the lengthy gentleman who was pastor of the Presbyterian church in Minot, is chaplain of the senate.

A Bismarck citizen has lost fifty fine chickens, the heads being left only as a memento of the culprit.

States Attorney Stevens of Burleigh county has begun proceedings against seven of the alleged violators of the prohibition law, at Bismarck.

Miss Clementine Muzzy, a Chicago trained nurse is in Minot visiting Mrs. O. R. Brown. She expects to locate here.

Another bank will probably be organized at Williston.

### Norwegian Temperance Lecture

Miss Lavina Rokke, a noted Norwegian temperance lecturer, will give a free lecture on temperance, at the Zion Lutheran church in this city, Friday evening March 5, at 8 o'clock. She is an excellent speaker, and has been drawing large crowds wherever she has appeared in the state. She has followed this work with noted success in a number of states and her lecture will be a treat. She will speak in the Norwegian language. Don't miss this.

Mrs. B. A. Barlow, wife of the assistant cashier of the Park River First National bank shot herself with a revolver from the effects of which she later died. She had been ill and was slightly demented. She was formerly Miss Edith Cochran of Grand Forks.

The Larson Leader and Kermit News have been combined, the former being moved to Kermit, to take the place of the plant which was damaged by fire.

Miss Boyson of the University of North Dakota won the prize for the best essay on Gen. Lee, which had stirred up the southern belles considerably.

A wide awake photographer at Kermit took several pictures while the town was burning, and is now advertising views of the ruins.

The First State bank of Kermit has absorbed the Pioneer State bank of that place.

Geo. Dophina, a piano player at Williston, is dead. He leaves a wife.

## ANOTHER LOT

Of those Sterling Silver Tea Spoons, like cut, \$3.75 per set



Our line of sterling meets the approval of discriminating buyers.

THERE'S A REASON!

W. H. REIGHART, The Exclusive Jeweler