

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA, SEPT. 16, 1909

EDITORIAL COMMENT

How long yet will the farmers be able to hold their grain? While a very small per cent of the grain that has been hauled to the elevators, has not been sold, a large number of farmers will no doubt be compelled to let loose of a considerable portion of it, not later than Oct. 1, as on that date most of their notes, machinery accounts, etc., fall due. The merchants who have been carrying many of them for months, will expect a prompt settlement at that time; the wholesale houses have been lenient with the merchants, but always demand settlement in the fall, which will make it necessary for the merchants to look to the farmers for prompt settlement. It is as necessary for a farmer to keep his credit good as it is for a business man. The Independent would be more than pleased if every farmer were able to hold every bushel of his grain until the prices reaches the dollar mark. It looks, however, as tho many of the farmers will be compelled to accept less.

In a hotel in a town thirty-two miles west of Minot, the guests are never allowed to grow lonesome. In fact there is so much doing at the place all the time, that the guests find little time to sleep. Each guest is provided with something like seventeen hundred bed fellows, each one of whom does its best to entertain the forlorn wayfarer, and one is given such a red hot reception, that he never can forget the address. If the guest should find sleep impossible, he can always pass the time in witnessing the prettiest bed bug parade that human eyes ever gazed upon. Nice, big, fat, juicy, energetic, red devilish, sharp-toothed, pestiferous bed fellows. What a shame it would be to harm one of you, you'd never be missed, for what is one to a million? The state hotel inspector hasn't had the pleasure of your company,— not yet, but soon.

This is the season of the year, Mr. Subscriber, when you ought to hand the editor a dollar on subscription. You probably think that it doesn't matter much to him whether you pay this fall, or next winter or the next fall, but let us tell you that it does a fellow's heart good to get the money 'n promptly, the sooner the quicker. A few thousand dollars on the subscription book is likely to represent considerably more than the year's earnings of the plant, so that if all felt disinclined to pay, the average newspaper man would have to suspend business. So again we say, don't be neglectful, but bring it, send it, or wire it in. If you think that is likely to be any delay, we'll not object if you send it by special delivery. If we happen to be out, and the door locked, throw it over the transom.

In this issue of the Independent, as an innovation, appears a number of excellent views from the Mouse River Valley farm of Ex-Gov. J. M. Devine of Minot, together with a description of the farm, and an interesting interview with the governor relative to the manner in which he tills the soil. The article is well worth reading. All who can conveniently do so, should send this week's copy to some eastern friend. The pictures accompanying the article tell better than words, the prosperity that the careful North Dakota farmer is enjoying.

In a recent drive through the country, we noticed that a farmer who had erected a fine large barn, failed to store his machinery in it, altho there was plenty of room. A new top buggy had been left outside, and the wind had blown it down to the edge of a slough. This may appear like an unimportant thing, and yet the damage done to his property during the year by the elements, will aggregate a good many dollars.

The startling report that peonage exists in the state has been simered down to just one case. It was reported that the employment agencies induced men to come to North Dakota to work, and if they were not satisfied and quit, they were intimidated by arrest, the result being that they usually go to work. The report was untruthful, and did the state no small amount of harm.

The exchanges contain the following truthful deduction which might well be considered by a few of the thotless business men who still persist in letting some concern furnish their stationery:

"The merchant who uses stationery decorated with gargling oil, axle grease, or other cheap advertising matter, is to the home printer what the mail order house is to the home merchant."

The market on wheat advanced three or four cents last week, which in the face of the shipment of cars and cars of grain into the market centers, is an excellent indication. The farmers have disposed of but a very small percentage of the grain they have hauled to the elevators, and many have erected granaries, and are prepared to hold their product for a still greater advance, which is almost certain to come. When the farmer becomes fixed financially so that most of the grain can be stored in the granaries, instead of at the elevators, one can then look for a more rapid advance in prices. The farmer, as a rule, tells too many of the secrets concerning his crop that should be kept from the public. He should "say nothing and saw wood." If he makes a statement at all, it should be most conservative. The price of grain is usually fixed in the fall on the basis of the average crop. At one time it appeared as tho the average for wheat would be close to twenty bushels. The early threshing returns showed that the average had been cut down to sixteen bushels, and at the present time, it looks as tho twenive bushels would be nearer right.

Gov. Burke, in an interview out west, said that the Republican party would have much to answer for, on account of the attitude certain Republican Senators took, on the tariff bill. The same may be said of the Democratic party. McEnery, the Democratic senator from Louisiana supported Aldrich right along. Bailey and Tillman voted with him when their votes were needed. The Democratic party came out of the fight with some bad blemishes. The Republicans need to do some purifying, all right, but this will be done.

The government has stopped the first issue of the new Lincoln penny, in order to take the initials of the designer, "V. B. D." from the die. The issue with the initials consisted of 20,000,000 pennies, which we put into circulation. Those now appearing are without the initials. Those who have one of the pennies with the initials, should keep it as a curiosity, and in time it may have a considerable monetary value.

The newspapers of the Williston land district are boosting Geo. W. Wilson for governor. Mr. Wilson is Register of the land office and dishes out the final proofs, and naturally one would expect the newspapers of that district to say a good word. The Williston State will probably not support the candidate.

Altho an American has been the first to discover the North Pole, it is said that England wants to claim the territory discovered. Who cares? If King Edward wants to nail the bars to the pole, he can do so as far as the Independent is concerned. North Dakota is in just the right latitude, and we don't care to perambulate into a more northern realm.

Post Master General Hitchcock has decided to increase the registry fee for letters and packages to twelve cents in the near future, which will help some in making up that deficiency which exists in the department.

A representative of the Independent passed a prairie home last week that looked the picture of desolation. Altho the proverbial horseshoe had been nailed over the door, the farmer's wife had eloped with a neighbor and the fellow was away earning some money at threshing. The horseshoe evidently doesn't ward off all one's ills.

It is reported that Senator M. N. Johnson in a speech at the Decorah, Iowa, home gathering recently, said that the water was so bad in North Dakota that horses drinking it, lost their hoofs. This may be about as true as the story of the Senator and his 35 cent wheat.

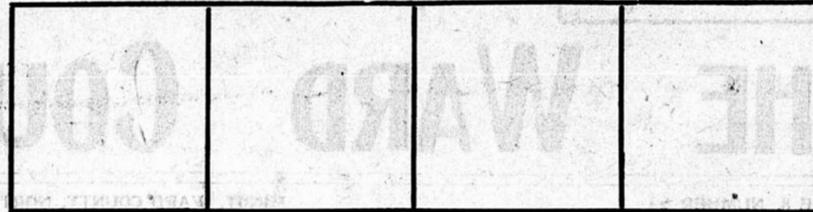
Explorer Cook is likely to get about as much honor out of discovering the North Pole, as a neighbor does for interfering in a family row.

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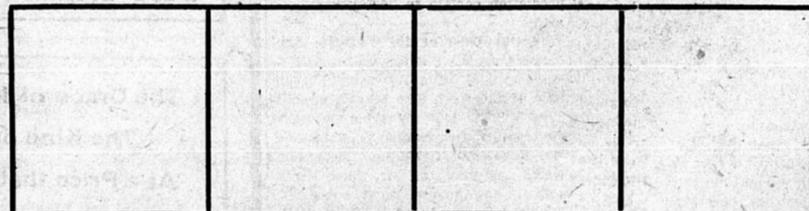
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