

FIRST SECTION  
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## Judge Davis Has an Inning

Tells some interesting things concerning what he alleges was a forged circular—glad that Murphy opposes him

Minot, N. D., July 25, 1910.  
To the Editor of the Independent:  
Now that the primary election is over, and there being sufficient time for investigation by the taxpayers and voters, I have thought this an opportune time to expose the dastardly attempt to deceive the voters of this county made a few days before the last primary election. Many of your readers doubtless will recall a certain printed circular headed: "Ward County Tax League," to which was appended the name of Ed. Kamerud as secretary, that was circulated in many parts of the county a few days before June 23, 1910. It is of this circular that I desire to say that the notorious "Major" Murphy, Louis A. Larson, county auditor, John Lynch, candidate for clerk of district court, and William Murray, candidate for county judge, are presumably responsible for the circulation of this false and forged circular among the voters, at least it circulated in the interest of these three candidates, and it was a deliberate and dastardly attempt by those circulating it to deceive and mislead the taxpayers and voters of this county, and to induce them to vote for and elevate into office this gang of Murphys, who were repudiated by the voters in 1904. This forged circular starts out with a deliberate falsehood by saying: "This league was organized to call your attention to a few proven facts. It was quietly organized some weeks ago, and further, a fund of \$350.00 was subscribed by fifty men paying \$5.00 each." And goes on further to state: "An executive committee was appointed, with instructions to make a full and fair investigation and comparison, and ascertain, if possible, the source of leaks and the ways and wherefore. In other words, why the taxes are so high, and what is the remedy. A preliminary report has been made by the committee, and the officers are authorized and directed to send a list of the first report (there will be other reports from time to time) to every taxpayer in Ward county."

Each and every statement of the above quoted portion of the circular is as false as the scoundrels who conceived, prepared and circulated it. This purported report, of the purported committee of a purported Tax League, commends the present board of county commissioners, Louis A. Larson, county auditor, John Lynch, a candidate for clerk of district court, and William Murray, candidate for county judge, and condemns Knute T. Hagen, the present clerk of district court, and myself, as county judge. Bear in mind that Larson, Lynch and Murray were all kicked out of office by the voters, at the election in 1904, at the time when the control of the county was taken out of the hands of the boss boodling "Major" Murphy, who has since been convicted of forgery, alleged to have been practised by him during the time when these same candidates held county offices. This circular was dated June 15, 1910, but for obvious reasons was not circulated until June 24 and June 25, and they in only remote parts of the county. The fact that such circular had been sent out came to my attention on Saturday, June 25th. I immediately took steps to get possession of one, and telephoned to Donnybrook and other places, and finally obtained one on Sunday, June 26th, from a man coming from Carpio. Upon reading the circular, I knew it was false, for the reason that I knew that the figures and statements made about the office of county judge were untrue, and I also knew that no one had been in the office of the county judge examining or inspecting the records. I knew Ed. Kamerud, whose name was appended to the circular, and knew that had he been at the court house making an investigation, I would have known it. I believed

that his name was signed to the paper without his knowledge or authority, so I concluded I would see Mr. Kamerud. On Sunday afternoon, June 26th, I went to the farm of Peter Benson, northwest of Ryder, and found Mr. Kamerud there. When I showed him the circular, he immediately disclaimed any knowledge of it, and declared the signing of his name to it to be a forgery. He stated that he was not secretary of or member of any Tax League, and knew of no such organization as the "Ward County Tax League." Mr. Kamerud then signed the following statement, which speaks for itself:

Meadow Grove Farm,  
Peter Benson, Prop.,  
Ryder, June 26, 1910.

To the Voters and Taxpayers of Ward County:  
I have just been shown a printed circular headed, "Ward County Tax League," which purports to be a report of a so-called Tax League, dated July 15, 1910, and subscribed by me as secretary of Ward County Tax League. I desire to brand the whole matter as false, and to state that I know nothing about the truthfulness of the contents of said circular, and I assert emphatically that I had nothing whatever to do with the preparation of said circular purported to be signed by me, and I did not sign any paper whatever as to the expenses and extravagance of any county officer. I brand the whole matter as false and a fake, and the signing of my name to said circular as a forgery. I do not belong to any Tax League, nor am I secretary of any Tax League. I was in Minot June 20, 1910, and saw and talked with Louis A. Larson, county auditor, five days after the purported date of said circular. Larson asked me if I would join a "Ward County Tax League." I told him if one was organized, and it was a good thing, I would join it. But no such league has been organized to my knowledge. I brand the whole thing as a fabrication and a forgery.  
(Signed) Ed. Kamerud.

Witnesses to Signature  
Peter Benson,  
F. K. Offeman,  
S. A. Olson.

There were present when Mr. Kamerud signed the above statement, besides the witnesses who appear above, A. J. Brunner, John H. Stenerson and myself, besides the family of Mr. Peter Benson and Mr. Kamerud.

Upon the printing and circulating of this denial of Ed. Kamerud's, Louis A. Larson, county auditor, came out with a circular letter in which he stated in substance that if Ed. Kamerud signed the above statement "then he is a liar," and further stated: "Kamerud was secretary of the league, signed the statement, and authorized the issuance of the report, which is true and accurate." Louis A. Larson, our county auditor, thereby admits his part in the false circular, and adheres to it that the contents of the circular were true when he knew then and now that his statement that Kamerud lied, as well as the statements contained in the circular about the organization of a Ward County Tax League and the report of a committee were absolutely false, as is every line of the said circular. This circular headed, "The Ward County Tax League," it is thought, was written by "Major" Murphy, without any reference to the records or the facts, and with the deliberate and premeditated purpose of misleading and deceiving the voters. It shows upon its face that it was a despicable attempt to deceive, as it claims that fifty men organized a Tax League, and appointed a committee. Right here let me ask Murphy, Larson, Lynch and Murray to produce these fifty men or any of them.

These worthies are asked to produce the committee that made the report and who investigated the records at the court house. During the last few days of the primary campaign this circular was being industriously circulated in the interest of Larson, Lynch and Murray, and for the sole purpose of deceiving the voters of Ward county, so these Murphy candidates might receive votes enough to nominate them to office.

The precious bunch of political monte banks in carrying out their plan of deception even went so far as to have envelopes printed, "Return to Ward County Tax League, Minot, N. Dak." for the purpose of conveying the impression that such a league (?) had offices in this city. Many of the circulars were mailed at Burlington, which was for the purpose of preventing those accused by the circular from knowing its contents in time to answer before election. I am informed that the circular was printed in Grand Forks presumably for the same reason.

Now that there is no campaign on, at least there is plenty of time for investigation before the fall election, I am going to invite the taxpayers who have seen, or who have or can obtain a copy of this "Tax League" circular to come to my office when in Minot or to come to Minot especially for the purpose, and examine the records of my office, and compare the facts with the untruths of the circular. I will ask them to go with me to Louis A. Larson, county auditor, and demand of him to know who the members of the "Tax League" are. To be shown the signature of Ed. Kamerud to this report. I will invite them to go with me to the office of the county treasurer and see how much taxes are paid by "Major" Murphy, and to go with me to the county commissioners and see why they rebated and refunded \$254.38 or thereabouts in taxes to this man, Murphy, and also ascertain from these commissioners how much county money was deducted and given by the board in settling with John Lynch for his shortage with the county when he was clerk of the district court. The taxpayers are urgently requested to make a full investigation of this matter. If they will do this, they will find that there has been no such organization as the "Ward County Tax League." That there were not 50 taxpayers or other persons contributing \$5.00 each raising a fund of \$250.00. That Ed. Kamerud was never a member or secretary of any such league or any tax league, or any organization of that kind, for the purpose of investigating high taxes. They will find that Ed. Kamerud's name was signed by Murphy or Larson, or one of their henchmen, and without the knowledge or authority of Mr. Kamerud. I will ask them to go with me to the office of Knute T. Hagen and examine his records, and compare them with the records of John Lynch, when he was clerk of district court, and ask the lawyers and men who do business with the clerk of district court what kind of clerk Hagen makes, and the kind of clerk John Lynch made. I will ask them to go to the office of the city auditor or the city attorney and ascertain the facts about the charge of collecting illegal fees from the city by Murray as police magistrate.

The taxpayers are urgently invited to make an investigation of these matters for themselves, and not depend upon such untrustworthy characters as Murphy. They owe it to themselves to ascertain the facts. Do not believe all you hear during the heat of a campaign or false statements made by corrupt politicians, seeking to get into control, but investigate for yourself at a time when the facts can be ascertained.

As far as the office of county judge is concerned, it is subject to inspection by any of the taxpayers of Ward county at any time during business hours.

It would require too much space at this time to go into detail in denying each and every charge made against me by the Murphy gang. But one particular part of this purported report of the purported committee, reads:

"Your committee talked with one T. O. Semus of Ryder township, who was one of the 48 jurymen, and he was most emphatic in his denunciation of Davis for extravagance."

Call at my office and let me show you by our official record of jurors that no such name as "T. O. Semus" appears; that no such jurymen was ever drawn in the county court. This alone ought to convince any reasonable man that the purported report was made from the "whole cloth," all false, absolutely, disgustingly false. Murphysm crops out all through this forged circular.

Murphy appears to have a particular grudge against me. He doubtless believes he has reasons, and yet he has no good reasons. It became my duty upon one occasion to blind him over to the district court on two charges of forgery. The fact that he was "Major" Murphy did not awe me in the least. It never occurred to me that he was entitled to different treatment than other men who have been arraigned before me charged with crime, and I treated him precisely as I have treated others. His subsequent conviction for the crime for which I committed him appears conclusive of the fact that I did not wrongfully commit him. He also finds fault that I have taken part in favor of the appointment of Mr. Brunner as postmaster at Minot. I believe, as a citizen and as a patron of the post office at Minot, that I should have as much right to endorse a person for postmaster as any other citizen. I would certainly feel that I was derelict in my duty as a citizen if I failed to protest against an appointment that would put the control of the United States' money and the United States' mail at Minot into the hands of one who has proven so false as has "Major" Murphy.

I am proud of the fact that Murphy is against me. I glory in the opposition of Murphysm. I consider it an honor to be opposed by him, for to have his support would be some evidence that I was not an honest man. In conclusion, I would state that I always have and always will oppose graft, corruption and Murphysm, and they are synonymous terms, and if opposition to these things is grounds for my defeat, I shall welcome defeat.

This circular states that "there will be other reports from time to time." When this committee (?) again makes its report it will doubtless be a few days before the fall election. Now is the time for this alleged committee to report, so that these accused will have time to repent before the election. I trust that those who have been deceived will

look into the matter and get the facts now while there is time. Don't forget that my office is open and may be inspected by citizens who want the facts.

I was nominated with the opposition of Murphy by a majority of 231, for which I am very grateful to the voters, and I am advised that this man Murphy is advising and insisting upon a contest by William Murray, hoping to prevent my name appearing on the ballot at the fall election. Ask yourself, Mr. Voter, why Murphy is so strongly opposed to my re-election as county judge? Do you want any better recommendation for a public office than the fact that such public office is opposed by this Prince of Political Fakers, "Major" John S. Murphy.  
Respectfully yours,  
NBEREMIAH DAVIS.

**MISS DUFFY BRINGS CONTEST.**  
Miss Duffy of Ross has instituted a contest for the nomination of superintendent of Mountrail county, alleging irregularities in the count.

According to the returns of the canvassing board, Miss Beale Kane, formerly of Minot, received 1,026 votes, while Miss Duffy was one vote behind. Miss Kane has engaged Geo. A. McGee as her attorney and will fight the case.

Miss Duffy claims that in one precinct, where the vote was first given as a tie the canvassing board made another count, found ten votes for Miss Kane and nine for Miss Duffy, and changed the figures on the returns. The result of the contest will be watched with interest.

**CHICKEN HAD TUBERCULOSIS.**  
A Cedar Falls (Ia.) veterinarian has discovered tuberculosis in a chicken. A woman of that city who was dressing a fowl for dinner, noticed that the intestines did not look right and sent the fowl to an expert for the tuberculin test. The lungs were found to be affected also. The chicken was procured from a consumptive family. As chickens are considered the filthiest animal that walks through the barnyard, it is not strange that they should contract the disease in their carriage methods for existence. Look to your fowls when preparing them for the table.

**SHOULD NOT BLOW OFF STEAM.**  
It is strictly against the rules of the Soo Railway company for the engineers to blow off steam between the depot and the Soc round house, and the city limits on the west, yet this rule is disregarded quite often. The engineer guilty of this offense will certainly get a thirty day lay off, if reported.

The other day a team of horses was badly frightened in the city by the steam from a Soo engine, and a bad runaway narrowly averted.

**MRS. RODE VERY POORLY.**  
A postal card received from J. W. Rode of San Diego, Cal., states that Mrs. Rode is still very poorly. Mr. Rode hopes to make Minot a visit in the near future. Mrs. Rode's many friends hope to hear of her improvement.

**CHANGES LOCATION.**  
The Illinois Land & Loan Co., which has occupied a part of the Samuelson basement for more than a year, now has headquarters at the home of the manager, H. F. Bartling, 307 Ramstad street, opposite the Methodist church.

**ITALIAN LABORER DIES.**  
An Italian railroad laborer, whose name we were unable to obtain, died Thursday night in a tent near the Soc round house. The man had been ill for some time from tuberculosis. The remains were buried in this city this afternoon.

**WHEAT A LITTLE THIN.**  
Dick Barrett has begun harvesting his 2,000 acre crop. The crop is rather light, Mr. Barrett says, and some of his wheat is so poor that he throws his binder out of gear between stalks.

J. M. Devine will speak at Palermo Aug. 6.

## Would Change County Boundaries

KENMARITES WANT WARD COUNTY TO TRADE RENVILLE SEVEN TOWNSHIPS IN GOOSENECK FOR SIX TOWNSHIPS IN VICINITY OF GLENBURN.

L. F. Clausen, a prominent Kenmare attorney was in Minot Saturday and while here informed the Independent that many in Kenmare were considering the feasibility of cutting the seven townships of the famous "Gooseneck" off from Ward county and annexing that territory to Renville county, in exchange for the six townships in the Glenburn country, which might be added to Ward county.

Mr. Clausen said that such an arrangement would suit the people of Kenmare much better than to live in the "Gooseneck" and he thought that Ward county would profit by the exchange.

To make this arrangement effective it would first be necessary to secure petitions from the voters living in the townships to be effected, asking that the proposition be submitted by ballot at the next general election. What he was afraid of was that one proposition might carry and the other not. Prominent Kenmare attorneys are now looking up the law to see if it would be possible to submit both propositions by one vote.

Mr. Clausen said that he realized that Kenmare had only herself to blame for this state of affairs, but the people there were willing to do most anything to become annexed to Renville county. He stated further that Kenmare did not hope to become the county seat of Renville county in case these propositions carried.

**FARMERS, GET TOGETHER!**  
Shell, N. D.

Mr. Editor:—  
Having in mind your generosity for giving valuable space in your most excellent paper, whereby the public can unburden themselves of weighty (?) opinions that I cast upon those broad and manly shoulders the following? This is an age of economic combines in which great financial results are obtained, production cheapened and prices controlled. Not necessarily by injustice, but combinations can be operated with strict justice to all and save thousands and thousands of dollars that are practically wasted now in profits to "go-betweens" and misdirected effort. All this waste must be carried by those who have no combination and are trying to do business entirely independent of their brother craftsmen, men who owned flour mills have sold out to combines and taken stock for same that now pay them more in dividends than the mill ever earned independently, men who owned smelters sold their plants to a combine for stock, thereby gaining much over the independent way, and so on. Almost every business is sailing along smoothly to financial success, under a Captain of Industry except farming. Now why can't men who own farms sell to a combine for stock, say value each quarter section at ten thousand dollars in stock. Cheap production, concentrate effort, do away with "go-betweens" take all the profits and sail along with the other combines under a captain of industry that knows all the best Harbors and all dangerous places on the broad sea of human endeavor.  
Yours truly,  
HENRY DYE.

**MRS. JOHNSON ILL.**  
Mrs. C. A. Johnson returned Monday from Bottineau, where she was ill for a time. Mrs. Johnson was taken sudden ill while returning from the lake and it became necessary for her to stop at Bottineau for treatment. She is recovering nicely.

**DROUTH IN ILLINOIS.**  
A report received from Illinois states that the corn crop between Chicago and Clinton, Ia., is in danger from drouth. This is the main crop of that section of the state and the farmers are considerably alarmed.

## DON'T RUN

Get a good watch to run for you, and be sure of your minutes. An accurate reliable time-keeper can be bought now for little money.

### W. H. REIGHART

THE EXCLUSIVE JEWELER