The Ward County Independent

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Too many North Dakota farmers and business men have been satisfied to keep the even tenor of their way, and allow the unearned increment to bring them a comfortable living for the future. In many cases, however, the business man has been compelled to meet competition so that he has not been benefitted by the growth of his community alone. The farmer on the other hand has in most cases profited by the progress of the state. It has meant for him an increase in the price of his land. He has been making money in addition to what he has earned each year. The unearned increment is slowly but surely making him wealthy.

North Dakota has a host of progressive farmers who are repaying society many fold for this unearned increment. But there are some farmers who have been profiting thus and have given nothing in return. Every class of people owe a duty to their state, to the community, to their family, yes, to themselves. The farmer is not exempted. To society he owes the improvement of farming methods, the increasing of his grain production, and above all, conservation of North Dakota's fertile soil. The state depends on him for its wealth and progress and the duty to make good rests upon him.

Picture rural school life in North Dakota. A little poorly lighted, poorly ventilated school building located on the cold bleak prairies, the thermometer standing below zero and the wind blowing a gale. Watch the little boys and girls as they face the cold breezes, trudging one or two miles tru the snow. A crime is with their clothing wet and their shoes snowy and cold. A crme is being committed in the name of education. These conditions are fast changing and the next ten years will see thousands of consolidated schools located in the various township. The children will be hauled to and fro in warm covered rigs by a sober, competent driver. Arriving at the modern school building, they will receive instruction from some of the best teachers the normal schools turn out. The legislature is going to do something in the way of rural school aid this winter. It can't come too fast.

As badly as we need better farming methods generally, we need better market facilities more. There is something radically wrong with our marketing system. The greater the crop the farmer grows, the more expensive it becomes for himto harvest it, and the less he is compelled to sell it for. It doesn't take very long to figure how quickly a farmer will "go broke" and some get in that predicament before they have time to do any figuring. We'd like some brainy legislator to plan a way by which the legislature could help our farmers. We believe that our friend, J. W. Smith of Surrey, can furnish some food for thought on this subject.

The coming session of the legislature will see good laws enacted for the improvement of our highways, our rural schools and laws that will tend to make the farm a better place to live. It is understood that Mr. Hanna, who favors all of these things, will dwell upon them at some length in his message. A road is no better than its worst spot and farmers and their families can hardly enjoy country life until the highways are put into shape. New York has appropriated $50,000,000 dollars for the improvement of her highways. North Dakota naturally has the finest roads in the United States and they can be made permanently good with a small comparative cost.

Those who insured in the State Hail Insurance Co. and sustained losses this year, have not yet received their warrants. Last year W. C. Gilbreath, the state hail commissioner, drew the warrants on the treasurer and the losses were paid. This year a question was raised as to whether it is constitutional for any official except the audior to issue warrants. Atty. Gen. Miller holds that the state hail commissioner has no power to issue such warrants.

The Independent has ever encouraged better farming and we hope to see the farmers continue to grow a great crop of grain if he gets such a low price that there can be no money in it for him. Such farmers might better farm on a smaller scale, take life easier, do less hiring, thereby running smaller risks and being surer of a profit, be it ever so small. We don't believe that farming on a big scale is going to make anyone rich very fast.

The Better Farming Movement in this state is a good one and the work is spreading rapidly to new communities. The idea isn't so much for an expert to educate the farmer, as it is for certain experiments to be tried out in the various communities where the results are apparent. Thus the farmers will be able to compare results and get an exchange of ideas that will prove of value. Many things are learned about the farming game every year.

The high cost of living is ottributed to a number of things, among which are: high interest rates; exorbitant freight and express rate orbitant freight and express rates; needless middlemen's profit; monopoly prices on farm fachinery and natural products; too many men living by their wits, instead of by the sweat of their brows, in other words, too many getting the products of labor without doing the actual work themselves. The interest rates are bound to go down just as quickly as the people become more prosperous. As an example of this we might cite you to conditions in Wells county where a year or two ago the interest rates were as high as 10 and 12 per cent. The farmers are in a more prosperous condition this year, they have better security to offer and the various banking institutions are freely offering money as low as 7 per cent in real estate loans.

The government detectives are looking for Jas. E. Sutton of Benton Harbor, Mich., who swindled the public out of many thousands of dollars. Sutton contracted for thousands of dollars worth of space in the newspapers of North Dakota and other states, announcing that he could furnish fancy apples and pears at $2.50 per barrel. Checks by the hundreds came pouring in and by the time he had collected several thousand dollars, he concluded that it was time to make his getaway. Many letters are still arriving at the Michigan town but they will be returned. The Independent suspected that there was a "nigger in the woodpile" and turned down this crook's advertisement.

R. A. Nestos will soon become state's attorney and many are looking forward with a good deal of interest to see how he conducts the business. If he intends to go after the lawless element with vehemence, he will undoubtedly find plenty of work to do, notwithstanding the fact that there have been many criminal prosecutions of late. Mr. Nestos will have a good many things to learn, but he is an apt scholar and will get next to the game in short order. Mr. Nestos has arisen to his present position by his own labor, overcoming many obstacles, and a host of friends are hoping that he'll make a good record.

The population of North Dakota is 577,056. This is the number of persons North Dakota now supports on her tilled acreage. The number of persons this state might support on her present tilled acreage is 3,933,662, so you see we have room right now for 3,356,506 of you who are living from hand to mouth in the crowded east. It doesn't take an expert mathematician to figure that we have only about one-seventh of the population that we should have. Get in on the ground floor and make North Dakota your home. You'll never be sorry.

With the creation of Golden Valley county out of a part of Billings, there are now 50 counties in the state and it is keeping the publishers of maps busy to keep in touch with the changes. A few years ago there were 39 counties in the state, but four counties were made out of Imperial Ward. Williams county was slashed in two and Divide county formed. Then Sheridan county was formed from old McLean. "Little Mac" lost his county division fight down at Flasher but expects to change the map two years hence.

North Dakota, progressive in most things, sat back and let a number of Minneapolis capitalists start the Better Farming movement. Our state for years has had one of the best agricultural colleges in the world, but the Better Farming movement is doing a work that the college seemed to have overlooked. The state could well afford to appropriate a reasonable sum for this work.

The October snow storm cost this section of North Dakota half a million dollars. Much grain is under the snow, and nearly all of the flax, which might have been sold for a great deal more money could it have been harvested and marketed before the cold weather set in. For weeks after the storm, bank collections were at a standstill and have but recently farmers will be caught.'
begun to pick up. Next year fewer

FARMER SUGGESTS SOME NEEDED LEGISLATION

Berthold Man Makes Interesting Comments That Deserve the Consideration of Our Solons—Divorce the Schools From Politics.

With a big crop yield, farm wages $35 to $45 per month, harvest help $3 to $4.50 per day, the hired man's board charged to the farmer, threshing, 10 to 14 cents per bushel for wheat, wheat selling at 68 cents per bushel, the dockage increased and the grade reduced because of the plentifulness of the crop, is there any better proof that the interest rate is too high? If a full crop yield would bring $1 to $1.25 per bushel farmers could better afford to pay 12 per cent interest than 8 per cent when a full crop sells for less than 80 cents per bushel.

Under conditions of slow progress which has been the farmer's reward for the past three years, I believe that the conditions warrant the demand to place the maximum contract rate of interest at 8 per cent.

Senatorial District.

Ward county was divided by the legislature of 1911 into two senatorial districts, viz: No. 29, composed of Minot and 36 townships, population 16,488, having one senator and four representatives; No. 2, composed of Kenmare and 22 townships, population, 8793; having one senator and one representative.

Population of North Dakota, 577,056. Population of Ward county, 25,281. Number of representatives in the state, 112.

Basis of representation, one for every 5152 population.

No. 2 has a majority fraction (8,793 minus 5,152), 3641 population without representation.

No. 29, three representatives would require a population of 15,456. Then the state constitution, Sec. 29, contemplates equal represenation where a county is divided into more than one district. Justice, fairness, honesty and the present geographical lines all demand that the next legislature so amend the law that district No. 2 shall have two representatives and No. 29 have three representatives.

Amend Some Scool Laws.

The pride of a state should be its school system. The school house is to posterity what the fossil is to geology. The evidence by which to judge the past. It is the monument of educational progress.

Of the cardinal principles—legislative provisions, judicial discrimination, executive protection, scientific research, inventive ingenuity, moral progress, or embalming the conscious—none should cause the citizen to reach deeper into his purse than the educational because in that provision we realize, magnify and reflect the joys of our beings and accomplishments.

If there is any tax at which we should offer no objection, it is the school tax. We may censure the extravagant or wrongful use of the school money but we should not object to a school tax. Because this subject challenges the admiration of our superior functions is all the better reason why we should guard the spending of our school friends as that of a sacred trust.

The recent campaign for the office of county superintendent of schools proved one thing very clearly and that is the law regulating the mileage account of superintendent of schools is a very "lame law" and should be amended. The defect can be cured by prescribing a maximum limit according to number of townships or schools in a county. When we take into consideration the difference in salary of the teacher who does the actual work with the children and the supt. who "entwines the red tape" it ought to be considered understood that a county supt. should own a horse and buggy as a requisite to hold the $2,000 job. Yes, in all counties paying $1200 or more for supt. of schools. It should be considered like the past master who must invest in all the furniture of his office without interest as a consideration of holding the job.

Divorce the School System from Politics.

Another lesson we should learn from the recent campaign is the imperative necessity of divorcing the school system from politics.

In the recent campaign for supt. of schools of Ward county the regular Republican nominee compelled the auditor, by order of the court to place the one and same name on the Democratic ticket. Thus putting the campaign on a non-partisan basis. Every reason for a non-partisan judiciary applies to a non-partisan teacher and trustees applies with equal force to the entire school system. All state, county and township school officers should be on a non-partisan ballot.

Uniform Text Books.

Section 285 school laws of 1911, provides that before a book company shall enter or attempt to enter into any contract with any school board, such publishers shall furnish copies of books to state supt. of schools who shall furnish a list of such books thru the county supt. to school districts. Then the districts may buy such books so listed. In short, any old list of books that the state supt. may recommend may be adopted by the districts.

Every school district may adopt a different text book. Every new set of school officers may change the books. Every teacher may prevail on the school board to change one or more books to suit her fancy. Every time a patron moves from one district to another the chances are favorable to the purchasing of new books.

There is no difference whether the books are purchased by the patrons or furnished by the townships, the books must be paid for just the same and that from the pockets of the taxpayers.

As an example of extravagance see course of study for 1912. Eighteen different books are recommended for first grade. On the one subject reading 88 different books are recommended. On page 95 some 18 books are recommended on the subject of Nature Study and then this language is used: "The list of course is not complete." On page 119, after naming the "good" books on U. S. history puplished by six different companies then the following language is used: "Books helpful in the U. S. history taught in the intermediate grades can be found listed in the catalogues of any of the school book companies."

About five feet of space is devoted to purely advertisements of school book companies.

Mr. Voter, did you not take cognizance of the fact, during the recent campaign, that Superintendents, both state and county, have been "lobbyist" before the legislature for school laws? Is it not easily understood why we have such "lame laws" or extravagant gaps in the law, when the beneficiaries of such laws have done all the "lobbying"

If reports be true, the text book bill introduced in last legislature was defeated by the "lobbying" of school book publishers, and the county superintendents' "legislative committee."

Mr. Farmer and Voter, if you will form such organizations as suggested by the Independent, discuss questions and petition your members of the legislature for such laws as you need, you can save money in the form of taxes and prevent still higher taxes.

GEO. T. MURRAY,
Berthold, N. D.

BIG DEMAND FOR CREAMERY BUTTER

The White creamery manufactured 80,000 pounds of butter this season, most of which was sold right in the Minot territory. At least half of this butter was shipped to Chicago and placed in cold storage and then returned to this city. It cost $1.39 a hundred to ship the butter to Chicago and $1.49 per hundred to ship it back. With a cold storage plant in this city, this item of expense might have been saved. Creamery butter was sold in Glenburn, Lansford, Sherwood and other surrounding towns that never handled much of it before. At Ambrose, where the merchants failed to handle it, a drug store bot a supply and worked up a big business.

The high figure set on wages will do much towards driving the farmers to diversifying. Little money in big farms. Farmers are learning that the surest money is to be made by tilling only what can be looked after nicely, without having to hire much. Cut down the acres, increase the yield, and learn to do without expensive labor until the time comes when good men can be hired for what they are worth.

IS READING THE BIBLE.

Sometimes printers and newspapermen are considered too irreverent to read the Scripture, but this is not always the case. Oftimes an editor knows about as much concerning whatt can be found in the Bible as the next fellow. L. D. McGahan, editor of the Democrat, is making a study of the Bible this winter, and "Mac" reads the good book after he retires at night. He's liable to get into a warm discussion with the expounders of the doctrine.

Alfred Charmstrom, from ten miles east of Minot, was a holiday shopper Friday. He is one of the early settlers in that vicinity and is well satisfied with the result of his labors.