

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

—THE INDEPENDENT HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY PAPER IN THE STATE—

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CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY DOES NOT EXPECT TO LOWER THE PRESENT LIGHTING RATES

Despite the Brisk Agitation for Lower Rates for Electricity, the Byllesby Co. Will Hardly Accede to Wishes of Our Citizens.

There has been considerable agitation of late for lower rates for light heat and power furnished by the Consumers Power Co. of this city, this being a part of the H. M. Byllesby Co. of Chicago.

When the Byllesby Co. took over the electric light plant from the Minot Light & Telephone Co. about two years ago, the rate for lighting was reduced from 16 cents per K. to 13 cents. The company stated at the time that while the reduction was considerable, it hoped that if the volume of business could be increased, it might be able to reduce the rates still lower at some future time. As the company has not seemed inclined to do anything along this line, many have grown impatient and are now urging the company to lower the rate.

Will Fight in the Courts. An independent representative called on H. E. Brandt, manager of the Consumers Power Co., Tuesday afternoon, and he was told that the people of Minot need not look for any reduction in the rates at this time, as he had but recently taken the matter up with the Chicago manager, Mr. Hunt, who declared that the local company was not at this time making even a fair rate on the investment.

"No one would be more willing to see the rates lowered than myself," said Mr. Brandt, "and I should certainly like to see the citizens of Minot get what they want, but I honestly think that the present rate is the best that you can look for at this time. I took the matter up recently with Mr. Hunt and he declared that the Minot proposition was not paying even a fair rate considering the investment. He said that when the Minot business increases so that this city uses as much electricity as Grand Forks or Fargo, either of which cities uses about four times as much current as Minot, we might look for a reduction. We have made many thousands of dollars worth of improvements in Minot and these of course must be considered in our rates.

"We allow a discount of 10 per cent providing the bills are paid by the tenth of the month, and this reduces the maximum rate to 11.7 per K. Many people do not take advantage of this offer. Some are inclined to be a little extravagant in the use of electricity, using the old fashioned lamps when the Tungstens would use only about half as much electricity and give better light. Then, too there are about a thousand electrical appliances of all kinds used in the city and these all take current.

"I have read the Burns-McDonald report on file with the city auditor, but this report omits many items. For instance, no provision is made for the cost of site, taxes, liability insurance for employees, the salary of bookkeepers and many other items.

"I will leave for Chicago Sunday to attend the annual convention of the company and will take the matter up with the company. Nothing would suit me better than to see the rates reduced, but I fear that this cannot be done. Mr. Hunt declares that the fact that there is lignite coal close to Minot should not make any particular difference in the cost of producing electricity, because there are not more than half the heat units in lignite that there are in other coal. It may mean a legal fight and if such is the case, I am sure that it can be shown that this company is not making a high rate on the investment.

Considered by City Commissioners. Ten petitions were circulated in

the city Monday, which were liberally signed and presented to the city commission Monday night. The petitioners stated that being convinced that the rates were excessive, they asked the commissioners to look into the matter and demand lower rates. There is a law on our statutes which provides that the commission will provide that the commissioners may do this. Accordingly, a committee from the commission will meet with Mr. Brandt today at 2 o'clock. A committee from the Commercial club, Jas. Flatland, J. C. Smallwood and A. A. Robinson will also meet with the commissioners and Mr. Brandt.

LeSueur's Plan. Arthur LeSueur, who has given the matter much study, stated at the Commercial club meeting Tuesday night that the citizens of Minot were harking up the wrong tree. He is convinced that the Byllesby Co. will employ able counsel and should the city commissioners demand lower rates, the company will enjoy the commission from putting these rates in effect. The matter could be drawn out for years before being finally settled in the supreme court.

Mr. LeSueur is in favor of establishing a municipal lighting plant, in accordance with the plans and specifications in the Burns-McDonald report. He believes our citizens are entitled to electricity for just what it costs to produce it and as an illustration cited us to our municipal water works system which furnishes wholesome water at a nominal cost. Peter Vandenoever and others favor Mr. LeSueur's plan and it is possible that city commission will be urged to give us such a plant.

BUSINESSMEN'S DINNER A SUCCESS

The businessmen's dinner given at the Commercial club rooms Tuesday evening was attended by about 100. A good 35 cent dinner was served by the Cozy cafe and at the conclusion, cigars were passed. President Dunnell presided at a smoker when many many important topics were discussed, mention of which is made elsewhere in this issue. The dinner was so successful that Secretary Sherman will give another a week from Tuesday evening.

Wm. Hamilton, who has a bad case of barber's itch, but no money, has been staying at the county farm. The county bought him a ticket to Grand Forks Tuesday, where he has friends.

BIG MID-WINTER FAIR WILL BE HELD IN MINOT WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18—MANY PROMINENT SPEAKERS WILL BE HERE

J. A. ENGLUND A BENEDICT.

Senator J. A. Englund of Kenmare was married to Margaret E. Adams of Estevan, Can., Jan. 2 by Rev. Glover, a Presbyterian minister of that place. Mr. Englund is one of Kenmare's most prosperous and influential citizens and the Independent extends congratulations.

WILL PUBLISH COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Believing that the readers will be interested in the proceedings of the board of county commissioners, the Independent has asked that an extra copy be prepared that we may give the readers a more correct idea of what our county dads are doing. These proceedings will be exactly the same as those published in the official papers.

Major Murphy went to Fargo Tuesday to attend the annual convention of the Grain Growers' association.

COL. I. A. BERG HEADS MILITIA

VETERAN GUARDSMAN IS MADE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MILITIA.

Bismarck, Jan. 13.—I. A. Berg of Grand Forks was appointed by Gov. L. B. Hanna to the position of adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard, succeeding W. C. Treumann of Grafton, who was retired with the rank of major general.

Major Steadman of Bismarck was reappointed by the governor as military secretary.

Previous to the appointment of General Berg, Governor Hanna offered the appointment to Col. J. H. Fraine of Grafton, who is the ranking officer of the guard. He, however, refused the appointment, and Colonel Berg being next in line was named.

General Berg is the oldest member of the state guard in point of service with the exception of Colonel Fraine. In 1888 he became a member of Co. F. of Grand Forks and during almost the entire quarter century that he has been connected with the state militia, he has been one of its best known members and officials.

Five years after he enlisted in Co. F he was promoted to the position of captain and quartermaster of the regiment. In 1898 he went to the Philippines as lieutenant, that being the rank offered him in the regular army service and he accepted. While in the islands he was again made captain and commanded Co. G of Valley City, N. D., during a considerable portion of the eighteen months' period spent in the Philippines.

In 1900 he was made major, serving in that position ten years, being advanced two years ago to the office of lieutenant colonel. In private life, General Berg is assistant cashier of the First National bank at Grand Forks.

CHANCE FOR DAMAGE SUIT.

Bill Holbein of the Lansford Journal is ferriest the bunny hug, the grizzly bear, and things like that and Erer Colcord of the Minot Independent says he never saw the dances, both of which claims are all right to make to their wives.—Bismarck Tribune.

Businessmen Discuss Matter at Commercial Club Meeting and Decide to Back the Proposition—Many Valuable Prizes for Exhibits.

Minot's big mid-winter agricultural fair, poultry, stock and kennel show will be given in this city the week of Feb. 18, in connection with the annual convention of the Mouse River Loop Farmers' association. This was decided at a meeting of our citizens held at the Commercial club rooms Tuesday night.

J. A. Roell, who heads the committee on arrangements, gave his report. He stated that the Armory could be secured during that week and many businessmen have asked that space be reserved for their booths. Many have offered to give costly prizes for best exhibits of grain, garages, garden vegetables, fruits, bread, butter, eggs and fancy work of various kinds which will be on display at the Armory.

UNION NATIONAL HAS ANNUAL MEETING

Usual Ten Per Cent Dividend Is Declared and Old Officers Re-elected. Bank's Condition in the Best of Shape.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Union National bank was held at the offices of the bank Tuesday morning, the shares being well represented.

A report of the condition of the institution was read, and it proved highly satisfactory to all concerned. The usual ten per cent dividend has been declared and there is a substantial sum in the reserve fund, making this bank one of the strongest in this section of the state.

The business of the Union National has been growing year by year. The officers and directors have always worked along conservative lines and the bank weathered the storms of two years of poor crop in good shape. It is in better shape than ever to take care of its customers.

The following board of directors was elected: E. S. Person, Jas. Flatland, A. Balcerud, A. LeSueur and John Ehr.

The following officers were re-elected:

President—E. S. Person. Vice president—John Ehr. Cashier—James Flatland. Assistant cashier—Chas. Zehring.

BERTHOLD FARMER FOUND DEAD IN BED

Mystery Surrounds Death of Henry Kanzler, Near Berthold.

Henry Kanzler, 45, a farmer living eight miles south of Berthold, was found dead at his home.

It is believed that he may have committed suicide by taking poison. The affair is surrounded by mystery however, and nothing definite is known as to the cause of death.

When discovered the body was sitting beside a table in the farmhouse. The arms were folded across the chest, and apparently the man might have been quietly asleep.

On the table beside him was found a letter addressed to his mother, who lives in Park Rapids. When it was opened it was found to be a letter of farewell. The contents showed that Kanzler's mind had become unbalanced by financial difficulties and that for this reason he had determined to end it all.

DES LACS YOUTH IS HORRIBLY BURNED

BETTER ROADS FOR MINOT

Committee Appointed to Confer With City and County Commissioners—Will Organize Good Roads Association.

Minot must have better roads. Too much of the trade our merchants ought to get to other towns because of the poor roads leading into our city. This subject has been taken up and discussed numerous times, but little has been done. At the citizens' meeting at the Commercial club Tuesday night, motions were passed providing for the club president, Wm. Dunnell, appointing a committee to look after the condition of the streets within the city and another to take up the matter of improving the highways leading into the city, with the county commissioners. Peter Vandenoever, commissioner from the 1st, was present, and said he would willingly do his part.

Plans are on foot for organizing a Good Roads association. Now, gentlemen, let's do some good effective work, and little talking.

HIDE HOUSE MAKES BIG IMPROVEMENT

A. Baker of Minot Hide & Fur Co. Spends \$9,000 for Lots and New Building.

The Minot Hide & Fur Co., under the management of A. Baker, is meeting with considerable success. Mr. Baker recently bought from Mrs. Grace Sanborn the old building which he has occupied for some years on East First St. He recently bought a lot adjoining that property on the east and has just completed a cement block building, 21x52 feet, with full basement. Mr. Baker also bought a lot adjoining this property, facing on Belyea avenue. Mr. Baker has some valuable property, his recent investments totaling \$9000.

Geo. W. Kruse and wife have returned from Estherville, Ia., where they spent several weeks at their big farm.

Lloyd Cook, Working About J. C. Cogdill's Engine, Is in Precarious Condition From Gasoline Explosion.

Lloyd Cook, aged 21 years, whose home is in Missouri, is in a precarious condition at Des Lacs, from burns received in an explosion of gasoline, while working around the engine in J. C. Cogdill's feed mill Monday. Lloyd had been cautioned by Mr. Cogdill to be careful with the gasoline. He had attempted to start the engine and found the pipe frozen. Pouring gasoline into the pipe, an explosion occurred that threw the burning oil all over his body. The door was blown shut and the young man blinded. He had presence of mind to jump thru the window and in some manner managed to reach the home of Mr. Bouka about a block away and after he had run around the house several times, his clothing ablaze, Mrs. Bouka rushed out and threw the young man into the snow. He rolled over and over and the woman threw snow upon him, putting out the flames. Lloyd was taken into the house but he tried to get away to go to the feed mill to put out the fire. Several of the citizens, however, went to the mill and with buckets of water extinguished the blaze before much damage was done.

The young man's clothing was practically all burned from his body and most of his hair was burned off. He wore leather gloves and these were nearly burned off. One of his hands was so badly burned that the flesh dropped from the bones and if his life is spared it is likely that he will lose the entire hand or several fingers. He was horribly burned about the face and for a time it was thought that his sight was destroyed, but he is able to see a little today. His chest and flesh under the arms are horribly burned and there are large blisters over the entire body. The doctor in attendance says there are slight chances for his recovery. He is receiving the best of attention. The mother and brother arrived from Missouri Wednesday.

Lloyd has worked in the vicinity of Des Lacs for the past two years and is regarded very highly by all.

FINAL DIVIDENDS WERE PAID

E. J. Elstad of Rugby Representing G. W. Swords, Pays Old Dividends—About \$2,000 Uncalled For.

E. J. Elstad of Rugby, representing Geo. W. Swords, receiver of the defunct Minot National bank, was at the Second National bank Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday paying the final dividend of 10 per cent plus 1 1/2 per cent additional, to the depositors of the Minot National bank, which failed some years ago. While Mr. Elstad is not at liberty to say just the amount of money that the last dividend represents, it runs up into the thousands of dollars and will mean a good deal to many at this particular time of the year. Those who did not get around to call for their checks this week, will have to get their money from the government, as the books will be turned over to Uncle Sam soon.

Mr. Elstad states that there are about \$2000 in old checks that were never called for and they probably have been forgotten by the owners. Eventually this money will go into the government's coffers.

Mr. Swords, the receiver, is now at Billings, Mont., where he is closing up the business for one of the banks that failed. Notwithstanding, considerable time was taken in closing the affairs of the Minot National bank, he deserves a great deal of credit for paying the depositors dollar for dollar, plus 1 1/2 per cent.

STEFFECK MEETS WITH SUCCESS

Our old friend, F. J. Steffeck, writes from Schafer, McKenzie county, and we note that he is the new superintendent schools of that county. Mr. Steffeck at one time was employed in the auditor's office here and he has many warm friends who rejoice at his success.

FEDERAL BUILDING MARCH 1.

About six months ago, the government reported that it would most likely begin the erection of Minot's federal building March 1. Recently Engineer Thomas was employed to survey the site. Congressman-elect Norton from the Third district, has expressed his willingness to push the proposition thru without further delay, so if looks like business.

B. Edwardson of Hesnault, left Wednesday for Grand Forks for a ten days' visit.

During the week, experts in agricultural, stock raising and dairying lines will speak.