

**THE WARD COUNTY
Independent**

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By TRUAX & COLCORD

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Mr. Clark, of the Northern Briquetting Co., kindly piloted a number of newspapermen thru the plant the first of the week and opened their eyes to the future possibilities of his great industry. Mr. Clark very honestly made no claims for the plant that could not be substantiated and explained the pitfalls that any pioneer in the industrial field is heir to. The machinery was installed at great expense, and while more than a thousand tons of first class briquettes have been manufactured and burned, the work so far has been largely experimental with a view of getting the machinery in perfect running order for the better days that are near at hand. So many things to look out for. Practically everything is done automatically, so that when the plant gets to working perfectly six men will turn out seventy or eighty tons in ten hours. The material from the mines has to be in just the right condition for perfect work. The coking ovens at the mines must first work just right. The pitch that is used for the binder has to be kept at the proper temperature and must not be allowed to run out. No foreign obstacle must get mixed with the coke, otherwise damage might be done to the machinery. The briquetting press has a capacity of eight tons and hour when everything is running smoothly. Those who have burned the briquettes are highly pleased with them and the fact that this fuel is used exclusively in the kitchen of the Minot Normal school, and with perfect satisfaction, is proof that this fuel is certain to find favor everywhere. Just a detail here and there to work out and the plant will be running to capacity.

The cocaine habit has taken a terrible hold on a good many young men and women of this city, representatives of the underworld. A number of young lads have contracted the habit, one of the most vicious known, so easy to learn and next to impossible to break. It is, as a rule, contracted thru association with denizens of the scarlet path. The stuff comes in a white, powdery, flaky form and is usually taken into the system thru the nostrils. A pinch of the drug makes a millionaire of the young man and a lady of high caste of the girl using it for the first time. It drives all care away. Life is one continual round of pleasure as long as the spell lasts and soon the stuff has gotten such a hold on the victims that they'd part with their very souls to get just another tiny bit of it. John Barleycorn is a weakling as compared with King Cocaine. It makes a criminal of the youth, dulls all of his finer sensibilities and drives him to an early grave. Scores of "snow birds," as the victims are commonly called, have been hauled in by the police repeatedly. Both young men and women have occupied the cells in our bastiles without showing the slightest semblance of shame. Someone is engaged in the sale of this drug, which is punishable by a very severe penalty. Those guilty of this nefarious business should be ferreted out and given the limit. The time has come to call a halt.

The editors of Kansas are going to show the preachers how to preach. On a solemn Sunday morning in the near future, fourteen Kansas editors will step into as many pulpits of Lawrence and deliver sermons on "The Press and the Pulpit." This is rather unique,

but will have its beneficial features. Here's a suggestion for Valley City. The North Dakota Editorial Association will meet there Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11. A rare opportunity for the Valley City churches to fill their pulpits the following Sunday. Editor Guild of Fargo; De La from Balfour; "Little Mac" of Flasher; "Jawn" Charmley of Mott; P. R. Trubshaw of Valley City; Mr. Davies of Grand Forks and a score or more of the other eloquent editors to choose from, who could fill the Valley City pulpits and fill them with credit, too. They'd draw a crowd for they'd be advertised. We'd gladly linger in Valley City a day longer for such a treat.

The Devils Lake Inter-Ocean gave Congressman Norton a two-column boost and sent blue-penciled copies to all of the publishers in his district, with hopes, we presume, that the article would be copied. We have no particular quarrel with Mr. Norton at this time, but the Inter-Ocean is published outside of his district and the publishers of the Third are wondering just why the Inter-Ocean is taking so much interest. It is understood that Bloom owns the Inter-Ocean and thru the influence of Norton when he was Secretary of State, the Devils Lake Journal, another Bloom publication, secured thousands of dollars worth of printing. If our Congressman desires to receive any support from the publishers of the Third, we'd advise him to keep Colonel Bloom quiet—if possible.

Nature fashioned a beautiful site for our city, indeed no city in the state can boast of such a picturesque location. The broad valley with towering hills on either side makes an ideal spot for the city of homes. The murmuring Mouse, a winding, beautiful stream, flows peacefully thru the heart of the city on its way to the Northland, and yet we have some citizens who are doing their best to defile the stream by dumping ashes, garbage and even manure over its banks, polluting the water and defacing our natural scenery. An ordinance against this, but it is seldom enforced. In our clean-up campaign it might be well to take cognizance of this.

Farmers are working in the fields this week and a very little seeding has been done. This is considered a rather late season but if the weather remains fair, the farmers will manage to get in a big crop by May 1. As a rule, not much wheat is sown after May 10 and corn, according to the statement of one of our most successful growers, should be in not later than May 20. Farmers are jubilant over prospects for a good crop, as the soil was never in a more ideal condition at this time of the year. It has an abundance of moisture.

In selecting a successor to Will E. Holbein, secretary of the North Dakota Press Association, the committee looked for a man entirely familiar with the work and the needs of the association and very wisely chose W. H. Francis, the Velva publisher, who has done effective work as chairman of the executive committee. It is presumed that Mr. Francis' place on the committee will be filled at the summer press meeting.

Few state officials have so completely won the esteem and warm regard of the people as genial Tom Hall, secretary of state. Honest and conscientious in service, enterprising and alert in improving the standard and service of his office, and just plain "Tom" to his many friends, Mr. Hall ought to succeed himself with the facility of a snowball rolling down hill.—LaMoure Chronicle.

Colonel Alex. Scarlett's petitions for the lower house of the legislature are being circulated and liberally signed. The Colonel has seldom sought public office, but he has always been successful in getting what he went after and

as his acquaintance over the district is very large, it would not be at all surprising were he an easy winner. The Colonel is a man of very pronounced ideas, and as a legislator would be heard from.

The fair sex simply had to wear their new gowns and Easter bonnets Sunday, altho the day was a trifle cool. We went to church and could hardly get interested in the sermon from gazing at the gay, colored dresses and coat suits, altho we are free to confess we didn't take the trouble to notice whether the skirts were slit or not. Mortal man will never get used to the present day fashions.

It is estimated that Will E. Holbein will have the support of no less than ninety per cent of the newspapers of the state in his campaign for Commissioner of Agriculture, and this support is given freely, without the asking, and only because his friends who know him best realize that he's the best man for the place. This is an endorsement that money could not possibly get and "Old Bill" no doubt is proud of it.

We counted nine cars of emigrant goods in one train on their way to Canada over the Soo Monday. Nearly every train from the east carries good farmers on their way to the King's realm, many of whom will learn that they could have bettered their condition had they remained on this side of the line.

Dr. Mayo of Rochester is authority for the statement that the excessive use of meat causes cancer. If you would live long and die happy, eat sauer kraut and dumplings and eschew meats. At present prices, one will save money, too. Cut out the juicy steaks and you'll soon own an auto.

When Colonel Bloom, editor of the yellow Devils Lake Journal, takes a whack at a republican candidate, that is a sure sign that that candidate is showing some strength. The Colonel thinks he's a foxy old politician, but the republicans, and some of the democrats, are next to him, and he doesn't cut a very big figure any more.

The anti-suffragette campaign has been launched in North Dakota. Miss Minnie Bronson, secretary of the National association, and her assistant, Miss C. E. Markeson of Columbus, O., are in the state and will make a speaking tour. Might arrange for a series of debates.

**Billy Wise Writes
The Professor**

Dear Dad:
I was in town yesterday and dropped in to see Mr. H. S. Johnson. He grabs me and says, "Bill, you're just the lad I'm wanting to see."

I says, "Well, take a look, but kindly leave my shirt on."

He leads me to a chair and hands me a cigar that looks all right and burns all right, but which made the office cat take a sneak for air.

Johnson spreads his legs apart and stands in front of me, looking real solemn and thoughtful.

Says he, "Do you know that fence posts are scarce; that the demand for posts right after seeding is going to be fierce?"

"How do you know," says I, "have you had word from the weather bureau?"

"No," says he, "but I've been wrapping up boards and passing out sticks long enough to know that about the time the robin starts to chirp and the hired man puts up the drill, that everybody's thoughts turn blithely to fence posts and wire."

"Correct," says little Billy, "they also turn to love."

"Now," he goes on, with a withering look at me, "this year is like any other old year except,"—here he aims a long, convincing-like finger at me, "except that last winter there was very little snow, logging operations were light and posts this year are hard to get. If you want to order them now, I'll book you for 800 and you will be sure to get them when you are ready."

And not wanting to have Olson's cows walking around in my flax, I books an order for the posts and 300 rods of woven wire fence. I can haul it any time and the Rogers Lumber Co. carries the load.

Your son,
BILLY WISE.
P. S.: They sell woven wire now too.

DES LACS.

We have often wondered why Des Lacs township has no items in the Independent, being one of the most progressive and prosperous townships in the county. There is no news I like better than the items for the different villages throughout the county, and I am going to let them know for once that Des Lacs is on the map.

Our public school at Des Lacs has been closed for two weeks on account of scarlet fever. All those having it

at the present time are getting along as well as could be expected. Dr. Halverson, the attending doctor, has all cases well in hand.

"Abe" Weatherwax and family were visiting Sunday with Ross Leyder and family.

Mrs. McKelvy and some friends from Plaza were in Des Lacs Sunday visiting her husband, Rev. McKelvy, who is the M. E. pastor at that place. Mrs. McKelvy is teaching school near Plaza. After her school is finished at that place they will move to Des Lacs, as she has been engaged as teacher for the Intermediate room at that place.

C. H. Weatherwax, Wm. Sayer and James Richardson have each purchased a small engine for handling the cream separator and washing machine, which looks better to us than buying a gas tractor for farming purposes.

Quite a number of our farmers were seen in the field last week.

J. W. Hussey and L. B. Weatherwax were seen in the field Saturday gathering stone and piling them in nice little piles. Oh, those pebbles, there are always a few left.

Our old neighbor, Chas. Dickerson, has returned to the land of his first love and has purchased the Wm. Bradley property in Des Lacs. He will make that place his future home. We are certainly glad to see him among us once more.

Mrs. Buran and family were visiting Sunday with Mr. Joe Pirkel and family.

Miss Irene Pearson took dinner with Zora Hussey.

Joe Boucher, wearing that smile that never comes off, was seen among our farmers last week buying hogs and cattle. When we can sell fat stock instead of wheat and feed, 12 per cent interest will cease to bother the farmers.

We understand the I. O. O. F. boys will celebrate their anniversary April 26 at their new hall. We predict for those who attend a most enjoyable

time, as we are acquainted with a good many of them, and find them to be a bunch of pretty good Indians.

We understand they took in seven new members last Thursday night. From the noise heard on the street some of them were scared or badly excited.

One of our good neighbors had business in Grand Forks two weeks ago. Everybody thought he was after some machinery, but what did that Swede do but go and get married. He stole a march on all of us, but after having met Mrs. Pearson we are prepared to say, well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of wedded life. We congratulate you Nels, on your good judgment and in bringing to our neighborhood a lady we are all proud of.

A great many of our farmers are discing their summer-fallow and fall plowing to start the weeds. After the ground has warmed up and the weeds have started the ground will be worked down and seeded to different kinds of grain. This looks sensible to us, for we have to plan some way to start and kill Russian thistle if we expect to raise any kind of crops.

F. P. Waters, state Grange organizer, started a Grange here March 10, with 31 members; also one in Rolling Green township with as many more than we have here. Our Grange here in Des Lacs township has taken in thirty new members and the end is not yet in sight. For want of room we are going to hold our next meeting in the I. O. O. F. hall, Wednesday evening, April 15. We have a number of new members to take in after which we will have a musical program. Then comes the main attraction, a good old farmer feed. Looking at the Grange from a social standpoint we think it is a grand thing for any community. Once a month or once every two weeks the farmers all get together and after the routine business of the order is disposed of, everything is turned over

to the lecturer, whose business it is to see to the social side of the order. Debates on any question pertaining to the farm, musical programs, old fashioned spelling bees, anything that will interest old and young and convince those who are not already convinced that the only free and independent life is the life on the farm.

GRANGER.

Minister Knew His Business.
It is said that no less than \$600 changed hands as the result of the city election at Kenmare recently. One prominent citizen who had just won \$150, was approached by a minister the next morning, who said: "I believe this would be a good time to see you about that subscription." There was nothing for the poor fellow to do but to divide up.

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