

## The Ward County INDEPENDENT

Published Every Thursday.  
By TRUAX & COLCORD

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA.



### PROF. LADD HAS 'EM GOING AGAIN.

The Independent is in receipt of a copy of an article which appeared in the Nov. 18th issue of the New York Produce Review and after carefully reading it, we are inclined to think that the poultry dealers of the east are considerably exercised over the ruling of Prof. Ladd, North Dakota's pure food commissioner, who declares that undrawn poultry cannot be legally sold in this state. We don't know much about the poultry business but we believe that Prof. Ladd knows what he is talking about. It stands to reason that the flavor of poultry will not be improved by the presence of the intestines. We give below the article in question, which is very cleverly written and our readers may take it for what it is worth:

According to an article in the Butchers' Advocate, the food commissioner of North Dakota has declared that undrawn poultry cannot be legally sold in that state—not because of any specific law against it, but because of a supposed effect of the net weight and the pure food law. A law provides that "all weight shall be net, excluding the wrapper or container," and the food law declares food to be adulterated "if it consists wholly or in part of diseased, decomposed, filthy or putrid animal or vegetable substance."

And the commissioner declares that "when poultry is weighed and sold with the intestines and crop removed, it consists in part of a decomposed, filthy or putrid substance," also that "the weighing of poultry without first drawing, removing the contents of the crop and the head, cannot be considered net weight."

On this remarkable basis a dealer is said to have been fined for selling undrawn poultry. It seems astounding that such interpretation of law could be upheld in any court. Misguided attempts to prevent the sale of undrawn poultry by specific laws have been made at intervals for some years past; whenever they have received any impartial consideration, and any adequate investigation of the facts has been made, they have failed. The researches of the United States Department of Agriculture have fully verified and explained the scientific reasons for the empirical knowledge of market men that undrawn poultry keeps better and is far less subject to contamination than drawn poultry. There is no more reason for regarding the intestines and crop of sound poultry, properly handled and kept from food before killing, as being filthy, than for so regarding the liver and heart, which are commonly eaten. The fact that the intestines are not eaten does not make them "filthy"—certainly not decomposed or putrid. In fact, sausages are not regarded as filthy because encased in sacks made of intestines. Furthermore, the pure food law is general in its application, and if the North Dakota commissioner were right in his decision, he would have to apply his ruling to all sales of Poultry. The farmers would have to kill and draw the poultry before selling it—which would be seriously destructive of the quality of the product.

To say that the weight of an undrawn fowl is not its net weight because part is commonly thrown away in practice, is certainly an absurdity. Why not insist upon the removal of the bones also? Must we peel potatoes before selling them? And take the shells from eggs? And does the commissioner imagine that a dealer can sell drawn poultry at the same price per pound as undrawn? Even the head of a chicken is food for a cat.

A post mortem usually does no good, but several of them were held in Minot Saturday morning when it was learned that Morgan Rhoades, who shot dead Griffen Skinner, another negro, had been cleared by the jury. Admitting that Skinner was a bad "nigger" and threatened to kill Rhoades, the colored slayer should have notified the authorities. Rhoades went a-gunning for Skinner and his pals. He found Skinner eating his supper in Oser Webb's restaurant, and called to him to throw up his hands, then shot the fellow dead, not giving him the slightest chance for his life. It is hard to see how any jury could be convinced that Rhoades had acted in self-defense, altho the attorney for the defense displayed some rare oratory. It's only one coon killing another, still we wonder whether a white man could have gotten away with it under like circumstances.

A German sympathizer and one who favors the armies of the Allies got into a wordy war in this city the other night. It was a windy fight as they fought the battles. A part of the time the Kaiser's forces were in the lead and then the Allies were supreme. How foolish it seems for any American to become greatly exercised over this war. It is a terrible thing and to properly describe the conflict, one would have to exhaust the vocabulary of the English language, but it is better for Americans not to take any part. What good can it do anyway?

This is too bad. From a Chicago daily we clip this discouraging item: More than 250,000 members of the Presbyterian church in the United States have been placed on the "suspended" roll within the last five years, according to the report of the Rev. William Fulton to the general assembly committee. He gives as the cause "the growing love of pleasure; disregard for the Lord's day and the word of God; the increasing craze for amusements and the influence of worldly company." But we hope sister churches will not point the finger. Methodists and Baptists, Lutherans and Congregationalists are open to the same criticism. The apostles are dead. The millennium has not arrived.

Just now, the various candidates for speaker of the house are marshalling their forces and 'tis well for the legislature convenes early in January. One of the most likely candidates is A. M. Thompson, one of the members from this district. Mr. Thompson was a member of the last legislature and he gained valuable experience. That he is well fitted for the important position is generally conceded. He was a candidate for the position two years ago and displayed a great deal of strength. From what we can learn, he has an excellent chance of landing the place this year, and his many friends hope that he will.

Dear old Horace Greely visited Minnesota many years ago, but he did not think much of the state because at the time no apples were grown there. Since the time of old Horace, not only good apples are grown in Minnesota, but now comes forth a man who has successfully grown one variety of peaches. The chief trouble with growing peaches in Minnesota, the horticulturists says, is that the warm spring winds shrivel up the branches before the sap starts. He has remedied that by protecting the trees from the wind and sun. We'll grow peaches in North Dakota soon.

It doesn't pay to criticize the supreme court too severely. We may differ with that body and say so, give our reasons and fear no danger. But to publish anything of an editorial nature with a view to influencing a decision, no sane newspaper man will do unless he is courting trouble and desires to be taken before that august body and asked to explain. It's a fairly easy matter for a newspaperman to be found guilty of contempt. It pays to put on the soft pedal when dealing with our supreme court.

Sunday was a superb day and scores were out in their autos. Most of the machines are now in their winter quarters, but if this lovely weather continues, bring them out. Nothing like a drive in this clear, cold winter air, except it be a walk. Motoring is great sport, but don't neglect to exercise "Shank's horses." Whatever one does, don't hibernate for the winter like many do. The old as well as the young can enjoy skating and coasting. What pleasures there are in North Dakota in the good old winter time.

Mince pies are coming to the front. It is their open season. No law against destroying as many of the specimens as you can find. Are mince pies wholesome? They are eaten at dinner after a course of meat and vegetables, but they are meat, and the idea of having two meat courses! See? It is a heavy combination for a weak stomach. Squash pie, apple or custard, much better. Further advice at this office.

Class in English, step forward. There's got to be. Better there must be. Got is a cheap word. Same space of time. Same time. Throng in upon. Drop the in. Red Indian. They are generally red, few white. Future ahead of him. Of course, never behind a man. Rise up. Never rise down. Stand up is another. Ella Flagg Young is reported as saying I don't doubt but that. Drop the but. I don't doubt that. Study your grammars.

Do not waste your good money on war books. You get plenty of pictures in the papers, and that is all necessary. Publishers think people are crazy for information and are throwing a lot of cheap books on the market. The war is not over, the map will be changed, a year will make a great difference, and present books will be out of date. Read the papers for history and for maps.

Thank goodness, we are to have English names at hotels for dishes on bill of fare. Away with the French titles that have puzzled plain travelers so long. Think of pommes de terre for potatoes, wiener schnitzel for veal cutlets, filet mignon for tenderloin, lala rookle for ice cream. Why did brave Americans stand this nonsense for two generations? Let us know what we are eating. If it is American stuff, not Paris, say so. Next.

Onward, Christian-Mohammedan-Buddhist-Shinto-Brahmin soldiers.—Ex.

We notice the Chicago board of education are determined to suppress secret societies in the high schools, and there are twenty-two in the city. Much kicking, but boys at that age have enough to do with their regular studies. These outside affairs take their time and energy, foster a spirit of clique, out of no earthly advantage. Time enough at college and even then some excellent men get along without them.

No less than five hundred by actual count were skating on the river Sunday. The ice is nice and smooth and in places thick enough to hold an adult, but there are so many openings in the river. Strange, but there wasn't an accident. The river will claim its toll though. It does every winter. Some poor mother will mourn her son. It's well to keep the boys off the ice till its strong enough and even then there are dangers a-plenty.

The four members of the legislature from this district, C. A. Grow, A. M. Thompson, B. A. Dickinson and J. W. Smith, together with Senator W. R. Bond, will make an excellent working team at Bismarck. They will not only work for the best interests of the state in general, but their constituents in particular, and we feel sure that they will gladly listen to any suggestions and give them proper consideration.

That man Ford who makes automobiles simply can't get rid of his money as fast as he makes it. His balance sheet for the year ending Sept. 30 shows assets of \$61,632,000 and a surplus of \$48,827,000, practically double the totals for the year before. His cash in hand and in banks is \$27,441,468, against \$13,225,000 the year before. His profit-sharing plan didn't help him much; he is richer than ever.—Ex.

North Dakotans can be thankful that the hoof and mouth disease did not create any furore in North Dakota. We have just fairly started in the dairy business and the presence of this disease would have been a terrible blow to this business. At Peoria, Ill., five thousand cattle had to be killed and many thousand more in other parts of the state.

This is apparently the open season for negroes. You will be fined \$10 and costs for killing a duck out of season, but it has been demonstrated that if a colored man is shot, his slayer not only goes Scott free but perhaps may be given a star and a gun and appointed Chief of Coonville.

It is hard to believe these reports that the Bull Moose party is rapidly shrinking. From the looks of his picture, he appears as large as ever.

The Germans claim they will eat Christmas dinner in London. Some Englishman asks, "Which Christmas?"

**QUICK SALE.**  
A motorist driving an antique car passed the vehicle gate at an Iowa fair without observing the gateman. The gateman ran after him and shouted:

"Hey there! Dollar for your—"  
The brake jammed, the car stopped, and the owner got out.

"Well, mister," he said, "guess you've bought sumpin'."

**W. M. SMART HAS FIVE FINE BOYS**  
A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Smart Sunday morning. Mr. Smart, who is one of the publishers of the Optic-Reporter, is now the proud daddy of five fine boys.

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