

The Ward County
INDEPENDENT

Published Every Thursday.
By TRUAX & COLCORD

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA.



OUR COMMERCE AND THE JOB-
LESS.

Fargo Courier-News: Hurrah! We have twisted John Bull's lionine tail again.

Hurrah! Give it another yank. The world and England shall know that we will not stand this outrage of holding up the meat steamers of Phil Armour and the other multi-millionaire packers—the same packers who have squeezed every penny they can out of us and who, by reason of the war demand for American meats, are getting ready to squeeze us some more.

Not for a single minute will we stand for the seizure of the copper cargoes of the Calumet and Butte mining kings—the same who have oppressed our labor for years and shot up our workmen at, and with, pleasure.

We will make England keep hands off. Moreover we will make her pay millions for those delayed and seized meat and copper cargoes.

Of course, we have another problem a thousand times worse—a thousand times nearer to every one of us—right here at home. We have two million men and women out of work, which means eight million people in destitution and near starvation in the United States. Uncle Sam is saying nothing about that. Not a word. The government has taken no steps to relieve the terrible situation. No note from the state department. No serious debate in congress. Your Uncle Sam ignores the situation. Ignores the plight of eight million of our own men, women and children who are starving or are on the edge of starvation! Eight million careworn people in comfortless homes, ill clothed, ill fed, fearful of a worse horror to come in a zero winter. And Uncle Sam pays no attention to it, does nothing, lets them freeze, lets them hunger, lets them fear—a cold, heedless, hard Uncle Sam, but—he's awfully good to Phil Armour.

Alex. McKenzie seems to have as many lives politically speaking, as the proverbial cat. Alex. has been out of the state for years, he was licked to a frazzle six years ago, yet every time an election rolls around or the legislature meets, he is supposed to bob up. To point the finger of scorn at a candidate and yell "McKenzie," usually makes him do more or less explaining, but the old saw has been worked too often. The big Scotchman must chuckle when he reads the newspaper accounts of his imaginative power.

The Fargo Courier-News states that it starts out the new year in much better shape than ever and says the past month's business was the best in its history. Dr. Guild is giving Fargo an excellent paper. Recently a number of special editions have been issued, the Auditorium special being the best ever. Guild has had a hard pull since he landed in Fargo a few years ago. He invested \$20,000 in the plant which he had saved from his earnings while preaching the gospel and for a time it looked as tho he was going to lose his "pile." Many friends are pleased to see Dr. Guild and the Courier-News prosper.

The total vote on the suffrage question in the state was 89,410, of which 40,009 favored and 49,410 opposed suffrage. The suffragists carried 15 counties, while the "antis" carried 35. The majority in the 15 counties was 3,642, while the majority anti-vote in the 35 opposing counties was 13,043, making a net opposing vote of 9,401. Every county on the eastern edge of the state, in the old settled counties of the Red river valley, as well as the second tier of counties, opposed woman's suffrage, while every county on the western edge of the state, adjoining Montana, and more recently settled, favored suffrage.

The Minot Typographical Union has asked the "bosses" to sign up a contract giving the printers a \$20 minimum wage scale. The Independent is perfectly willing to sign up, in fact at present we are paying the scale and for many years have been paying more than the scale. We remember thirteen years ago, we could employ good printers for \$12 a week, but living was cheaper then. For years the union scale has been \$16 a week and a man cannot support his family properly on such low wages. We believe in paying our employes what they can earn. We have a fine crew at present, tho we will confess that we have

employed union printers in a few instances that could not work for us steadily if they gave their services free. The union should insist on a man's being competent before giving him a card and, generally speaking, a union card is symbolic of good workmanship.

The Independent is truly grateful to the Board of County Commissioners for their action on Monday, when they appointed this publication one of the official newspapers for the ensuing year. The Independent has long observed that our present county board is composed of sincere men; men who have the welfare of the county at heart, and their official acts invariably demonstrate that they are determined to get the tax-payers the best service possible for the money. We are just vain enough to "admit" that the appointment of this paper to serve the county during the coming year is simply a continuance of this policy. The fact that the appointment came unsolicited it gratifying, indeed.

Many friends of Supt. S. H. Wolfe will undoubtedly register a protest against the board's accepting his resignation. The good work that Mr. Wolfe has done for the Minot schools is too well known to need any comment by the Independent. Mr. Wolfe is just in the prime of life and is prepared to do his best work. It really matters little to him whether his resignation is accepted or rejected, for an educator of his ability will have scores of good positions offered, should he remain in the educational field. The proposition is, can Minot afford to dispense with his services at this time? The Independent predicts that the board will find it mighty hard to find a superintendent to take his place.

Andy Miller, the retiring Attorney-General, insists that he is thru with politics, and declared that he would have given up the job long ago but for the fact that he wanted to completely down the whiskey ring and the band of blind piggers. Andy has proved a bitter disappointment to progressives. For a long time he has been unpopular with a great many influential men in the state, but he did just enough grand-standing and at the proper time, to get elected. He met his Waterloo last spring when he became a candidate for the United States Senate, evidently figuring on getting much support that he could not land. We will not hear much from Andy Miller in the future.

A farmer called at the Independent office the other day to inquire where he could get some good Marquis seed wheat. We have had inquiries for Durum seed wheat and other grains. Here is a little suggestion that will likely make you some money if you take advantage of it. If you have any choice seed for sale, just advertise it in the want columns of the Independent. It amounts only to a cent a word per issue and you are certain to find a buyer at a good figure. We are informed that seed wheat is worth \$1.50 per bushel now and no one knows how much higher it will be. It would be a very good plan to arrange for your seed early.

There are rumors that union labor will try to make it unpleasant for the Knight Printing Co. which has the state contract for printing. Union printers are flocking to Bismarck this week and an effort will be made to get the non-union printers, employed there by the Knight concern during the legislative session, to quit their jobs, thus forcing the printing concern to employ union labor. This may work out, but if anything is done that will interfere with the printing of the legislative proceedings, it is pointed out that the legislature may get on its ear and pass some drastic anti-union measures. The result of the labor war will be watched with interest.

We have some subscribers who every year aim to clean up all their local accounts, so that they know just where they are at when they start the New Year. If they fall behind one year and end up in debt they aim to economize or retrench or else they change their system in order if possible to make up their losses. They stop the drains if possible and with hogs, cows, poultry, etc., try to increase and make more certain their income for the ensuing year. That is good management and indicates a business head. —Bottineau News.

We ate dinner at a hotel down the line the other day which would have been excellent but for the fact that skim milk was served for the coffee, and it was dirty milk at that. It seems strange that it is almost impossible to obtain nice, yellow, rich cream at a country hotel. You've got to go to the city for it. If the editor were managing a country eating house, we'd see that good cream was served if we had to feed the guests on black bread and molasses.

The state has retired \$20,000 more worth of bonds. This makes a total of \$320,000 bonds that have been retired

since Hanna became governor. It's now time for those who have been making light of the governor's "business administration" to have another fit.

The Independent has made arrangements for a special report of the legislative proceedings and will give its readers several columns of good, live matter each week pertaining to the "doings" at Bismarck.

DROWNED IN WASH BOILER.
Gordon, the two year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Buskirk, residing a few miles southwest of town, was drowned late last Thursday afternoon when he fell into a wash boiler containing about six inches of water. The mother had gone to the barn yard to feed her chickens, leaving the little boy and his twin sister sitting on chairs eating apples. The little boy in some manner got down from the chair, crept across the floor and removed the cover from the boiler. Loosing his balance he fell head first into it. The water was ice-cold and it is probable that the sudden shock made him powerless to help himself. The mother was absent but a few minutes and was almost overcome with grief when she saw the body in the boiler. Funeral services were held Friday from the home, Rev. S. S. Petry officiating. The sympathy of the entire community goes out to the heartbroken parents in their bereavement.—Berthold Tribune.

HOGS EARN BIG PROFITS.
Williston Herald: Stories of big profits from livestock are becoming so common among Williams and McKenzie county farmers that it seems nearly everybody has discovered this new source of wealth. One of the largest shipments of live stock made recently consisted of two car loads of hogs, one car load raised by E. W. Jeffrey and the other by Evans Brothers. The hogs were sold in South St. Paul, both cars bringing top market prices of \$6.70 per hundred, bringing the owners about \$1,000 per car. Mr. Jeffrey, who has been making a specialty of raising hogs, figures that after all expenses, including feed and labor were counted out, there remained about \$200 of net profits on his car load shipment. Mr. Jeffrey finished his hogs on barley but he is now planning to buy a feed mill with which to grind alfalfa for fattening purposes.

WHEAT SOLD FOR \$1.23.
Wheat sold in Minot Tuesday for \$1.23 per bushel, the highest price paid in the history of Minot. Just how much higher it will go is a problem. The Independent understands that the Armour interests in Chicago have shot the price of wheat upward, but whenever that concern begins to unload, it will undoubtedly go down, but perhaps only temporarily. The price has been very unsteady. If the European war goes on there seems to be no reason whatever why the price eventually should not be some higher. The wheat crop in Australia was a failure, but there is a surplus in Russia. As long as the Dardanelles remains closed, there is no way of the Russian wheat being shipped out.

GREEK SHACKS BURNED.
A number of Greek shacks, occupied by G. N. section men, and located on the Great Northern right-of-way, near the river, were burned Thursday. It is presumed that the shacks were set on fire to destroy millions of lives—bed bugs and the like. The fire got away from the destroyers, however, burned the limbs from several trees and destroyed the electric light and telephone wires leading to the north side, leaving a portion of the city in darkness and rendering many without telephone service for a day or two.

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In attempting to "chin" himself on a looped rope at the farm of Gustav Sollon, 17 miles south of Grand Forks, Walter Bjerk, aged 13, caught his head in the moose and was unable to extricate himself. He was found dead by Mr. Sollon a few minutes later.

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