

**THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT**

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Minot, North Dakota.



**WHY NOT WARD?**

Mountrail county built a magnificent new court house at a cost of \$72,825, which will furnish a fine home for the officials and a model place for the taxpayers to transact their business for scores of years to come. The county is bonded in the sum of \$50,000, running twenty years. The remainder of the fund was provided for by the advance building fund. The annual interest amounts to \$3,000 and the sinking fund to meet the total face of the bond would have to be \$2,500 per year, so that the total annual levy required is only \$5,500.

Against this annual indebtedness would be the interest on the sinking fund, on the presumption that the \$2,500 annually is placed on interest. If this rate were six per centum as the bond it would amount in the twenty years to something like \$30,000, which would be a reduction of the interest the county would be required to pay. True, the sinking fund could hardly be loaned at the bond bearing rate. But if it were lower and compounded the rate would be pretty nearly the same. On the whole, then, it may be safely said that the interest charge against the county on its court house bond will be something near \$30,000. That is not a very appalling amount for a court house as modern and that will serve the purpose of the people of the county as well as the one under consideration.

Taking an average of five quarter sections of land in Mountrail county which are assessed at an average of \$639 each, the annual tax for sinking and interest funds is seventy-three cents per quarter. That is each citizen's share for the possession of the finest courthouse in the western part of the state. The burden is so light that not a farmer would feel it. We doubt if there is a quarter section of land in Mountrail county that has not been enhanced in value fifteen dollars by the erection of the county building. Certainly it is a pretty low rate of insurance—seventy-five cents a year—for the records and deeds of the lands which are paying taxes.

**WATCH OUT FOR FAKERS.**

North Dakota will this fall be one of the most attractive fields on the continent for the legitimate business man. The people will be well supplied with money, and they will be large purchasers of everything that goes to make life worth living. Because of this condition the state will also be an attractive place for the professional faker. There is no line of legitimate human endeavor which has not been perverted to the use of the scoundrel. Gold mining is a perfectly legitimate business, and often a very profitable one; but people have been victimized by so many bogus mining schemes that it would be very difficult today to sell stock in a perfectly sound and legitimate mining enterprise.

But, while the gold mining swindle is no longer popular, new swindles are being invented every year, and some of the old ones are occasionally reviewed. A few "don'ts" may be useful:

- Don't sign papers for or pay any money to strangers under any pretext.
- Don't invest in enterprises that promise enormous profits. People are not giving big profits away.
- Don't neglect, when in doubt, to ask the advice of your local merchant or

banker. These men are experienced. They will be with you a long time. And it is to their interest to protect you, for they want to retain your confidence and respect.

We note by the Donnybrook Courier that several farmers in that vicinity have bought adjoining land. The Courier is correct when it says that if strangers wish to acquire any land in that vicinity they will have to look sharp, because it is being bought by local farmers at a rapid rate. And we note by our exchanges, all over the state, that the same conditions prevail elsewhere. The men who have lived here and farmed long enough to know the good qualities of our state, realize that at present prices of land, it is pretty good stuff to invest in and they are getting busy adding to their acreage wherever possible. As an illustration, we note that Herman Borneke of Donnybrook bought a section tributary to his own farm. W. A. Pullen added another quarter to his farm which before comprised five quarters. H. R. Geiselman secured an adjoining quarter.

The corn crop over the state is in danger. A few years ago, it did not matter whether corn matured or not, because there was so little of it anyway. But this year, nearly every farmer put in considerable. It was nipped by late frosts two or three times. Some fields were sown to oats or barley, but considerable was left. It has made a fine growth of late and much of it will mature if the frost holds off until late in the season. Farmers are urged to use every precaution to save this crop for good seed corn will be worth almost its weight in gold next spring. We cannot depend on getting good seed further south for we have tried growing that kind of seed with little success. Very little seed from the 1914 crop will be available.

The democrats will not be satisfied unless John Burke, three times governor of North Dakota, and at present, United States Treasurer, consents to become a candidate for the United States Senate against P. J. McCumber and L. B. Hanna. Burke has not definitely decided whether he will become a candidate or not. Certain democrats are willing to let him name the other members of the ticket if he will consent to become a candidate himself. Burke is drawing a salary of \$12,500 a year, and we predict that he will elect to stay right where he is. However, should "Honest John" get into the race, there will be some fun.

If your pessimist is a purposeful pessimist, one who sees things as they are, and picks out mistakes and faults with a view to correcting them and does it—very well, let him live on. But if he is a nagging, ever-complaining individual who is never satisfied with anything or anybody, and tries to spoil the satisfaction of everyone else, shoot him down. We have as little use for that kind of a pessimist as we have for the too cheerful optimist who is perfectly content with things as they are, because he is too lazy or too indifferent to do anything to better conditions. The country is overrun with both.

A writer in a woman's magazine tells the girls how they can keep their good looks. And the funny thing about it is that she tells them to keep their liver in good order. She says good looks, and that means health, depend upon "food, sleep and fresh air and not upon pills and prescriptions." And she adds: "If the average woman gave as much attention to that much abused organ, the liver, as she does her finger nails, her face would need less attention."

Hunting season opens Sept. 7. Get your license now and keep it in a handy place. Be sure to take it with you when you go hunting. It will do you no good if you leave it at home.

Newspaper accounts of serious automobile accidents seem to be more numerous than ever this season, and it is not to be wondered at when one considers the large number of machines that have passed into the hands of new and inexperienced drivers since spring opened.

In the majority of cases we read that "the car skidded and turned over" or "slippery or rough roads," but experienced drivers know that a car will not skid unless driven too fast for the particular kind of road it is passing over. Therefore, if you wish to avoid skidding, keep the speed down to a safe point.

Collisions also are numerous. Here again, speed is generally the cause. Drive slow when you meet another car unless there is plenty of room to pass. Then, if the other driver should happen to turn the wrong way you can stop.

Above all, be careful not to frighten teams that you meet in dangerous places. Don't be a road hog! As a rule the man whose time is worth the least is the fastest driver when he gets into a machine.

North Dakota doesn't need a fish hatchery any more than a dog needs two tails. The state paid out \$5,000 last year on its fish hatchery and will spend considerable more this year. We can get all the fish we want from the government, so why this needless expense? About the only fish that can be propagated with much success in the waters of the state are perch, pickerel, stone-head trout and wall-eyed pike. These do nicely in the lakes of North Dakota and in some lakes fine black bass may be found, but these cannot be successfully propagated. The fish hatchery furnishes a soft job or two, but really does no one any good. The government supplies the fish hatchery with its stock of fish and why not secure them direct from Uncle Sam for our bodies of water?

Mouse river claimed its toll of two lives last week. Every summer there is a case or two of drowning in this stream. The water flows so gently and appears so placid that bathers seldom realize the danger. The river isn't wide at any point, but there are holes of sufficient depth to demand precautionary measures. Scores of bathers enjoy themselves every warm day of the summer, but when an accident occurs there is always an absence of boats, ropes or inflated bags. It is too late to safeguard the lives that have already been taken, but there are more to follow. Let us hope that certain precautions will be taken at once to obviate in a degree some of the attendant dangers.

Those Georgians are a bloodthirsty lot. Leo M. Frank, whose sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by former Governor Slaton for the murder of Mary Phagan, the factory girl, was taken away from the prison guard Tuesday morning by an infuriated mob and hanged. There was a reasonable doubt as to Frank's guilt and he was put away where he could harm no one at any rate. In North Dakota, where the people are more cool-headed, this would have been different. We don't hang in this state any more. Tuesday morning's occurrence is a disgrace to the name of Georgia.

Don't call your mother "old woman." We often hear that from young men. Stop and think how it sounds. Old Lady is bad enough, but the "old woman," applied to her who gave you life and nursed your infancy, is rude and unkind. Once it was "Mother, I'm hungry; mother, mend my jacket; mother, put up my dinner," and many such things, and mother would spread bread and butter and put up luncheon with her heart brimming with affection for you. Now is she the old woman?

The secretary of state reports that 22,300 automobile licenses have been issued already this year. Someone has figured that this gives one automobile to every twenty-six persons in North Dakota, counting men, women and children. The value of the automobiles is estimated at nearly \$20,000,000. This appears to be a very prosperous state, where people get pretty nearly everything that strikes their fancy.

The split log drag has contributed more toward the economic maintenance of public highways than any implement of modern usage. It does not require special acts of the legislature, bond issues nor expensive educational campaigns to make it available as usually precedes construction work. A drag can be built or purchased for twenty dollars and is easily operated by anyone who can drive a team. We need more drags in this state.

The press gang of the state will appreciate the fact that this year the North Dakota State Agricultural Association, that has charge of the state industrial exposition at Bismarck in October is spending some money for display advertising and will be able to cooperate better than ever with the proposition and for one, the Independent appreciates the spirit as well as the money.

The present war gives abundant proof that some people are very willing to let other people die for them. For instance the emperors, kings and kaisers, with but few exceptions, keep a safe distance from the firing line. If they could only be sent in to do the fighting and let the common folks have a rest, how quickly the war would end.

How the modern woman does enjoy making her husband a present of something useful to herself. Now comes the \$30,000,000 bride presenting the groom with a most choice cigarette case as a wedding gift.

The Fargo Forum's sporting editor says the hunting season opens Sept. 15. In reality it opens Sept. 7. If the Forum editor doesn't wake up, he'll find most of the birds bagged before he gets out with his good dog and gun.

The North Dakota State Agricultural Association is preparing for its big exposition at Bismarck, Oct. 4 to Oct. 16. Ward county ought to arrange an exhibit for this big show which is attended by thousands. With the fine crops that are being harvested in Minot and vicinity at the present time, Ward county should not overlook a golden opportunity.

No one with any regard for beauty, cleanliness or sanitation is going to throw rotten apples and old potato peelings into a public road or alley or even in his own back yard, and yet a very cursory view of the city will disclose many a pile of such refuse, unsightly, evil smelling and buzzing flies. Where are our public minded citizens and where are our health officers and street commissioners?

New Rockford appears to be taking up the state capital fight with renewed activity. The businessmen from that city will spare no money in the campaign and it is said that many members of the American Society of Equity who did not like the treatment they received at the hands of certain residents of the Capital city last winter, are ready to assist in putting the capital on wheels.

People often accuse the preachers and editors of uttering nothing but platitudes and of harping on the same old string but the painful thing about platitudes is that they are generally true and a continual dropping does wear away the stone in time. Therefore let us harp on.

If you own a good hunting dog, take care of him. A man who would consider it a great crime to steal a dollar, usually doesn't consider it any great offense to "borrow" your dog for a month or two and let you board the canine the remainder of the year.

"I cannot get it out of my head that the cause of much cancer of the stomach is the drinking of hot drinks," says Dr. Wm. J. Mayo, the world renowned Rochester, Minn., surgeon.

The man who is determined to do only that which will benefit himself is going to meet with lots of disappointment and will miss nearly all those blessings that are the reward of the unselfish man.

**Hovda Back From Chicago.**

H. H. Hovda, Neurologist returned Saturday from the National Convention of Neurologists at Chicago. Dr. Hovda enjoys the high honor of having been elected Secretary and Treasurer of the National Association of Neurologists.

While in Chicago the doctor attended a gathering of the Alumni of the McCormick Medical college where he met many of his old classmates with whom he swapped reminiscences of his college days.

**Attempt to Steal Father Raith's Car.**

An effort was made to steal Father Raith's new Dodge car the first of the

# HAYING TIME

This is haying time and we are headquarters for forks and haying tools of all kinds. We have a limited supply of fly covers left. Protect your horses. The worst part of the season is yet to come. Invest in one of our gasoline or kerosene stoves. Don't suffer from the heat of a hot kitchen any longer. Your fuel bill will be surprisingly low. If you have not visited our store since we have enlarged and improved, we cordially invite you to drop in and look around. Always pleased to see you.

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Minot, N. Dakota

week, during the Minot-Berthold ball game. He had locked the car after running it to the outer edge of the mass of automobiles and when he returned, he found his tools scattered helter-skelter about the car. Someone familiar with cars had attempted to start the auto, but was evidently frightened away before he succeeded.

farm west of the city. "I have not given up hopes of raising some nice mature corn," he said. "The corn is now in the tassel, stands four or five feet high and if the frost keeps off a little while, I will have a fine crop. Of course if will furnish a fine lot of feed no matter what happens."

**John Ehr's Corn.**

John Ehr is watching his 70-acre field of corn with much interest at his

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Subscriptions may be made for from one to ten shares. No subscription for more than ten shares will be accepted on the partial payment plan.

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