

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

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MANY BURNING MINES STILL EXIST IN STATE

Fires Which Started Twenty-seven Years Ago in Missouri River Bed Are Still Burning

White Earth, N. D., Jan. 29.—For a quarter of a century fires which have been burning in the coal mines in the western part of the state in the Missouri river bed have not been stopped, although a great many efforts have been made to extinguish them. Lignite beds along the Missouri river, between the towns of Sanish and Williston, set fire in 1890 by a spark from a steamboat, are still burning. According to officials, it would be a physical impossibility to put a stop to these fires. When the steamboat traffic was at its height on the Missouri river, frequently sparks from the smokestacks dropped on the lignite deposits and burned deep into the beds and have since been burning.

Ryder Men Pleaded Guilty to the Charge of Selling Liquor

A. C. O. Loren, justice of the peace, and G. D. Officer, deputy sheriff from Ryder, arrived Tuesday evening with two prisoners, Owen McQuinn, who is charged with pigging, and Nick Nazaron, charged with bootlegging. The men appeared before Judge Murray in county court Wednesday morning and pleaded guilty and will receive their sentences later. Geo. Walensko, charged with pigging, put up a cash bond of \$150 for his appearance. It is likely that he will be sent for. Ryder is a law-abiding community and the vendors of wet goods usually have a hard row to hoe.

INTERESTING CASE AT CROSBY

H. E. Johnson and H. E. Mielke, Ryder attorneys, and Ed Fredeen, a witness, were in Minot Wednesday en route to Crosby where the attorneys are interested in a case. John Greene of this city accompanied them. Johnson and Mielke are suing a former Rydrite for \$2500, paid them on a case. The man had been charged with a serious offense and he made out a check for \$2,500 in settlement with a young woman complainant, but before the check was cashed he refused payment and repudiated it. Attorney Greene of Minot is assisting the Ryder attorneys.

"FARM LOAN ACT" DISCUSSION FOR WARD COUNTY FARMERS

Meetings will be held at the following points:
Kenmare, Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Donnybrook, Wednesday, Feb. 14.
Carpio, Thursday, Feb. 15.
Foxholm, Friday, Feb. 16.
Ryder, Tuesday, Feb. 20.
Douglas, Wednesday, Feb. 21.
Sawyer, Tuesday, Feb. 27.
Berthold, Thursday, March 1.
These meetings will begin promptly at 2:00 o'clock p. m.
The Farm Loan Act—What Is It?
The Federal Farm Loan Act is an instrument offered by the United States government to provide the farmers with money at uniform lower rates of interest and better terms. The machinery for this is established—it is now up to the farmers to make applications for loans and effect local organizations in accordance with the law.
Loans may be made (a) For the purchase of land; (b) for the purchase of operating equipment, fertilizers, livestock, etc.; (c) to provide farm improvements; (d) to pay of existing mortgages.
At these meetings applications for membership in a Loan Association will be taken and officers and directors elected as soon as membership reaches the required number as stated in the law.

(Signed)
W. A. PECK,
G. C. EDWARDS,
County Agricultural Agents.
Coupon

For farmers who cannot attend any of these meetings, and who wish to make application for a loan or for farmers who can attend meetings but prefer to make application outside of a meeting and all applications treated confidentially.
I, the undersigned, wish to apply for a loan through the National Farm Association.
Name _____
Amount of Loan _____
Sec. _____ Twp. _____ Range _____
P. O. _____
Mail to County Agent W. A. Peck to reach him before date set for meeting nearest you. 2-1-2t
County Agent Peck Goes Into Federal Building February First
The government has assigned Room No. 309 in the Federal building at Minot to the County Agricultural Agent. The County Agent, now in every state, hold government appointments and counties carrying on work receive federal aid. Ward county receives \$2,400 annually. This permits the use of the Federal building for the office of the county agent when there is available room.
The county agent's new office is a large room, permitting of a reading table where farm papers and bulletins on many farm subjects may be read at the leisure of those interested. This office will be made the bureau of agricultural information within the county. Farmers are invited to make use of the farm papers, bulletins, etc., and

the services of the office, which is a county as well as Federal proposition. As a bureau of information the county agent's office, for example, receives many inquiries for livestock, especially pure bred sires. The information along this line was lacking. To furnish information and facilitate the exchange of products among the farmers a Ward County Farm Exchange was started. Now farmers who have something to sell or want to buy may write, without expense, their "For Sale" and "Want" items direct to the county agent, who lists same in a monthly bulletin which is sent out free to all the farmers in the county who ask to have their names put on the mailing list, and to the county agents in the state.

This looks like a good thing. Sometime during the year practically every farmer in the county will have occasion to list something for sale or use the bulletin. It would seem that this service would save a farmer much trouble and perhaps many dollars at least, this service alone may be worth many times what it costs the farmer in taxes for the whole county agent work in the county. Especially is this true since government funds are coming into the county and corporations and city property within the county pay their share towards the work. With this assistance, as a matter of fact, the annual tax to the farmer on the basis of a one-half mill, and it cannot exceed that, averages less than 25 cents per quarter section of land. Most any single service that the county agent might render could easily be worth that much.

Another fact, worth mentioning in this connection, is this: being a government representative in co-operation with state and county, a county agent must keep out of politics, both directly and indirectly. This should work to the advantage of the office in giving service to the farmers.

STARTLING DECLINE IN CATTLE

Over 10,000,000 Fewer Than Ten Years Ago—Sheep Fall Off—Hogs, Horses and Mules Increase.

The meat supply of the United States showed a startling decline in the last decade. A compilation by the National City Bank shows a fall of over 10,000,000 in the number of cattle other than milch cows and of nearly 5,000,000 in the number of sheep from 1907 to 1917. Meantime the population of continental United States has increased 15,000,000.

Thus the supply of cattle available for food has decreased 20 per cent and that of sheep 10 per cent, while the consuming population was increasing 18 per cent. Hogs are the only class of food animals showing an increase, the number of swine in the United States having been on January 1, 1917, about 13,000,000 greater than in 1907. Figures of the Department of Agriculture put the value of the 40,848,000 cattle other than milch cows on farms in the United States on January 1, 1917, at \$1,465,662,000, while the value of the 51,566,000 head in 1907 was but \$881,557,000. The average value of milch cows in 1907 was \$30.78 a head and in 1917 \$59.66. All other cattle in 1907, \$17.09, and in 1917 \$35.88; sheep in 1907, \$3.83, and in 1917, \$7.14, and swine in 1907, \$7.63, and in 1917, \$11.73. Thus cows, "other cattle" and sheep have doubled in price in ten years, while swine show an increase of 50 per cent a head in value.

The actual exportation of fresh beef fell from 281,652,000 pounds in the fiscal year 1907 to 6,394,000 pounds in the fiscal year 1914, which ended just before the beginning of the war, while of beef cattle the number exported fell from 584,239 in 1906 to 21,666 in 1914, the export price, however, advancing from a little over \$70 a head to \$110. Bacon exported fell from 361,000,000 pounds in 1906 to 194,000,000 pounds in 1914, and lard from 741,000,000 pounds to 481,000,000 pounds. Despite the great advance in prices the value of all meat and dairy products exported fell from \$211,000,000 in 1906 to \$143,000,000 in 1914, increasing, however, with the great demands of the war and the advance in prices to \$220,000,000 in the fiscal years 1915 and \$291,000,000 in the fiscal year 1916.

Horses in the country in 1907 numbered 19,747,000, and in 1917 21,126,000 and of mules in 1907, 3,817,000, and in 1917, 4,639,000. The stated value of the horses in 1907 was \$1,846,578,000, and in 1917 \$2,846,578,000, and of mules \$428,064,000 in 1907 and \$548,866,000 in 1917. The average value of a horse advanced from \$93 in 1907 to \$102 in 1917, and of mules from \$112 a head to \$118. Thus the value of draught animals increased but about 10 per cent per capita in the decade, while that of cattle and sheep practically doubled, and of swine increased about 50 per cent. However, the average value of a horse fell from \$111 in 1911 to \$102 in 1917, and of a mule from \$126 in 1911 to \$118 in 1917.

MINOT MILLIONAIRE, 72, INSISTS HE'S ONLY 30, IN THE CARNIVAL CITY

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 31.—Is it possible for a man to be 72 years old and 30 years old at the same time? S. W. Bond, millionaire lumberman and banker of Minot, N. D., insists it is possible to be both during carnival time. Mr. Bond reached St. Paul yesterday for the carnival.
"I am 72 years old when living in Minot, and dignified and decorous," he said last night. "But when I cross the state line on the way to the St. Paul I am 50 years old. When the train pulls into St. Paul I am 40 years old. Now I am 30."

UNRESTRICTED WARFARE ON THE SEAS SAYS GERMANY

Germany Notifies the U. S. that Because of Failure of Peace Overtures, Allied Vessels Will be Sunk Anywhere—Situation is Critical.

Washington, Feb. 1.—In a note which was handed to Ambassador Gerard to the effect that all peace overtures have been rejected the German government therefore is forced to do away with all restrictions which it has imposed on the use of its means of fighting. The German consul states that they hope the German government will warn German ships in certain zones that are described in the note. Germany also states that it hopes the United States government will warn Americans against traveling on ships to ports in barred zones or shipping American goods on them. She serves notice on the U. S. that because of its failure to open peace negotiations with the Allies it will open unrestricted warfare on the seas.

Newspaper Comment.
New York World: There will be only one answer on the part of the United States to Germany and that should be made today. The German ambassador should receive his passports forthwith and diplomatic relations must cease at once. If Germany wants war with the United States, let Germany have war with the United States. Our hands are clean.

Philadelphia Public Ledger: It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation. There can be no question of American rights and duties in this grave emergency.

Wichita (Kas.) Eagle: The United States must act and at once, and its first action should be to hand Bernstorff his passports and send him home on an unpainted passenger ship thru the midst of the German submarine zone.

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is a direct challenge of war to the United States. It is meant for no further parleying. That challenge should be accepted within 24 hours.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press: The worst provocation has happened. Secretary Lansing's fear of the imminence of war has been fulfilled. And still the people of the United States, proud and unangered, but perplexed, will hope that our participation in the European struggle may be averted.

Washington: Col. House arrived here at seven a. m., having been summoned to the White House from Washington.

Headlines in the Big Dailies This Morning:
New York: Announcement today of cancelling of ships of Scandinavian line.

London: Germany's new submarine campaign started today. Dutch steamer Epsilon and three British fishing smacks have been sunk this morning.

Washington: After an hour's conference between President Wilson and Sec. Lansing, it became known today that the German situation is viewed with extreme gravity and that the

SANISH SUFFERED A BIG FIRE LOSS

Blaze Started in the Ryn Confectionery and Burned Several Other Places—No Fire Apparatus.

Sanish, Jan. 27.—Last Friday morning at 1:30 fire broke out in the Ryn confectionery and the village lacking any fire fighting equipment, the entire town was at the mercy of the flames. Fortunately there was no wind and to this alone the inhabitants may attribute the fact that they are not homeless today. From the Ryn store the flames communicated to the Hoff building adjoining, the Cameron jewelry store and Smith's garage. Here the fire was checked by the volunteers and the village saved. The only buildings insured were the confectionery and the Hoff buildings. The Hoff building was occupied by J. W. Hoff and Halvor Knutson, the former running a cream station and the latter a shoe store. The jewelry store was owned by J. C. Cameron, who had no insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown but it is thought it was caused from an overheated stove in the confectionery.

Old Resident is "Game"

Wm. Allen, one of the early settlers of Ward county, but who has been living in Canada for years, left for his home Sunday. Mr. Allen is suffering untold agony from cancer of the brain and doctors have given him less than three months to live. "Bill" says that like all old timers, he is "game" and intends to have just as good a time as possible for the rest of his days. He may take a trip to California.

American government already has begun to formulate definite steps. It was regarded as not impossible that action of some kind had already been taken. But there was no indication of its nature. There is every indication that whatever the American government does will be done quickly. Apparently, it is agreed that there are but three courses open—handing Bernstorff his passports without further ado, sending at once a warning to Germany that she will violate American rights at her peril, or awaiting the development of the new starvation campaign against England which has begun. The President has given no intimation of the trend of his thoughts since he expressed incredulous amazement when informed of what was coming thru from Berlin. The new situation has arisen and the liberty of action is to be used. According to information from Teutonic sources, Germany has from 300 to 500 submarines ready.

New York: Rumors afloat that German crews might attempt to scuttle ship. Large fleet of Allied war vessels believed to be near American coast. A strict watch has been placed on all German vessels interned here.

Ex-president Taft stated this morning: "Germany's latest submarine campaign is an entirely unwarranted action."

London: Germany's new submarine campaign of ruthlessness is under way. The Dutch steamer was the first to be sunk in the barred zone.

New York: It is learned at the custom house that traffic is moving in and out of the port of New York. The statement is made that the sealing of the port applied to the movement of traffic during the night.

Charleston, S. C.: The interned German freighter Liebenfels was sunk in harbor here today by her captain. The ship had been in the harbor since the outbreak of the war.

New York, 10:15 a. m.: Rumored boat was blown up in Baltimore harbor.

Price of Grain Falls.
Owing to the new German note, the price of grain declined rapidly. Minneapolis May wheat opened from 8 to 14 cents lower this morning. It closed last night at \$1.76 1-4 and opened this morning at \$1.68 to \$1.62. Minneapolis pit this morning was swamped with those selling May oats.
U. S. Steel closed at \$112 last night and opened this morning at \$99. International Mercantile Marine closed at \$82.50 and opened this morning at \$65.00.

New Equipment for the Valet.
Christ Demopoulos, proprietor of the Valet, announces that he has purchased a lot of new equipment for his cleaning establishment which will soon be installed. He is making arrangements to build a fireproof plant. Included in the new equipment are two dry cleaning washers, a 25-gallon gasoline still, an extractor, steam boiler, opalite spotting table, motor, 10 h. p. boiler, glove finisher, glove cleaner, a rug cleaning machine and an underground gasoline system.

MUSICIANS BALL WAS BIG SUCCESS

Benefit Dance Given by the Minot Local, A. F. of M., Was One of the Most Successful Ever Given.

The benefit ball, given by the members of Minot Local, No. 351, American Federation of Musicians, at the Armory Friday night, was one of the most successful social affairs ever held in the city. Nearly 250 tickets were sold at the door and the capacity of the Armory was taxed to the limit to accommodate the immense crowd of dancers.
The dance was arranged in order to create a fund for the musicians' union to be known as the "sick benefit fund," the idea being that with such a fund at their command, the musicians will be in a position to properly care for any member of their organization who should be in distress and not have the wherewithal to defray medical or hospital expenses.

Minot citizens are ever ready to help a good cause, and the merit of the musicians' undertaking may have had some effect on the size of the crowd attending, but the fact that music was to be furnished by the entire union and that the public would have an opportunity to dance to music played by the largest dance orchestra ever appearing in the city was probably the principal attraction in this case. The musical talent of the city as a whole donated their services, and never has better dance music been furnished in Minot than was furnished for this occasion. The event was an entire success, both socially and financially, and

the musicians have started their sick benefit fund with a substantial sum.

It is the intention of the musicians to make this an annual event and their dances in the future will undoubtedly be as well attended as was this one—possibly better.

There has been some talk among a few of the individual members of giving two dances next winter, the proceeds of one of them to go to some worthy cause, outside of their union, such as furnishing food or clothing to the poor of the city. This suggestion has not been officially acted upon by the union, but should such a dance be given, the attendance would undoubtedly be enormous.

BIVINS-WEBSTER.

On Tuesday, the 23rd of January, the home of E. B. Bivins of South Prairie was the scene of a pretty but quiet wedding when their daughter, Miss Gladys, was united in marriage to Mr. Samuel Webster, of Macrorie, Sask.

At the appointed hour, the bride and groom took their places and were joined in the bonds of matrimony by the Rev. W. D. Farrar of Sawyer.

The bride looked charming in a beautiful gown of white silk crepe de chine. The couple were unattended.

A sumptuous wedding dinner was then served to the guests, after which, amid showers of best wishes, rice and old shoes, the happy pair left for a short trip through Montana and will return to the bride's former home for a short visit before leaving for their future home.

The bride, a successful teacher of Ward county's public schools, was one of our most popular young ladies, having resided in Ward county for the past six years. The groom is a successful businessman of Macrorie, having made that his home for several years.

A host of friends join in wishing them a pathway strewn with the joys of life.

ECONOMY STORE MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT

Successors to Larson & Co. Now in Charge of Big Department Store in Brauer Block.

The Economy Department Store, successors to Larson & Co., make an announcement to our readers this week.

The new concern has been incorporated by Frank J. Morrow, Charles Almy and Guy C. Frank. The large stock is exceptionally well filled with dependable merchandise in all of its various departments. Groceries, dry goods, shoes for men, women and children and men's furnishings are carried in stock.

The Economy Store will cater to the farmers' trade and the large demand enables the firm to offer the farmers highest prices for their products.

Mr. Morrow, one of the members of the firm, is an old Minot boy. For several years he conducted very successfully a large store at Maxbass.

Charles Almy was connected with the Smallwood grocery store for years. He is one of the most capable grocers in the state.

TAGUS MAN'S AUTO SLEIGH.

O. E. Kegley of Tagus is in the city today enroute to Washington, D. C., where he will spend several weeks looking after business connected with an automobile attachment which he has invented and patented. Mr. Kegley's patent, which is said to be very successful, is a friction wheel placed under the rear of an auto so that any make of machine can easily be converted into a motor sleigh. The device is very simple and practical. Mr. Kegley is having one of them made and his car will be driven to Minot next week with it, he states. Mr. Kegley states that he is now negotiating for the sale of the patent for which he admits he has been offered \$40,000.

Licensed to Wed.

Licenses were issued by Judge Wm. Murray for the following, during the past week:
Ralph L. Bowen and Isabella Ahern.
Arthur Schwope and Florence Albin, both of Berthold. The couple were married by Judge Murray Tuesday.
Carl W. Tarr and Elma Lee, married by Judge Murray Tuesday.
Alvin C. Aamot and Ophelia Thompson, both of Ward county.
Andrew Nelson and Magna Wick. The groom is a Minot upholsterer and the bride came from Norway two months ago. Married by Judge Murray Jan. 27.
Conrad Iversen of Renville county and Alma C. Johnson of Ward county and Grace Anderson of Saskatchewan, Canada.

E. L. Rowan in St. Paul Very Sick.

E. L. Rowan, custodian of the Elks Home, is ill with pneumonia in St. Joseph's hospital in St. Paul. Mr. Rowan left for St. Paul recently on a visit, where he became ill. George Von Neida received a telegram yesterday telling of his illness. Mr. Rowan's condition is reported quite serious although he is receiving the best of attention.

Among Balerud and family of Crane Valley, Sask., are visiting relatives in the city this week. They are on their way home from an extended visit with old friends back in Minnesota.

ASPLUND BROS. TO OPEN GARAGE HERE

New Auto Concern Will be Ready for All Comers February 6—Fine New Garage on Second St. N. W.

Asplund Bros. announce the opening of their new garage, 616-618, Second street northwest, on Tuesday, Feb. 6th.

The new 40x80 foot galvanized steel building, located on the street just north from the G. N. viaduct, is now completed and all of the modern tools and machinery for automobile repairing have been installed. Everything is brand new and the equipment was purchased at the cost of thousands of dollars. Asplund Bros. have placed themselves in a position to take care of any kind of work and make short work of it too, at the right price. They invite all interested to visit the new garage and inspect the place.

The building is steam heated. An attractive display room where their full line of Pullman cars are to be seen, has been provided. There is plenty of room for storing cars.

The Asplund Brothers are not strangers in this vicinity. V. A. Asplund for ten years conducted his large farm near Glenburn, where he made a big success. He is a first class machinist and is the patentee of an attachment to an automobile which makes steering safe and easy. He will have supervision of the shop work, although other expert machinists will be employed.

D. E. Asplund has lived in Glenburn for a number of years, where he was connected with a mercantile establishment. He owns considerable farm land in the vicinity of Glenburn. He will have charge of the office and sales departments.

Asplund Bros. will handle the Pullman car for the following territory: Ward, McHenry, Renville, Mountrail, Burke and eastern Williams counties. They are preparing for a big business which will undoubtedly meet their expectations.

RYDER HOPES TO OPEN COAL MINE

Forty Foot Vein Discovered Sometime Ago 300 Feet Below Surface—May Sink Shaft for Mining Lignite.

Ed E. Fredeen, Ryder hotel owner, was in the city Wednesday, his visit being ostensibly to talk over ways and means of Ryder's making use of the 40-foot vein of lignite coal which lies 300 feet under the surface in the vicinity of Ryder.

Mr. Fredeen says that the citizens of Ryder hope to form a coal mining company and sink a shaft for an immense coal mine within a reasonable length of time, providing it is deemed feasible.

Some time ago, while drilling a well at Ryder, the vein of finest lignite coal was discovered about 300 feet below the surface. Going thru the vein, it was learned to the great surprise of everybody, that the vein was 40 feet thick. The coal is harder than the ordinary lignite found nearer the surface. Considerable water was found just above the coal and the question has arisen whether the water can be pumped away fast enough to permit the mining of the coal. The lignite is there in great quantities, that is certain, and it is not so far below the surface that it could not be mined. Ryder secures most of its coal from Burlington and Wilton and hopes to be able to use its own supply soon.

Evangelistic Services.

Evangelistic services begin at the Nazarene church, 4th street and 6th avenue northeast, Feb. 6 and continue until the 20th. Rev. J. B. McBride of California will be evangelist in charge. He is an experienced preacher and a true man of God and gives good satisfaction wherever he labors. We are expecting good meetings and extend an invitation to the folks of Minot and surrounding country to attend.
Remember the date and hour of service.
WM. N. IRWIN, Pastor.

Howard Meyers' Modern Farm Home.

Howard Meyers, one of the progressive farmers living northeast of Minot, recently installed a fine up-to-date electric lighting system in his home and in all of his farm buildings. The Delco lighting system is operated with a three h. p. engine and a bright yard lamp lights up the premises. The electricity is used for power in pumping water, running the washing machine and in doing other work about the farm. Mr. Meyers' home is strictly modern, being equipped with hot and cold water.

Prepare for Trouble.

King Boreas seems intent on establishing his domain whenever he can find admittance. Be prepared for the worst. If the recent cold snap has disclosed the fact that your buildings are lacking in some essential features as protection against the wintry blasts, you should get busy at once and make repairs. The old adage, "A stitch in time saves nine" is as true in respect to the details pertaining to repairs about the home as in the less essential features of life. Drop into our yard office and see some of the conveniences which we carry in stock that will save you both time and trouble. Rogers Lumber Co., H. S. Johnson, Manager.

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