

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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

SECOND SECTION

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WALLACE WOULD INCREASE VALUATIONS

State Tax Commissioner Recommends That Valuation of Farm Lands be Increased to Reduce the Levy

Bismarck, N. D., Aug. 28.—As a means of increasing the assessed valuation of North Dakota's taxable property to a point where it will be possible to reduce the mill levy, and to thus effect a paper saving to which the administration may point with pride, Tax Commissioner George F. Wallace yesterday served on tax supervisors and county auditors in conference here notice that he would ask the state board of equalization to boost the county boards' figures on farm lands all the way from 10 to 25 per cent. Cass, Grand Forks, Pembina, Traill, Walsh and Richland will be the only counties to escape a horizontal increase in the assessment of farm lands, if Mr. Wallace has his way.

The assessed valuation of the farm lands of northwestern North Dakota as returned by the county boards, and the percentage of increase which Commissioner Wallace suggests are as follows:

Ward, \$14.64, 20 per cent; McLean, \$15.49, 20 per cent; Mountrail, \$8.80, 20 per cent; Burke, \$14.85, 20 per cent; Bottineau, \$20.40, 20 per cent; McHenry, \$16.41, 20 per cent; Williams, \$12.86, 20 per cent.

Auditors and supervisors in the counties where Wallace proposes a strong boost in the assessed valuation of farm lands are making strenuous protests. They contend that in the first place the tax supervisors, county auditors and county boards of equalization did their work conscientiously and that they are in a better position than Mr. Wallace is to know the actual and true value of farm lands in their respective communities. They seem inclined to consider Mr. Wallace's arbitrary proposal an insult.

Furthermore they point to the fact that the assessed valuation of railways is already fixed, at about 300 per cent over last year's values, and that the assessment of farm lands as returned by the county boards of equalization already is relatively higher than that of the railways and other property in the state. A further increase in farm land valuations and a decrease in the mill levy will result in imposing a huge additional burden upon the farmers, they contend, while the railways will be relieved to just this extent of their share of the tax burden.

Farmer is Penalized

"I cannot understand," said one Slope county auditor today, "why Mr. Wallace, appointed by Governor Frazier and presumably a member of a farmer administration, should seek to penalize the farmer by increasing his tax burden, or by reducing the railways' taxation at the expense of the farmer. Mr. Wallace's plan of reducing the mill levy from four to three and of boosting the farmers' assessed valuations an average of 20 per cent to make up for it will save the railways \$216,000 in taxes on their assessed valuation of \$218,967,488, as fixed by the board of equalization at Mr. Wallace's suggestion. On an actual 100 per cent valuation farm lands will be boosted 333 per cent. In many instances farm values have actually been multiplied by seven, and there are few cases where the farm lands are not returned at 400 per cent of last year's figures. But even if returned at 333 per cent of last year's assessed valuation, which was \$221,459,525 on lands without improvements, the assessed value of farm lands this year would be \$737,460,201, and Mr. Wallace's proposal to boost the average 20 per cent would mean an assessed valuation for farm lands of \$884,952,221.

"It is all well enough to say that if the state mill levy is reduced from four to three, a drop of 25 per cent, and the farmers' valuations are increased but 20 per cent, he will still be five per cent better off than before, but this is overlooking the fact that the one mill school levy and the one-half mill soldiers' bounty levy is assessed against every dollar of this valuation, so the farmer is actually paying 4.5 mills on this huge assessed valuation of \$884,952,221. In other words, before he even begins to pay his local and special improvement taxes, the farmer will have contributed for state and school purposes alone \$3,982,284. His tax bill for state and school purposes for this one year would be twice as great as the amount levied from all sources for the state's general fund for the last two years.

"If it is for this that the farmer has stuck. God save the farmer."

R. H. Emerson Receives Interesting Letter From Nephew

The following interesting letter has been received by R. H. Emerson from his nephew, George H. Emerson, who has been serving the Allied governments for many months in Siberia, in charge of the operations of the railways of Siberia:

Omsk, Siberia, July 8th, 1919.

Dear Uncle Henry:

Your short note of May 25th, to the effect that you had written me three times, received at Omsk, Siberia, July 8th. Regret very much that your previous letters were not received, but presume they went the way of many others; namely, lost enroute.

Our corps is assigned between Vladivostok and Ekaterinburg and Chly-

binsk. Early in April the operation of the Siberian Railroads were taken over by the Allied Governments—Mr. Stevens was appointed chairman of the Technical committee, and I was assigned as Chief Inspector, in charge of operation of the lines in the district above referred to. Under the Inter-Allied agreement with Russia, the technical board has full authority in connection with operating matters, but the lines are to be operated under Russian laws—the terms of that agreement has caused a great many misunderstandings, and necessarily in a country practically disrupted by civil war, has caused many serious delays and misunderstandings which are being untangled slowly, but some progress is being made.

The Siberian railroads from Vladivostok to the Ural Mountains is composed of the Chinese Eastern railroad—Vladivostok to Manchuria; the Trans-Baikal Railroad—from Manchuria to Enokentievskaya; the Tomsk Railroad—from Enokentievskaya to Novo-Nikolaevsk; and the Omsk Railroad—from Novo-Nikolaevsk to Ekaterinburg and Chlybinsk two Siberian lines branching westward from Omsk and connecting up with the north and south line at Chlybinsk. With the exception of the Chinese Eastern the railroads above mentioned are double track lines, well equipped and in first-class physical condition and have an abundance of equipment.

During the war period the mechanical forces have been very badly disorganized, therefore the power is considerably run down, 30-40 per cent assigned to all railroads out of service for shops, but regardless of that fact they have a very large surplus in first-class condition. All round-houses are equipped with small repair shops of about the capacity of our old shops at Barnesville; most of them are equipped with a much more liberal allowance of machine tools; in addition, at practically all roundhouses, they also have a small grey iron and brass foundry.

The climate of Siberia is about the same as Minnesota, winters not near as cold as North Dakota or Montana, and the soil averages much better than that of any of the three mentioned states; also has large coal mines and heavy deposits of all minerals, but with the exception of the Ural district the natural resources have not been developed. Now that peace is signed, naturally we are all anxious to return home. With kindest regards, I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE H. EMERSON.

Former Minot Man Secured Favorable Rates for Montana Mills

Chester Vandenoever, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vandenoever, visited in Minot this week enroute to his home in Great Falls, Mont., where he holds the position of traffic manager of the Royal Milling Co.

Mr. Vandenoever had been sent to Chicago to represent the seventy flour mills of Montana, to secure more favorable rates for shipping in wheat for milling purposes and without better freight rates the mills would be compelled to shut down. Mr. Vandenoever secured a change in the rates enabling the mills to continue business.

CITY SCHOOL BRIEFS.

The city schools will open Monday, Sept. 15, all departments opening at the same time—Senior high school, Junior high school and the grade schools.

Throughout the summer a force of janitors have been on the job cleaning and revarnishing all the seats of all the schools, additional new furniture has been ordered and will be installed, and throughout, all school rooms will be made as attractive and effective as possible.

A number of additions have been made to the school teaching staff and altogether the outlook for the new year in the city schools is most attractive.

Chesterson-Dyer.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Dyer, 12 Sixth street N. W., was the scene of a quiet home wedding Thursday night at 8 o'clock. The contracting parties were Mr. Joseph A. Chesterson, and Miss Eva L. Dyer. The couple was unattended and Dr. C. Leslie Clifford, pastor of the Methodist church, performed the ceremony, using the ring service. Besides the father and mother of the bride, and their baby daughter, there was present the bride's sister, Esther L. Dyer and Mrs. W. S. Spalding.

Following the ceremony a delicious lunch was served those who were present.

The Dyer family has been well known in Minot. Mr. S. M. Dyer having conducted a popular barber shop on Central avenue for a number of years. Mr. Chesterson holds a position at the Temple Court Cafeteria, where he is highly esteemed.

Mr. and Mrs. Chesterson will establish their home in Minot, to the pleasure of their many friends, who wish them all success and happiness.

Heard Senator McCumber.

A card from F. P. Taylor, manager of the Leland Drug store, this morning states that the Taylors are in Washington, D. C., where they heard Senator Porter J. McCumber in debate on the League of Nations treaty. The Taylors leave today for Buffalo, N. Y., where they will take a steamer for Duluth enroute home.

Cocaine Fiends Arrested.

Three Minot colored people, Mary Johnson, Lillian Campbell and W. Williams were arrested charged with conducting a cocaine joint. Their paraphernalia was confiscated.

BIG SUM TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN INTEREST

Government Will Pay Nearly Four Million Dollars Interest on Liberty Bonds in Ninth Reserve Dist.

The United States government is going to hand over \$3,858,260.50 to residents of the Ninth Federal Reserve District on September 15. That is the sum represented by the semi-annual interest coupons on Liberty Bonds of the third issue held by residents of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana and the Michigan and Wisconsin counties in the district.

Total sales of Third Liberty Loan Bonds in the Ninth District amounted to \$181,565,200 of which, bankers declared yesterday, an overwhelming proportion is still in the hands of the original buyers. The annual interest return at four and a quarter percent amounts to \$7,716,521 of which the sum to be paid out September 15th is one-half.

That interest recipients should invest their Third Liberty Loan interest in War Savings Stamps so that it may be safe and at the same time may increase at the rate of four percent compounded quarterly is the advice sent out by the Treasury Department through M. E. Harrison, Director of the Ninth District War Savings organization. With War Savings Stamps selling at \$4.20 in August the semi-annual interest on two \$100 bonds will be more than enough to buy a War Savings Stamp.

"Reinvestment of interest in War Savings Stamps and Treasury Savings Certificates will be of surpassing help to the government for it will return to them in the form of new loans the huge interest sums that must be paid out in all Federal Reserve districts, a total of \$88,750,988.06 interest on the Third Loan, September 15." To have this returned through War Savings Stamp investment will be a tremendous aid, the more so in view of the fact that there are five great national loans outstanding on which interest is paid twice a year. In ten months of the twelve months the government meet the public debt disbursements approaching \$100,000,000.

The District Director added that War Savings Stamps are now available in every city, town and hamlet in the Ninth Federal Reserve District. Those owning enough bonds to yield a considerable sum in half-yearly interest will find Treasury Certificates of the \$100 and \$1,000 denominations at banks and trust companies or at post-offices. These securities increase in value monthly and can not by any possibility lose in value. September cost of the \$100 certificates will be \$84 and \$1,000 denominations \$840.

Mohall Has Farming Prodigy.

The little 12-year-old daughter of F. N. Hamel, prominent Mohall farmer, has plowed close to 700 acres during the past season. Following the plowing for spring crops she did some breaking and later on started in with the summer fallowing. This plowing prodigy used a Heider tractor in her operations and so far as the actual work of operating the tractor was concerned she did all the work, being assisted by her father only when an adjustment was necessary or a fresh supply of fuel was required.

Proprietor of Boston Store Returns.

Herman Gordon, proprietor of the Boston Store, returned from an extended business trip to the eastern markets last week. Herman reports the markets very much demoralized and men's suits and furnishings hard to secure. He says that the manufacturers are being forced to pay double and in some instances treble the wages which obtained prior to 1914.

He was fortunate in purchasing a goodly number of the higher grades of suits which have already arrived and are now on sale at this popular store.

INDEPENDENT COAST TO COAST CIRCULATION

Ben Lesk in 'Quiet' Little Old New York Gets Hungry for Minot News—and Subscribes for the Independent.

The following interesting letter has been received from Atty. Ben Lesk, formerly of this city, who is connected with the Barker Original Bakeries System in New York City:

1170 Broadway, New York City,
August 25, 1919.

Dear Colcord:

I had always figured that the Independent had quite a circulation, but after being unable to secure it at any of the local newsstands, have come to the conclusion that if you want anything read good, you must go direct to Minot to get it. Therefore, here I am, and will you please give me a dollar's worth of the Independent, check for which amount is enclosed herewith. Now here is a tip, if you only have a subscriber on the Pacific Coast, you can boast of a "coast to coast circulation," and still be living up to the ethics of the Town Criers.

Mrs. Lesk and I both crave for a little Minot news, and was pleased to get a little of the town gossip from Otto Ellison, Lufe Flaten and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Winters, all of whom I saw for a brief period while here. If not asking too much, will you please send me a few back numbers (if there is such a thing in Minot) and ask brother Jim Facioner to make note of my subscription accordingly—that is, don't overlook the back numbers in figuring the period of subscription.

We are gradually becoming acclimated to New York. I use the word acclimated advisedly, for while in Minot it rained at least once every month, here it's at least once every hour. Never in my born days have I seen so much rain. No wonder the ocean is so near by. I am getting to the point where I can get into a six o'clock subway as adroitly as any native New Yorker, and if the next fellow makes the door before I do, it's because he's bigger and has better elbow capacity. I can now hang onto a strap with one hand, hold a package in the other, and read the paper holding it between my teeth—oh, it's a gift! It's a great game if you don't weaken.

Seriously, though, this town kind of gradually grows on you, and the dense crowds, the constant hustle and bustle, which at first is somewhat irritating soon all becomes part of the day's work. Never in my life have I seen such congestion as last Monday when the motormen and conductors on the surface, elevated and subways went on strike. Although it rained heavily, and hundreds of thousands were compelled to seek almost any kind of transportation, still the crowd was at all times good humored.

However, I am not going to burden you with my impressions of New York, nor with a lengthy letter. I'm sure do miss those good old Rotary meetings and the Town Criers gatherings. There is nothing here to replace them, except work, and there is plenty of that. So far I have met few if any people that have interests outside of business and money-making, which seems to be the style this season in New York. I really hate to think that the prices of everything have advanced in Minot like they have here, unless you are blessed with a good crop this year—and the reports are somewhat conflicting on this point.

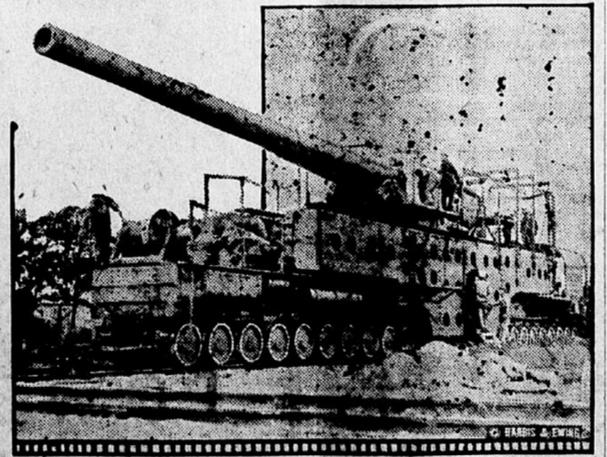
Sincerely yours,
B. N. LESK.

ATTEMPTS SUICIDE AT NEKOMA DEPOT

Demented Montana Farmer Tries to End His Troubles by the Use of a Razor—Sent to Hospital and Will Recover.

Last Friday afternoon a man from Montana attempted suicide and came very near accomplishing his purpose at Nekoma. According to the story

NEWEST AMERICAN GUN MOUNT A SUCCESS



The newest gun mount of the United States military forces was completed just after the armistice was signed and has just passed its official test with flying colors. It is a railroad mount, designed by the navy department for the navy's 14-inch gun, which was used so effectively on land mounts in France. The new mount permits the gun to be fired in any direction from any good railroad track, whereas the guns used in the war had to be mounted in pits.

this man and his boy had spent some time at Calio. They came to that place from Montana, where they were farming and had been dried out. The man's wife died last fall from an attack of the flu and this with the loss of his crop and other financial troubles may have partially affected his mind.

While at Calio he told parties there that horses could be bought for a very low price in Montana and some man from Calio gave him \$300 with instructions to return to Montana and locate a car of cheap horses for shipment. Instead of starting for Montana by train he hired an auto and drove east. This caused the Calio party to become a little suspicious of the fellow and a warrant was secured for his arrest. The officer entrusted with the warrant located the man at Nekoma and arrested him just as he was boarding the train for the east.

He was taken in the depot while further action was being planned by the authorities. At this time he sent his little boy up town to get some candy and while the boy was away and the officers out of sight he attempted suicide by the use of an old razor that he had in his clothing. He was successful in cutting two large gashes in his throat but did not reach the jugular vein. As soon as found a physician was secured from Fairdale and eleven stitches were taken to sew up the two wounds made by the razor. There happened to be a traveling man at Nekoma, who had known this man in Montana, and he appealed to the authorities to release him and after the Calio men were returned their money we understand that no further action is to be taken in the way of prosecution.

The traveling man was well acquainted with all of the facts in his case and with the hard luck that he had had during the past year or so. He was quite certain that the misfortunes of the man and the thought of a penitentiary sentence getting him on account of this horse deal was the cause of his attempting suicide. The man was held for a short time and we understand was released from custody and sent to a hospital for treatment.

WOBBLEY KILLED AT HAN-

KINSON JUNGLE TUESDAY

A gang robbery, a shooting affray and a citizen's posse helping to round up the gang furnished Hanksinson people with a good deal of excitement Tuesday afternoon. As a result of the fight four men are in the county jail at Wahpeton charged with robbery and one of them will have to face a charge of murder; one robber is dead, one got away, and three men claiming to have been robbed are held as witnesses, one of them being wounded.

It all started along about the middle of the afternoon Tuesday when a gang of six men, it is alleged, held up and robbed three others in the "jungles" on the edge of the city of Hanksinson.

It seems that one of the three victims put up some kind of a scrap and one of the hold-up gang shot him, the bullet striking a watch in his vest pocket. The presence of the watch undoubtedly saved his life, because after striking this the bullet glanced sideways, traveled a few inches under the skin and along the ribs, broke out and pierced the muscle of the upper arm.

Shortly after the holdup was pulled off—in fact, some of the men seemed to think that it occurred while the tussle with the fellow who resisted was still going on—some of the hold-up men apparently must have quarreled over the distribution of the loot, for one of them shot another with a 45-caliber revolver, the bullet passing entirely through the body in the region of the kidneys.

Iowa Merchant Here on Visit.

C. E. Kliver, of Venturia, Ia., is a guest at the home of his sister, Mrs. D. W. Bowker of the Bowker apartments. Mr. Kliver is a brother of Will and Henry Kliver of Burlington. This is his first visit to North Dakota in 12 years and he finds many changes in Minot as well as in the appearance of the surrounding country. He is in the mercantile business at Venturia and owns several fine farms in that vicinity, one of which he recently sold for \$290 per acre. He says that Iowa land is no better than our North Dakota land, in fact not so good in many instances. In Iowa renters are paying from \$9.00 to \$11.00 per acre rental and in one case which he mentioned the rental of one farm was \$30.00 per acre. At that he says the owner realizes less than 5 per cent on his investment. He says they are all afraid of the North Dakota winters down in Iowa and were it not for this fact we would see more Iowans investing in the cheap lands of this state.

SAY HOGS WILL DROP TO \$15 IN NEXT FEW DAYS

Chicago, Aug. 28.—A fall of hog prices to \$15 a hundredweight within three days was forecast by representatives of the big packing companies at the stockyards today when resumption of trading showed the cause of Wednesday's slump still prevalent. Hogs of the canning variety listed at Wednesday's close at \$17, a drop of \$1.50 in one day, were offered today at \$16 with few changing hands. The bulk of sales at the opening of the market was around \$17 compared with \$23.65 early this month.

Packers remained out of the market and livestock experts predicted the biggest slump since the "Roosevelt panic" in 1907.

Miss Blanche Calahan left Tuesday for Minneapolis for a visit with friends. She will remain for the State Fair and may make a tour of Minnesota summer resorts before returning home.

SUPT. WHITE RETURNS FROM NEW YORK CITY

Superintendent of the Minot Schools is Back from His Fourth Summer's Work in University.

L. A. White, superintendent of the Minot schools, has returned from New York City where he spent the summer taking a special course for school superintendents at the Columbia University. This is the fourth summer that Supt. White has spent at the Columbia University and he will complete his degree work there next summer.

Ninety-six hundred students received this course during the past summer and the total enrollment through the year was 21,000. Included in the course is school finance, building program and supervision of teachers. Large city schools are visited by survey experts who point out where the schools may be strengthened and the work that Supt. White received was along this line.

President Crane of the Minot Normal spent more than a year at Columbia University, taking special work for Normal school presidents. Mr. White states that Pres. Crane made a big hit at the institution.

MRS. J. S. MURPHY PASSES TO THE GREAT BEYOND

The many friends of Mrs. J. S. Murphy in this city will be grieved to learn that she passed away early this (Friday) morning in Minneapolis. The funeral will be held in Minneapolis. Mrs. Murphy's husband, Major J. S. Murphy, died in Minneapolis within the past year after a lingering illness.

Mrs. Murphy was a splendid woman and had a host of friends in this city who sincerely mourn her demise.

Nowich Girl Dies in Minot Hospital.

The four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Fineseth of Norwich died at a local hospital Sunday morning. Her death was due primarily to cerebral spinal meningitis. The remains were taken to the family home on North Prairie where the funeral was held Tuesday afternoon. Rev. Gullixson, pastor of the First Lutheran church preached a very comforting sermon. The parents are heartbroken at their loss, the little one being the light and joy of the household.

FAST SERIES OF BALL GAMES.

Minot and Wolf Point, Mont., will contest for the inter-state championship on the Minot diamond Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is understood that Wolf Point has a very fast team, and as the Minot team has been strengthened recently, these games should prove the most interesting of the entire season.

MINOT and VICINITY

E. Ellison of the Fair store leaves this week for Columbus, O., to attend the national G. A. R. encampment.

A. Michlich, manager of the J. C. Penney Co.'s store at Williston, was a business visitor to the city today, coming over for a conference with Manager Clapp of the local store.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Swigart arrived home Saturday after spending two weeks fishing in the Minnesota lakes and visiting the various summer resorts in the vicinity of Detroit.

Mrs. Richard Hazzard, who accompanied her husband to the Twin Cities remained in Minneapolis for a brief visit with relatives during Fair week. Dick and the little old Ford arrived home Saturday.

Miss Florence Brogan accompanied by her brother James left Saturday for the Twin Cities where they will visit relatives for a few days and then continue their trip to Chicago. They expect to attend the G. A. R. encampment at Columbus, Ohio, before their return.

The employees of the Minot Cloak & Suit gathered at the apartments of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Walsh in the Baker block Wednesday evening, where they gave a miscellaneous shower in honor of Mrs. R. V. Lindeman nee Westergaard, one of the popular sales ladies of the above mentioned store. The evening was pleasantly spent in singing the popular songs and in playing instrumental selections. A dainty lunch was served by Mrs. Walsh.

The remains of Mrs. A. F. Blum of Des Lacs were interred at Lakewood cemetery, Minneapolis, Tuesday afternoon. Brief services were held at the Carroll undertaking parlors preceding the interment. Mr. Blum will remain with friends in Minneapolis for a few weeks for rest and recuperation. The elder son Elmer returned to Camp and the younger son Arthur returned home Friday to look after affairs at the homestead during his father's absence.

John Flom, of Dennison, Minn., a former resident of this section, having homesteaded a fine quarter near Drady which he still owns, is out from Minnesota to look after his crops and have a brief visit with old friends. He says that rye averaged 23 bushels per acre in Minnesota this year, and winter wheat went around 25 bushels. Mr. Flom and Knute Holm were the first settlers in what is now Burt township. While not the first residents they were the first to farm the land and settle with the intention of making it their home. Another brother, Iver Flom, was also a resident of Burt township, but is now living at Dennison, the two brothers having purchased the old Flom homestead, where they were born.