

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

This Issue 16

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

SECOND SECTION

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MINOT LOCAL TALENT WILL PRESENT "A PAIR OF SIXES"

Well Known Minot People to Appear in Side-Splitting Comedy Two Nights, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Direction of Sanford Dodge

After careful consideration the following cast has been engaged for the forthcoming production of "A Pair of Sixes": Sally Parker, typist—Emily Martin. Krome, bookkeeper—Jim Smallwood. Jimmy, office boy, Henry Blaisdell. Mrs. George Nettleton, Margaret Kelley. George Nettleton, one of the partners, Sanford Dodge. T. Boogge Johns, another partner, V. E. Stenersen. Florence Cole, John's fiance—Dorothy Schroer. Tony Thoeer, traveling salesman—Dr. George J. Dwire. Samuel Applegate, a big customer—Leon Ellithorpe. Thomas J. Vanderholt, lawyer—Charles Geist. Coddles, English maid—Ruth Carroll. The comedy is played in three acts and special stage effects are now being built for this production. Many of the roles are long and difficult but they are being thoroughly mastered by those to whom they are assigned. The dates chosen for "A Pair of Sixes" are Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st. One of the very best comedy presentations ever staged in Minot is anticipated.

FRANK LINHA WRITES ABOUT FARM BUREAU WORK IN MONTANA

Mr. Frank Linha of North Prairie writes of some of the work done by the Farm Bureau in Montana. Mr. Linha is an enthusiastic supporter of the Farm Bureau work and believes that the farmers are on the right track to secure representation in legislative matters and also to work out some of the economic problems. The following letter was written to N. D. Gorman, County Agent, in regard to Farm Bureau work in Montana.

Minot, N. Dak., Dec. 10, 1920. Mr. N. D. Gorman, County Agent, Minot, N. Dak. Dear Mr. Gorman: I have become very much interested in the Farm Bureau and for that reason I am taking the liberty of writing to you in regard to some of the work that has been done thru the Farm Bureau in Montana. J. T. Devorak who formerly lived in Montana and farmed there in Phillips county during the dry season received a seed loan from the government which was made possible by the Farm Bureau in Montana in 1919.

As you know that year was a complete failure in Montana and farmers were unable to pay off loans received and it was necessary that something be done to extend these loans. Again the Farm Bureau took up the work and received for the farmers of Montana the cancellation of the chattel mortgages where the crop was under five bushels per acre. In Phillips county alone the farmers borrowed through the Farm Bureau approximately one quarter of a million dollars. If the Farm Bureau had not been organized in Montana these loans would never have been made, and it was the work of the Farm Bureau that got the money for the drouth stricken farmers. It was also through the Farm Bureau that when these loans couldn't be paid because of drouth they were extended without interest and the mortgage released.

Yours very truly, FRANK LINHA.

SUPPOSING WE USED CORN FOR MONEY

Last year, when corn was \$1.50 a bushel a farmer could get 5 gallons of gasoline for a single bushel. Today at the farm price, that bushel of corn only buys 1 gallon of gasoline. Last year 6 bushels of corn would buy a ton of soft coal. Today that ton of coal costs 40 bushels of corn. Last year a \$60 suit of clothes would purchase a \$60 suit of clothes. Today it would take 200 bushels to buy that suit. Yet had clothing been reduced in price proportionately with corn, \$60 suits of clothes would now be selling for \$12. Last year 10 bushels of corn would buy a \$15 pair of shoes. Today it takes 50 bushels. Last year a good pair of shoes could be bought for one cowhide. To-

day it takes 6 cowhides to get the shoes. To buy his wife a pair of \$10 shoes a Kansas farmer recently sold 25 bushels of corn for \$37.50 and a big cowhide for \$2. Then had to pay 50 cents to boot to close the transaction. Last year 3 1/4 bushels of corn would buy a \$5 hat. Today it will take 16 2/3 bushels. Last year a bushel of corn would buy 3 pounds of coffee. Today it will buy only a little more than half a pound. Last year 2 1/3 bushels of corn would purchase a 48 pound sack of flour. Today it takes 8 1/2 bushels. A farmer feeds a hog 7 1/2 bushels of corn to make 100 pounds of pork, but he pays 2 bushels of corn for 1 pound of bacon. For 5 pounds of wool, enough to make "a genuine all-wool suit," a farmer is now glad to get \$1, but to buy such a suit costs him 500 lbs. of wool.

And so it goes up and down the line. Whether prices raise or fall the farmers get the worst of it. If on a parity with the present price of corn, Mr. Rockefeller would sell gasoline for 6 cents instead of 30; the Coal Trust would sell a ton of coal for \$2.50 instead of \$12.50; the clothier a \$60 suit for \$12; the shoe dealer a \$10 shoe for \$2; the hatter a \$5 hat for \$1; and the packer would sell bacon and buy livestock at pre-war instead of at post war prices. American agriculture would not today be in need of the credit pulmotor. Corn should be and is worth more, if these conditions are worth what is asked for them.

What is it going to profit us to keep knocking the farmer down and taking his profit away from him? How are we going to be clothed and fed when we finally have knocked him out completely? I know nothing more worth pondering than this question. Its solution is the key to our other vital problems and the way it should be solved is plainly before us. There should be immediate re-establishment of the War Finance Board, the present credit crisis being more serious and far-reaching than the one which called it into being during the war.

Immediate suspension by the exchanges, of future trading in farm products during the present crisis and collapse of the farmers' markets, as a means to protect the country from serious consequences of unrestrained market manipulation. We should immediately re-establish trade relations with foreign countries, and arrange credits that will enable Europe to buy our surplus products. Ultimately we should provide for a national marketing board, in which the producer will be represented, with power to the board to regulate the rate of marketing and to advise and assist in stabilizing prices, that injury to producer or to consumer thru ruinous practices or conditions may be avoided.

And finally we should see that in the future adequate credit is provided for farmers through short-time and long-time loans adapted fairly practically to the peculiar conditions of the farming business, to afford farmers the same credit accommodations now afforded other lines of business and that they may not be compelled to dump their products on a glutted or demoralized market.

ARTHUR CAPPER, Washington, D. C. Mr. Capper might just as well have illustrated his interesting comparisons with the price of wheat, which has declined proportionately with corn. Every man in business is entitled to a fair profit and the farmer is entitled to a reasonable profit for what he produces. The businessmen are not getting any more for their merchandise than they are entitled to, but something should be done, as Mr. Capper suggests, to see that the farmers is treated right at this time. His suggestions are worthy of consideration by Congress.

Truax Buys Christmas Present C. F. Truax, one of the publishers of the Ward County Independent is as pleased as a kid with his first pair of red top boots and all for the reason that he has invested in a real honest to goodness office chair which he declares is to be his Christmas present to himself. The old leather bound chair that he has used for "high onto" twenty years has rendered excellent service, in fact it has earned a rest and now reposes in a secluded corner of our sanctum. The old chair was a present to the Independent from J. C. Hoff, who in the hey-day of his business career operated the Minot Furniture Store in an old building that stood at the rear of the present site of the Soo passenger station.

Mrs. U. G. Abbott and son Raymond will leave about the first of the year for a visit in many parts of the United States, intending to be absent from three to six months. Their itinerary includes Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Charlotte, N. C., Memphis, Tenn., Fort Worth and El Paso, Texas, Gila Bend and Ajo, Ariz., Los Angeles and Ventura, Calif., Portland Ore. and Tacoma, Wash. They will visit friends and relatives in each of these cities.

A Merry Christmas and A Healthy New Year

Use the little Health Stamp on all letters and packages sent out this Christmas. For sale in many Minot places.

The Grange and Its Achievements

The 54th annual session of The National Grange, that has just closed its meetings in Boston, has, in many respects been the most important of any meeting ever held by the grange. First of all, it is significant that, the conditions in America today are almost identical with those out of which the Order had its inception. This country at that time had been torn asunder by four years of civil strife, and it was during the years of reconstruction that the founders of the Grange called it into being to perform a work imperatively demanded, and a work which by its very nature this organization was peculiarly fitted to do.

And so today like then, in the judgment of many critics the period that is to follow, is a more critical time, so far as the permanency of this nation is concerned, than the days of the war itself. We find now as then that all industries, including that great basic industry, agriculture, is prostrate, and it is immediately apparent that unless that fundamental occupation can be speedily revived, then all other industries will suffer and the future, if not the very life, of the whole people will be menaced.

But, the problem of reconstruction at this time is not as delicate a task as then, for at that time the Nation was divided into two distinct parts, The North and the South. The task of bringing together that divided nation, under such conditions, have never been surpassed in the annals of history. Two facts became immediately apparent as that great problem was faced: (1) That reconstruction must be a slow, up-hill process that nothing short of many years could accomplish. (2) That was a task in which every citizen's assistance was needed, exercised through both individual and organized channels, to the extreme limit of opportunity. It was out of this situation that the Grange was born.

It seems to me to be peculiarly fitting at this time that we pause for a moment, at least long enough to take an account of stock to see where we are, and to summarize our achievements, and decide if possible, why some of our best directed efforts have resulted in failure. And while doing this, let us not forget that it is an achievement of no small magnitude for an organization to live, thrive and grow for fifty years, overcoming conditions seemingly at these insurmountable and ultimately arriving at the proud position now occupied by the Grange. It has some times been said that the Grange claims credit for every thing creditable in sight. Nothing could be further from the truth, and assuredly no well-informed person who has made a study of Grange History

and kept in touch with grange activities, will be responsible for such statements. We do not claim that the Grange has been wholly responsible for the achievements of the past, but we do claim, however, that it has been a leader in initiating measures benefitting agriculture and in shaping public sentiment in its favor. We do not propose to claim for the grange more than it is fairly entitled to, but we are in a position to prove that the Grange has been a leading dominant factor in so shaping and controlling affairs that rural life has become cleaner and more uplifting, and in enacting legislation that spells progress and prosperity for the farmer. And it has been most encouraging to note the spirit of fraternity and helpfulness that has at all times been manifested.

This is the more remarkable when we realize the tremendous distance that separates our membership and the diversity of interests necessarily attendant upon widely separated communities. Our Order is a national one, national in all its work, knowing no north, no south, no east, no west. United by the silken cord of fraternity, it is laboring to make happier and more prosperous homes on the hills and in the valleys of New England, amid the sugar, rice and cotton fields of the South, the corn, wheat and pasture lands of the central States, as well as to increase the sunshine and prosperity of the farm homes of our brothers and sisters who live in the fertile valleys fanned by the breezes of the Pacific Ocean.

In short, it is the purpose of this great fraternity to increase happiness in the 6,000,000 farm homes, and make agriculture more prosperous in all parts of our glorious country. It still has higher and grander objects, among which are to elevate the standard of intelligence among the farming population and to inspire in them more exalted ideas of citizenship. It is perhaps impossible to estimate at its true value the benefits the Grange has brought to its membership from developing the social features and cultivating the social graces. To people who live in isolated communities, farm from the centers of population, the Grange has brought relief from the tedium and monotony of farm life. It has brought us into contact with our fellows, has broadened our view point and taught us that we are to assume responsibilities and discharge duties that lie outside our own immediate personal environments. And while it is true that isolation fosters meditation, it is equally true that contact with our fellows crystallizes these thoughts and stimulates action, and the meetings of the Order furnish the opportunity to make

TOWN CRIERS' SECOND MINSTREL SHOW MADE BIG HIT

the highest and best use of the lessons learned. I have only touched briefly some of the conditions that brought the Grange into being, and have only described in a limited way some of the principles for which the grange has always stood, and as proof of the popularity of its position, and as further proof of the confidence the people imposed in the organization, at the end of the fourth year after birth there had been 25,000 subordinate granges organized in 15 states. And so the grange continued to function with the ever increasing confidence and support of the farmers, until the reconstruction period was over and the country was again restored to normal conditions. And then came the critical time in the life of this great farmers organization, some of the would-be progressive leaders in the central states, thinking there was no other way to procure legislation that was just and equitable for the farmer, plunged the Grange into politics, which proved to be very fatal, and for a time threatened its destruction. It was through the most strenuous efforts on the part of some of the most conservative members, and through the repudiation of the acts of some of the state granges, by the National Grange that the organization was saved.

Beginning with the early nineties the Grange has had a continuous and steady growth, until today the organization covers a wider territory and has a larger membership than at any time in its history. The Grange having been in existence fifty years, it will only be natural for some to ask, what has the Grange accomplished? There is no way in which the great work of the Grange along educational and social lines can be readily measured; some of the cooperative work of the order we can measure in dollars and cents; but some of the greatest achievements in Grange history are along legislative lines. Space will not permit me to go into detail in discussing the various laws that have been enacted as a result of Grange activity, or the number of bills defeated through the fight that has been led by the Grange, but I shall only mention a few laws that have been placed upon our statute, by first having the attention of the people called to their importance by the Grange itself.

Through the efforts of the Grange the agricultural colleges teach agriculture. Before the Grange turned its attention to them they were agricultural in name only. The Hatch law that provided for agricultural experiment stations was made possible by the grange. The Grange led the fight that defeated the bill to re-issue the patents on sewing machines. It was through the work of the Grange that the Secretary of Agriculture was made a member of the President's cabinet, thus giving agriculture a voice in the councils of the President and his cabinet.

In the early days the transportation problems were only straightened out by the persistent efforts of the Grange, and the "Granger laws" would fill volumes. As a result of this fight in congress and the state legislatures the courts decreed that the certificate is not greater than the creator. The work of the Grange in the fights over transportation problems has been of inestimable value to the farmers and shippers of the nation. The Grange was one of the greatest factors in securing the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The Grange has always been a champion of pure food and honest dairy products, and as a result of its work most of the states now have a dairy and food department. It was also through its work that the National law taxing oleo 10c per pound when colored as butter, was enacted. The Grange was one of the greatest factors in securing the following legislation: The National pure food law. Parcel post legislation. These two measures are of direct benefit both to the producer and the consumer. Provision for postal savings bank system. Direct election of United States senators. Federal aid in road construction. Rural credit act.

The Grange has always been an advocate of a more equitable system of taxation and has been the farmers' staunchest friend in the fights on the problems of taxation. And reaffirming their position taken at former sessions. We now give you a few basic principles upon which the grange stands: Since taxation is necessary for the enforcement of laws for the protection of property, individual or corporate, therefore no property, either real or personal, which is protected by law, should be exempt from taxation, except such property as may be specifically exempt by state constitutions. Exemption by reason of debt applied equally to real and personal property. Mortgages to be taxed as real property assessed against owner of mortgage in district where land is located, and owner of land given exemption in amount of mortgage. Corporation property both real and personal to be taxed the same as privately owned property. Tax on railroad property to be based on valuation equal to total market (Continued on last page)

Local Stars Please Many Minot People at Auditorium Friday night—Box Office Receipts Over \$800.00.

The second annual Town Criers Minstrel show was staged at the high school auditorium Friday night the house being filled almost to capacity. The Town Criers had already established an enviable reputation as entertainers and from the frequent bursts of applause, it was apparent that the Town Criers, who are exponents of honest advertising, had given the public all and more than had been promised in its publicity campaign.

Wm. Gettleman, as interlocutor, and Otto Ellison, L. R. Swett, P. J. Montgomery and Dave Phillips as end men were unusually good. The following members of the chorus were directed by Lafe Platen, who deserves much credit for the success of the performance: Archie Johnson, C. C. Hvambal, A. P. Dahle, L. M. Ellithorpe, V. E. Stenersen, Frank Van Fleet, A. F. Bacon, F. H. Luedke, G. A. Huss, C. B. Davis, H. B. Bartleson, J. H. Colton, G. D. Colcord, Will E. Holbein, Paul Redpath, Peter Landsverk, M. K. Bertleson, Claude Holcomb, Roy Nyre, K. H. Swiggum, S. J. Rasmussen, H. F. Allen, Henry Belanger, C. B. Bach, C. A. Trege, Ed Harshberger. Among the song hits of the evening were: "Hold Me"—Opening Chorus. "Slow and Easy"—Dave Phillips. "In the Dusk"—J. H. Colton. "I Want to Go Where the Sweet Daddies Grow"—Otto Ellison. "I'm Dreaming of You"—Roy Nyre. "I'm Going Where the Weather Suits My Clothes"—L. R. Swett. "Avalon"—H. B. Bertleson. "Give Me the Good Old Days"—P. J. Montgomery. "She's a Vamp"—V. E. Stenersen. "Whispering"—Wm. Gettleman.

Among the enjoyable specialties were the Dutch and Grecian dances by Prof. and Mrs. Geo. Mueller; the vaudeville skit, "Hotel de Average" by Dave Phillips and P. J. Montgomery; "Oh, you beautiful girls," song and dance by P. J. Montgomery and his Broadway Belles, the Misses Cecilia Belanger, Mabel Cook, Lucile Roach, Harriet Harrison, Mary and Genevieve Francis. Major E. S. Person and his famous Town Criers Male Chorus sang effectively, "On the Road to Mandalay" and "The Clang of the Forge".

One of the best numbers of the evening was the vocal quartette by C. C. Hvambal, J. H. Colton, Lafe Platen and A. P. Dahle. Their second number was arranged by Mr. Platen, who displayed some rare ability along this line. The saxophone quartette by Lafe Platen, Geo. Mueller, F. H. Holden and Bruce McConnell was a big hit. The music was furnished by the Town Criers orchestra under the direction of Prof. John Howard, director of music in the city schools. The fine music added much to the evening's enjoyment. The members of the orchestra are: Prof. John Howard, director, John Quigley, R. F. Mills, Dale Frank, F. R. Holden, Adolph Schlichting, Conrad Fuglar, Miss Harriet Mitchell, Wm. Oesch, Geo. Mueller, R. W. Torgerson. Miss Harriet Mitchell is the accompanist.

The receipts for the entertainment were more than \$800.00 which leaves a nice balance after paying all expenses. Eastern Star Installation The installation of the newly elected officers of Venus Chapter No. 14, O. E. S., was held at the Masonic Temple Tuesday night, Mrs. L. J. Palda, Jr., Past Worthy Grand Matron, acting as installing officer. A lunch followed. The officers are: Worthy Matron—Rosalie Hard. Worthy Patron—Wm. C. Hunter. Associate Matron—Marie Olson. Secretary—Bertha Edwards. Treasurer—Evelyn Kemper. Conductress—Myrtle Knapp. Asst. Cond.—Clara Henderson. Ada—Adella Baptie. Ruth—Olivia Halvorson. Esther—Eva Valker. Martha—Alice Boenstedt. Electa—Leona Taylor. Warden—Kate Reed. Sentinel—Mattie Truax. Marshal—Selma Stenersen.

Popular Paper Salesman to Wed Devils Lake Girl The marriage of Curtis W. Anderson, representative of the John Leslie Paper Co., to Miss Jessie White Monteith, of Devils Lake, will take place in Devils Lake, Sunday, Dec. 19. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Monteith of Devils Lake, her father being a prominent meat dealer of that city. Mr. Anderson is one of the most popular paper salesmen on the road and has made Minot his headquarters for the past two years. The couple will spend their honeymoon in the Twin Cities. Mr. Anderson's former home.

Nestos Delivers Address at Fessenden R. A. Nestos addressed the Young People's Society of the Lutheran church at Fessenden Sunday night on "Seeking a Larger Life".

New "Dry Agent" on the Job



One of the camels belonging to John C. Warner of Newark, N. J., heard that a certain place in that town was still dispensing something "damp," so he went to investigate.