

SPRING WAGES SET AT \$30 IN RAMSEY COUNTY

At a meeting of the Directors of the Ramsey County Farm Bureau directors recently held in Devils Lake the matter of standardizing farm labor and labor wages was discussed at length and it was finally decided that farmers in this region would pay \$30.00 per month during spring work and \$35.00 for the season of eight months. It was suggested that in case a man stays through the entire season of eight months that he receive \$30.00 per month for the first four months and \$40.00 for the last four.

The plan of reporting labor conditions as outlined by Mr. H. P. Fuller, Secretary of the N. D. Farm Bureau Federation, was adopted. This action was taken as it was deemed necessary in view of the fact that conditions as to supply and demand for labor over the entire state was necessary in order that wages be the same over the entire area and the men to be directed to places where they are most needed. In each county commissioners district two farmers will be selected as labor reporters for their district. Reports will be forwarded to the County Agent who will in turn report to the Secretary of the N. D. Farm Bureau Federation where a report for the state will be made up and returned to the various communities. A man will be selected in each town to receive orders from the farmers and assist in distribution. The State-Federal Free Employment offices will cooperate in securing the help.

NO RED TAPE IN OBTAINING LOAN

Grand Forks, N. D., April 12.—Red tape has been thrown into the wastebasket at the federal seed loan office here in charge of C. W. Warburton. The office is speeding up the job of placing hundreds of drought-stricken farmers in a position to plant a new crop this year.

Numerous essential details must be carefully handled if the loans are to reach the applicants who are in the greatest need. For this reason every effort is being made to single out those who have been the heaviest drought sufferers for special consideration.

The legal requirements for making a seed loan are now comparatively simple. A crop mortgage in North Dakota and seed lien in Montana are required by the government as security for the money advanced. The applicant must furnish a note for the amount advanced, bearing interest at 5 per cent.

The main difference between the transaction with the government and that with an ordinary bank is that the farmer with no credit with a bank is the one most favored by the government. Preference is also given to married applicants over bachelors.

The method which has been adopted of handling applications through county agents has helped materially in speeding up the work, and checks are going out every day in increasing numbers.

FIRE DESTROYS CAR AND GARAGE

John P. Axtman of east 9th street suffered the loss of his car and garage at about 11:00 o'clock Saturday night when for some unknown reason the car and building caught fire and were pretty well consumed before the fire department arrived and put an end to the flames. The car was a Grant six touring, and Mr. Axtman had run into the garage only a short time before the fire started. He could see nothing wrong with the machine at that time, and cannot imagine what started the conflagration. The car was insured for \$600 which is much less than its actual value.

Woman Would Divorce Her Chinese Husband

Bismarck, N. D., April 12.—North Dakota's supreme court will have to decide whether the lack of the vote is sufficient cause for divorce. It is the basic plea back of the plea of Mabel Kawabata that she be restored to her prosaic maiden name of Jones and separated from her present legal husband, Roy Kawabata. In the appeal of her attorneys before the present term of the supreme court, it was stressed that Miss Mabel Jones did not know when she wedded the said Kawabata that he was not a citizen of the United States and that he could never become a citizen of the United States, and that as the wife of an alien, the franchise, recently accorded to American women, would be withheld from her.

The local guess in legal circles is that this is the first time, the lack of the franchise has been used in arguments for a divorce.

KELLY LEASES HIS BUILDING TO THE PENNEY CO.

A lease which was signed several months ago, but which has just been made public and which is of considerable interest, provides for a ten year rental of the C. J. Kelly block on the corner of fifth street and Kelly avenue to the J. C. Penney Company, which will occupy the building after June first. The lease was signed some time in January when Mr. Kelly announced that he intended to rebuild and remodel his place, but neither party would either admit or deny the contract until now.

Among the improvements which are now going on at the Kelly block include the putting in of a full basement under the building, the tearing down of the brick walls which have stood for many years and replacing them with pressed brick and glass, the raising of the ceiling on the ground floor one foot, and to all practical purposes making a new building out of the structure. Five living apartments will be installed on the second floor of the block which will be of glass for the purpose of affording the Penney Co. the maximum amount of show windows and light for the interior of the store. The contract for the work which must be completed by June 1st, is let to Fjeldseth & Johnson, who have had workmen on the job for some time.

Mr. Kelly had an addition constructed to his main building during the past few months, and every foot of his lots is now occupied. The construction work on the addition is completed with the exception of some painting and decorating, but he has already moved his stock of groceries into the new place where he is doing business now. His dry goods and shoes are still in the main building, where he will continue his auction until this part of his stock is disposed of. He now plans on limiting himself to the grocery business alone, but may branch out into something else later.

After the rebuilding of the Kelly block is completed it will add considerably to the attractiveness of Kelly avenue, which now can boast of being for several blocks one of the best built up streets in the state, taking the size of the city into consideration.

BROWN HELD TO DISTRICT COURT IN MURDER CASE

No Bail For Convict's Pal Charged With Slaying Young Girl

Fargo, N. D., April 12.—Andy Brown, charged with murder in connection with the death of Marie Wick, Grygla, Minn., in a local hotel last June waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to the Cass county district court. He was remanded to jail without bail.

Gummer's Room-mate
Brown was the room-mate of William Gummer, former night clerk at the Prescott hotel, Fargo, who is now serving a life term in the penitentiary after having been found guilty of the murder of the unfortunate Grygla girl.

During Gummer's trial Brown was on the witness stand and admitted being with Gummer in the hotel for some time on the night the murder was committed. The state also introduced evidence tending to show that he had made contradictory statements regarding the crime, and had warned Gummer to "stand pat" while both were in the Cass county jail.

Rev. Case to Re- Present Minnewau- kan Presbytery

Rev. Grubbe of Towner was elected moderator for the coming term of the Minnewaukan Presbytery which was held here on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week at the Presbyterian church, and Rev. P. H. Case, was elected commissioner to the general assembly which meets next month at Des Moines, Iowa, while Rev. Grubbe was elected alternate. Dr. Allen of Towner was elected lay delegate and William Brown of Rolla as alternate. The program rendered was very interesting, and the large number of people appeared to be more enthusiastic over the work than they had ever before.

The teachers and pupils of the Devils Lake schools are now enjoying their annual Easter vacation which lasts a week. The schools will be opened again on Monday of next week.

INDICT TRIO BANK OFFICERS

Misuse of the U. S. Mails Charged Against Officers of Defunct Institution

Mohall, N. D., April 12.—A. L. Wiebe, Walter Bergman and J. C. Peters, officers of the defunct Mohall State bank, have been arrested on a charge of misusing the United States mails.

The federal grand jury which has been in session at Bismarck for several weeks past investigated the case and returned one indictment against the three men. Bail has been set at \$5,000 which both Mr. Wiebe and Mr. Peters have furnished. Mr. Bergman is expected to arrive soon and will doubtless also be able to secure bonds and be released.

False Statements Alleged
It is asserted that the statements of the condition of the bank sent through the mails showed no red-ink counts, which was false and owing to this, large sums of money were received by the bank and misappropriated.

Financial operations said to extend to many sections of the country including particularly southern Minnesota, as well as western coast points aggregating about \$1,500,000 will be unraveled when the officers of the bank charged with the embezzlement of \$106,000 of the bank's funds come to trial. The federal grand jury indictment is a new charge against them.

Excessive Interest Rates
A feature in connection with the failure of the bank is the claim that thousands of dollars worth of certificates of deposit carried an interest rate over 6 per cent, thus relieving the state guaranty fund from liability.

It is understood that many of the transactions upon which the criminal action for embezzlement was brought hinges around a "revolving fund", complete transactions in which it is said aggregate close to a million dollars. It is the paper that it is alleged went into the bank through this fund that will play an important part in the trial.

Included among these and claimed as typical was a note for seven thousand dollars, said to have been accepted from a stenographer in the institution. Certain transactions having to do with an increase in the capital stock of the bank are also under fire. It was deemed advisable to increase the capital stock of the bank and to do this notes were accepted with the promise, it is now charged, that they would not be used and that the makers would not be asked to pay them. That they were used is the contention of the state.

Meeting Called TO Talk Over Glacier Trail

Frank C. Thornton, president of the First National Bank of Benson, Minnesota, and Bert T. Fuqua, secretary and manager of the Glacier Park Trail association, were in the city on Monday of this week for the purpose of conferring with local business men in regard to routing this trail through Grand Forks and this city instead of going farther south on its way to Minot. The route originates at St. Louis, Missouri, and ends at the Glacier National Park. It was originally planned to have the route run along the Northern Pacific railroad from Fargo west, but the business men at Grand Forks got busy, and a route farther north is now being considered. A meeting of the residents of the city is called for next Tuesday evening at eight o'clock at the rooms of the Civic and Commerce Commission when the matter will be fully gone over, and at which time it will be decided to what extent the business men of Devils Lake will co-operate with the trail association in marking the route through the northern part of the state. All people in the city are invited to attend the meeting.

FRALEY TO WORK WITH THE LAKE MOTOR COMPANY

Wm. Fraley, who for a number of years was connected with the Nichols A. Shepard Co., but who during the past winter has been engaged in other work here, has accepted a position as salesman at the Lake Motor Co., and goes to work next Monday morning. The Lake Motor Co. handles Chevrolet cars, and it will be Mr. Fraley's principal duty to make that car the leading make in the city during the coming season. As a salesman Mr. Fraley is second to none in this section of the state, and we are satisfied that there will be something doing in Chevrolet cars after he gets settled down to business.

COURTAILMENT OF LABOR ON FARMS SHOWN

Many Farmers To Try and Do Most of Their Own Work This Spring, Reports Say

There will be a curtailment of employed help by farmers this spring, it is indicated by reports of the various county farm bureaus in the state, issued by Albert Peterson, president of the McLean County Farm Bureau, to the various agencies in that county.

The reports are largely estimates, Mr. Peterson states, as little farm labor is now being employed.

Wages expected to be paid this spring in many counties follow: Burke, \$25 to \$30; Cass, \$25 to \$30; Dickey, \$30 to \$40; Eddy, \$35 to \$40; Foster, \$25 to \$30; Golden Valley, \$30 to \$40; Grand Forks, \$25 to \$30; Grant, \$26 to \$30; McLean, unknown yet; Perce, \$35; Ramsey, \$30 to \$35; Renville, \$35; Richland, \$25 to \$30; Slope, \$30; Ward, \$25 to \$35; Wells, \$25 to \$35; Walsh, \$35; Williams, \$30.

The report continues:
The Executive Committee of the Wells County Farm Bureau met with its township board members at Fessenden, March 6th. An extended discussion of the labor situation resulted in a vote for the season's wages at \$25 to \$35 per month, and that spring work should open at \$25 per month with board and lodging.

The State Federal Free Employment Agency at Fargo reports a wage of 30 to 35 cents an hour for common labor (does not include board and lodging) in the Twin Cities and that very few real good farm hands are coming in from the east but a week of warm weather will bring in more men.

Reports from South Dakota would indicate a monthly wage of \$15 to \$40 with a large number of reports around \$30. There is little demand for labor. Supply normal.

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation has compiled the recommended wage scale by counties. It averages \$23.75 per month with \$32.50 per month for eight months. Small demand with normal supply of labor.

FLAMES DEAL DEATH TO TWO AT SAINT JOHN

The second child in the family of Paul Laviolette of St. John passed away at a local hospital on Thursday of last week, after suffering from severe burns received on the Tuesday before when fire totally destroyed the Laviolette farm home. One child, a daughter four years old, was burned to death in the fire. Theodore, 17-years old, received severe burns, and was brought to a local hospital in the hopes that his life might be saved with the best medical treatment, but he passed away in spite of everything that could be done to prolong life.

After lighting the fire on the fatal morning Mr. Laviolette went out to the barn to do some chores. The fire did not burn very fast, and to give it a good start Theodore poured a quantity of gasoline on it, believing the fluid to be kerosene. This caused an explosion in a moment: the entire room was in flames.

Mr. Laviolette rushed into the house and succeeded in recruiting two of his children, while Theodore ran out himself, but was unable to get at four-year old daughter who was walled in by the flames. No clothing or other articles were saved and neighbors came to the rescue to provide clothing for the children.

The remains of Theodore were prepared for shipment last Thursday at the Toomey undertaking parlors, and the following day were shipped to St. John, where the funeral took place Saturday.

\$1,000 PRIZE BULL IS DEAD

The registered Shorthorn bull, "Gay Monarch" belonging to John L. Horne of Penn died one day last week at the Horne farm. The animal was one of the best bred in the Northwest, and his owner took great pride in him ever since he got possession of him several years ago. The bull was brought here in 1918 to the sale of pure bred cattle by John Wild of Milton, and was sold at the sale to John McKay for \$1,000. The following year Mr. McKay retired from farming and sold the animal to Mr. Horne. The animal had always taken first prize at each fair wherever he was shown, and he will be greatly missed by the breeders of pure bred live stock in Ramsey county.

FIRE MARSHAL INVESTIGATE

Chief Assistant Fire Marshal O. T. Haakenson and R. A. Meddebaugh of Bismarck, were in the city on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week for the purpose of making an inspection of the fire escapes being used in buildings where large number of people gather, and suggested some changes at both the Unique and Grand theatres. On Wednesday they visited the city schools and during their presence fire drills were ordered at the high school building and one of the graded schools. At the high school the building was emptied in a trifle over a minute, while in the graded school it took a minute and a half. The law requires these drills to take place at least twice every month, and Mr. Haakenson told us that from the way the pupils got out into the open he was fully convinced that they had had similar drills before.

Padded List on Furniture
From here the gentlemen went to Tokio, in Benson county, where they caused the arrest of Tom Kamprud, on the charge of falsifying a report of articles lost in the fire on his farm, and Mr. Kamprud later confessed. On January 13 a fire visited Mr. Kamprud's farm, and for the purpose of collecting insurance many articles were reported as having been destroyed. Practically all of his more valuable household furniture was removed from the house before the flames reached it, and he also reported a loss of some articles which he never owned. The insurance company paid the loss, and the investigation followed.

ASKS COMPLETE PROBE OF S. A. BANK AFFAIRS

Petition To Be Presented To Judge Cooley By Cass County Attorney

Bismarck, N. D., April 12.—A thorough investigation of all the affairs of the Scandinavian-American Bank of Fargo is asked by Attorney General Sveinbjorn Johnson in an application for the convening of a grand jury in Fargo prepared today for presentation to Judge C. M. Cooley of the First Judicial district.

The petition will be presented to Judge Cooley by William Green, states attorney of Cass county.

The application will set forth that the bank was closed in February 1921 and will cite numerous transactions in connection therewith.

Charges Made.
Specific allegations of law violating in connection with the bank set forth in the application include the following:

The loans were made in excess of the legal limit.

That loans were made to officers of the bank, directly or indirectly without authorization of the director and in violation of the law.

That loans were made to individuals enterprises in which officers were interested in excess of what was allowed by law.

That officers of the bank made false reports to the state examining officer for the purpose of concealing the true facts about the condition of the bank.

That for the purpose of increasing the capital stock false and fraudulent statements were made under oath.

That large sums of money actually were embezzled and no punishment meted out except to one subordinate.

That deposits were accepted while the bank was insolvent.

That large sums of money were deposited in the bank after the first closing in 1919 when it appears to have actually been insolvent, and that over \$400,000 of the state funds were so deposited.

In Public Interest.
Attorney General Johnson further says that he believes that "the public interest requires that such an investigation be made and that it can be made more economically and efficiently through the instrumentality of a grand jury than in any other way."

Bismarck, N. D., April 12.—There are 24 candidates for the office of sheriff of Burleigh county. The position pays \$4,000 a year.

Each candidate to get his name on the ballot must obtain 200 signatures to his petition. There are 600 voters in the county and the candidates must reach at least 4,800 of them to qualify.

SKURDAL FINDS STOLEN MAIL POUCH HERE

The mail pouch which on March 25 disappeared while enroute from Whitman, N. D., to this city, having been stolen, was found on Thursday of last week Anton Skurdahl under the weed burner near the tracks of the Farmers line, and was turned over to Postmaster Scott. At the present time it would be hard to tell whether the theft netted the thief anything. All the letters in the pouch were opened, and put back into the pouch. The pouch contained no register mail, but carried several applications for automobile licenses and these were accompanied by checks and drafts, but these were not taken. No clue to the identity of thieves has been found.

Judge Allows Sentenced Men To Care For Crops

Williston, N. D., April 12.—District Judge John C. Lowe has perhaps established a new precedent in releasing five convicted prisoners recently committed to the county jail, with the provision that all return on Nov. 1 to complete their sentences. The reason for Judge Lowe's action is that all of the released men are farmers, and if compelled to serve their entire sentences now it would result in the loss of their crops and probably their farms. Before permitting their release, the judge required the court costs assessed against each to be paid in cash.

FLAX CHAFF AND SEED KILLS 12 HEAD OF CATTLE

St. Anthony, N. D., April 12.—Nick Bender, a farmer of near here recently fed a bunch of fourteen cattle on a mixture containing considerable flax chaff and seed. Forty-five minutes later he found twelve of them dead.

According to Jacob Moyer of the chemistry department of the Agricultural college at Fargo, the feed contained a considerable quantity of prussic acid—Hydrocyanide—one of the most deadly poisons.

"Flax develops this poison if it is cut prematurely," he reported to Mr. Bender after analyzing portions of the feed sent there. Farmers should be warned against feed flax that has been cut prematurely to any stock. Many instances are on record of large flocks of chickens dying after eating flax seed," according to the report of Mr. Moyer.

COBB CO. AGAIN GETS 100 SCORE

The R. E. Cobb Co. of this city was again given a 100 per cent score card by the state inspector, who made a complete inspection of the plant on Wednesday of last week. Since the Cobb plant was erected here several years ago it has received a 100 per cent score card at each and every inspection, and this is without question the best record of any similar plant in the northwest.

Alleged Thieves Given Hearing

Ralph Brown and Hugh Wenzel, who were last week arrested on the charge of having been connected with the theft of over \$800 from a trunk at the Western Hotel here, were given a preliminary hearing in Justice Duell's court yesterday and today, and the court has the matter under consideration now, and will either bind them over or dismiss them tomorrow morning. Frank Martin, who was also arrested in connection with the case, will be given his hearing later.

Wehe Announces Candidacy For Attorney General

Bismarck, N. D., April 12.—L. J. Wehe, member of the North Dakota Workmen's Compensation Bureau, has announced himself as a candidate for attorney general.

In an announcement, issued today, Mr. Wehe declares himself to be a Republican. He says that he favors an honest and thorough trial of the state owned industries, but demands that they be operated with efficiency and economy. He also demands rigid economy in state affairs with a view to cutting down taxation.

Alamo, N. D., April 12.—Suspended by a rude noose and pierced by a shot wound, the body of Andrew Stordalen, 40, unmarried farmer of near Alamo, was found in the cellar of his farm home. He was apparently in good health and was classed as being in fair financial circumstances. No reason can be assigned for his act.

BOY SCOUTS TO GIVE ANOTHER BIG CONCERT

On Friday, April 21st next, the Devils Lake Boy Scout Band will give its fifth concert, in the series for which tickets were sold last fall. The program prepared for this last paid concert, will be exceptionally strong, an entirely new repertoire will be presented and nearly every new piece will be classical. Those who have been given the privilege of attending the rehearsals say that the band will be able on this occasion to give a splendid account of itself. The improvement on technique, of execution, the phrasing and in expression is simply marvelous and the Devils Lake audience will be given a real treat. We shall be able to give the program in full next week.

In addition to the ensemble numbers by the band there will be solos, duets and quartets by individuals and groups of the members. Walter Kelly, who was with the band in Brandon and other places and scored such a phenomenal success wherever he went, has been engaged for this occasion and will sing several numbers. This wonderful tenor is only 15 years of age and has sung his way into the hearts of the people all over this country from Brandon, Manitoba, to Atlantic City and Palm Beach, Florida. Those who have heard him will be glad to hear him again and those who have not heard him before have a wonderful treat in store.

This is the last paid concert of the series and will be well worth the price charged which is \$1.00. The people will no doubt show their appreciation of the Boy Scout Band and its achievement by filling the Opera House to the doors. They are our boys and we are proud of them.

BOY STUDENT POISONS SELF

Forman, N. D., April 12.—Worry over coming examinations and the fact that he was behind in his studies is believed to have caused Carl Isaacson, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Isaacson, to end his life by taking strychnine, death occurring in the schoolhouse he attended.

According to information, the boy was called at 6 a. m., in order that he might devote an extra hour to study. After breakfast he and his sister walked 1-2 miles to the schoolhouse. Returning from the schoolhouse barn whither he had gone while his sister and the teacher were building a fire, the youth took a seat and asked that his parents be sent for as he was dying. They arrived just as he expired.

The coroner found every indication of strychnine poisoning.

A note was found in the boy's pocket bidding farewell to his parents and relatives.

Farmer Can Become Own Plant Breeder

Fargo, N. D., April 12.—Every farmer can become his own plant breeder as corn is concerned, says L. R. Waldron, expert in that line at the Agricultural college here.

The yield of corn can be improved as much as 14 per cent using seed which is a cross between two widely different kinds of corn—such as Rustler, he says. The process is simple.

The two kinds of corn to be crossed are planted in alternate rows, apart from any other corn. When the plants begin to tassel the tassels are cut all off the stalks of one variety—the White Dent, for example. Thus the silk of the dent corn will be pollinated only by the pollen of other kind of corn planted. The ears growing on the dent corn stocks will be a cross between the dent and the Manadan varieties and it is these that should be used for seed.

The greater difference between the lands crossed, the better the results according to Mr. Waldron. The 14 per cent increase was obtained with the cross mentioned above but another cross which gave good results was that of the same dent corn with Mercer Flint.

Mr. Waldron suggested that if he work of cross breeding is too complicated for each farmer to do, it might pay certain farmers to make a practice of raising such cross seed to sell.

Incidentally, the Indians knew of the advantage of cross breeding corn, according to Mr. Waldron.

Mrs. D. Cridland was surprised at her home Tuesday evening by several ladies, the occasion being her birthday. Mrs. Cridland was presented with a birthday book and a beautiful bar pin. The guests were entertained at bridge after which a dainty luncheon was served.