

The Pioneer Express.

VOLUME XXXVIII

PEMBINA, PEMBINA COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1916.

NUMBER 14

Official Directory

U S Senators—A J Gronna
U S Represent.—P T McCumber
Governor—L B Hanna
Lieutenant Governor—J H France
Secretary of State—Thomas Hall
State Treasurer—John Stoen
State Auditor—C O Jorgenson
Attorney General—H J Linde
Railroad Com.—W H Mann
Supt of Pub Inst.—E J Taylor
Com of Insurance—W C Taylor
Com Agr & Labor—R E Flint
Judges of Supreme Court—A A Bruce
E T Burke
E B Goss
Judge 7th Jud. Dist.—W J Kneeshaw
STATE SENATOR
A J McFadden, Neche.
REPRESENTATIVES
1st District—W N Husband, Hensel
C W Moses, Drayton
P H McMillan, Hamilton
COUNTY OFFICIALS
States Attorney—Wm McMurchie
Clerk of Court—D Winlaw
Sheriff—Chas. Atkinson
Auditor—Wm. W. Felson
Treasurer—Hugh Gibson
Register of Deeds—Geo. Roadhouse
County Judge—H G Vick
Surveyor—Herman Campbell
Supt of Schools—Charlotte Jones
Coroner—Frank W. Deason
Public Admin.—Elin Thorwaldson
1st—A B Purdy, Joliette
2nd—J K Olson, Gardar
3rd—Adam Norton, Caval'r
Com's—4th—W J Watts, Leroy
5th—Jos Morrison, Drayton
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
Judson LaMoure Jr Collector
Robert Morrison Special Deputy
A E Harvey
J McConachie, Deputies
E R Russell Immigration Inspector

OFFICIAL PAPER OF CITY

TERMS, \$2.00 PER ANNUM

WARDWELL & THOMPSON.

F. A. Wardwell. G. G. Thompson

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Again the English and French made decided gains in the Somme region during the closing days of last week. The ground gained is on about a six mile front and nearly a mile deep for most of the distance. At each end of the line of advance are points which have held out ever since the first advance in the beginning of July; Thiépval on the left and Perrone on the right. But the present advance partially encircles both these points, which the Germans having strongly fortified still hold. During the last few days heavy rains have delayed further operations in this locality.

From the Balkans come conflicting stories which perhaps could be reconciled if the dates were specific. There are several armies facing each other at different points and these are evidently attacking and counter attacking with varying results. In a general way the Serbians with their French and English allies are making considerable progress in advancing from Greece into Serbia, while in the southeast along the Black sea the Bulgarian and Turks are claiming advantages. In Transylvania to the north, the Russians and Roumanians are apparently at a standstill. The fighting has been intense in several parts of this much fought over land.

The Galician and Poland battle lines each report success and large numbers of prisoners being taken. But the maps do not show advances. Lemberg is still "sixty miles away" from the Russians with the Russians fighting to get there, while the German-Austrians are fighting stubbornly to prevent future progress by the Slavs.

Features of the later battles are the increased use of aeroplanes as war weapons. The English and French have apparently increased their air fleets in very large numbers. Battles of air fleets are now becoming common as many as twenty or thirty of these airships taking part. The allies now claim a great superiority in this sort of warfare.

During the last week's operations a new instrument of warfare was introduced and the English claim it to be a remarkable success. It is an armored tractor engine of the "caterpillar" type. This is the kind of tractor that carries a sort of endless belt, which runs beneath the wheels and lays a broad track on which the wheels of the tractor run. The British have taken these tractors which are said to be American made, and which they have heretofore used to tow large gun carriages, and built them up with armor plate which is strong enough to resist musket and machine gun fire, armed them with rifled guns and quick fire machine guns and sent them into battle in advance of the infantry. The reports are these "tanks" literally walk over the roughest sort of ground, over trenches, walls and fences with little or no difficulty. They also claim that these new machines are very effective and particularly demoralizing to the enemy. Perhaps these reports are somewhat exaggerated, but it looks as though the aeroplanes in the air and the submarines in the seas had now a big brother on the ground.

Villa bandits are operating to some extent in Mexico but whether Villa himself is alive or dead nobody seems to know. Meantime some of the militia are coming home, while bodies from some states which have not heretofore been to the "front" are taking their places. It is certainly a peculiar situation, this Mexican war of ours. Meantime some delegates from both countries are talking it all over to see if they settle the differences between the "governments"

TAXATION

August 29th, 1916.

Editors Pioneer Express:
Have your letter of the per capita expenses of conducting government-state, county and local.

In response to your special inquiries I find the following: Item No. 1. Statement of sums extended on the tax list for the year 1915, being money levied for the use of the year 1916 and which is paid in the year 1916:

Purpose	Amount	Rate Per Capita
State taxes	\$36,062 06	\$2 40
County taxes	83,032 82	5 55
School taxes		
2 mill tax	14,257 37	95
Local levy	106,869 61	7 10
Township taxes	48,234 62	3 20
City and vill. tax	27,491 96	1 80
General taxation	\$315,948 94	\$21 00
School polls	3,183 00	
Road polls	3,139 50	
Grain taxes	179 89	
Drain assessments	5,833 57	
Weed cutting	97 00	
Sidewalk assessment	38 10	
Special assess'mt	\$12,471 06	

Total assessments and taxes \$328,420 00

The above per capita rate is based on a population of 15,000 for Pembina county. The school enumeration for 1915 was 4,824 students, the sum of \$137,757.85 was collected during the school year ending June 30th, 1915, or better than \$28.00 per student. Of the above sum of \$315,948.94 levied for direct taxation purposes the railroads pay \$45,457.03 or about \$3 per capita or better than 14 per cent of the direct taxes levied in Pembina county for the year 1916. The assessed valuation of Pembina county for the year 1915 is made up of the following apportionment of taxable property:

Real estate	71 per cent
Personal property	14 per cent
Railroad property	14 per cent
Telegraph, Express, Telephone, Pullman company	1 per cent
	100
1915 valuation per capita:	
Real estate	\$390 40
Personal property	80 50
Railroad property	80 00
Telegraph property	82
Telephone property	2 10
Express property	82
Pullman Company property	15
	\$554 80

TWO SAMPLE TOWNSHIPS.

Statement of the 1915 taxes for Carlisle and Joliette townships:

Purpose	Total	Per Capita
State taxes	\$2,114 08	\$5 50
School taxes		
2 mill	835 80	2 20
Local levy	5,086 58	13 20
County taxes	4,867 60	12 60
Township	3,987 33	10 30
	\$43 80	
Less railroad taxes	14 40	
Per capita, without railroad	\$29 40	

Purpose	Carlisle	Per Capita
State taxes	\$1,562 03	\$3 00
School taxes		
2 mill	617 55	1 20
Local levy	2,828 30	5 50
County taxes	3,599 42	7 00
Township	2,542 83	4 90
	\$21 60	

Population, 5 for each vote, Joliette 385, Carlisle 515.

Yours Truly,
Wm. W. FELSON.

SECOND CHAPTER.

We reproduce the statistics given us by Auditor Felson from last week's issue for reference as we wish to call attention to some other phases of taxation.

Perhaps the most striking item of these statistics is the comparatively large proportion of taxes paid by real estate, this being seventy-one per cent of the total valuation. It looks from this that it would not be a very great step for this county (and the figures are approximately about the same proportion for the whole state) to go on to the single tax theory of Henry George. So far as real estate itself is concerned, it is visible and its values pretty well approximated, consequently the bulk of our

taxation must be fairly well divided among the taxpaying owners.

It is therefore also conclusive that the inequalities, such as they are, must be found among the different classes of personal property. But here again we find that a large part is visible and material and is assessed and taxed fairly equable manner. First we find that more than one half of all personal property in the county consists of railroads, telephone and similar property, being about fifteen per cent of the total county assessment. Whether this assessment is sufficient and equable with other classes of property is a matter of private opinion, provided the private opinion is based on known facts. Some years ago a railway manager was quoted as saying that he made freight rates as "high as the traffic would bear." There are many people who would use the same rule in taxing railroads—forgetting that after all the public pays the taxes of the railroads.

Again it is also evident that of the fourteen per cent left after subtracting the real estate and railways, that a very large proportion of this fourteen per cent is also based on visible and material classes of personal property. It is composed of cattle, horses, farm utensils and machinery, stocks of store goods, household goods, bank stocks, etc. All of these as we said come under the personal eye of the assessors and while we do not need to make the actual figures we can safely say that probably at least twelve per cent of the classes of personal property is visible to the naked eye of the assessor and consequently assessed as equally as his judgement will allow. This leaves but two per cent of the total taxation to be derived from rather uncertain assets.

That is to say, that about ninety-eight per cent of our taxes are based on visible and tangible property, real and personal, which is assessed and taxed in a fairly equal manner.

This reduces the taxation question mostly to the two per cent and a possible increase in the "invisible" assets which the assessor cannot see, and the assessment of which depends largely on the honesty of the owner. These "invisible" assets are composed of such things as cash, bonds, mortgages, etc. In such an agricultural county as this (and typical of the whole state) if every taxpayer should honestly give in to the assessor to be listed all such property we think it would not add very much to the grand total. At least not to such an amount as would reduce the burden of taxation so as to be felt by the average taxpayer. In the large cities, where millionaires dwell and do business such money securities make a large aggregate, much of which escapes taxation. But either here or there, it is evident that it will always be very difficult to make such taxation successful because the securities are so easily hidden. That they should be taxed is very true, but since governments were instituted and the necessary taxation following their support, tax gatherers have been trying to uncover this sort of taxable stuff, and as yet no plan has succeeded.

We shall be glad to learn that the North Dakota Tax Commission which has been on the still hunt for this hidden wealth shall have succeeded where so many have failed.

Equitably, this hidden stuff should pay taxes, but as have seen, if it were all dug up, it would not make very much difference in the taxes of the ordinary individual.

Next week, we will talk on some other phases of the tax question, on the presumption that these talks will be of interest about this time of year, as taxes become due December first.

The supreme court has decided that no vote on the removal of the state capital from Bismarck to New Rockford can be taken this year, as the percentage of signers to the petition under the referendum amendment does not authorize a vote to be taken upon the petition of 25 per cent of the voters, as the intent of the voters, as the intent of the amendment was only to place a minimum per cent of petitioners without saying what the per cent shall be, leaving that part to be supplied by legislation, which has not been done.

Owing chiefly to the increased cost of paper, both weekly newspapers at Rochester, Minn., will go out of business with the issues of Sept. 29. The Olmstead County Democrat will be consolidated with the Rochester Daily Bulletin. The Weekly Post and record will simply be discontinued.

A yearling grade bull and ten head of sheep for sale. G. V. LEIFUR, 13-14* Pembina, N. D.

Horses for Sale. I have two span of good work horses for sale at the right prices. J. H. MURPHY, Joliette, N. D.



HENEMAN SAY'S:

You always can depend on the "Palmer" suits and coats of being the best and latest going. Let us show you the new fall line. We have suits from \$18 to \$37.50 which means a saving to you of \$7 to \$12.50 on a suit over city prices. The coats are ranging in prices from \$10 to \$45.00. Now is a good time to make your selection.

J. Heneman.

The annual convention of the Tri-County Teacher's Association, made up of Pembina, Walsh and Grand Forks counties, will be held in the city of Grafton, October 12 and 13. The officers of the association have met and made up a tentative program. The sessions of the association will be held at the auditorium of the high school and will be presided over by F. W. Reineohl, of Larimore, president of the association. The other officers are C. B. Curtis, vice-president, Pembina; Miss Nellie B. Hanson, secretary-treasurer, Grafton; and Miss Johnstone, Grand Forks, and Miss Jones Cavalier, and E. Erickson Grafton, executive committee. It is expected that between two and three hundred people will be present at the various sessions.—Echo.

Local Wants

Closing out sales are going on at the Branchaud store.

My residence near the city school is for sale. For particulars apply to MRS. BRANCHAUD.

Bottles Must Be Cleaned.

Owing to the filthy condition some of the empty milk bottles are being returned, hereafter no credit will be given for bottles returned dirty. 13-14 THE FORT FARM.

Worms Sap Your Child's Strength

Is your child pale and fretful? Does he cry out in sleep or grind his teeth? These symptoms may mean worms and you should obtain relief at once. Kickapoo Worm Killer is a pleasant remedy that kills the worm, and by its mildly laxative quality expels it from the system. Worms sap the vitality and make your child more susceptible to other ailments. Your druggist sells Kickapoo Worm Killer, 25c a box.

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