

**HOFF FACE ARSON CHARGE**

**SON OF PETER HOFF OF THIS CITY CHARGED WITH SETTING FIRE TO HOUSE**

Louis Hoff of Minneapolis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoff of this city, will have his hearing this morning, before Municipal Judge Lyon, on a charge of arson in the second degree. He is charged with having set fire to the Peter Hoff residence on Second street southeast on the morning of March 24. The complaint was sworn out by Assistant State Fire Marshal Martin, who investigated the fire. The Hoff house was first damaged by fire on the morning of March 22. Again on the morning of March 24 it was damaged. The owner of the house claimed that the first fire was not entirely extinguished. The officials of the fire department, however, maintain that the fire was out and a contractor who examined the building the following day failed to find any fire there. The assistant state fire marshal was called to make an investigation, which led to the arrest of Louis Hoff, whom it is claimed was seen in the city between 2 and 4 a. m. of the 24th of March. He was brought up here Thursday night of last week by Sheriff Felix and had a preliminary hearing before Judge Lyon the following morning. The case

was set for this morning and he was released under \$1,000 bail.

**PAYS \$1800 FOR THROWING MAN OUT OF SALOON**

Bemidji Pioneer (30): George Norberg, a pauper on the Bemidji poor farm, was awarded \$1,800 damages in the district court at Red Lake Falls for injuries he received in January, 1915, at Kelliher, when he was thrown in an intoxicated condition from the place operated by Oscar Thyren and Ole Pearson. Word to this effect was received from Red Lake Falls today. Norberg alleged that he froze both arms to such an extent from being thrown from the saloon that they were amputated from the elbows, making him a cripple for life. The case was begun in the district court here and on a request for change of venue was changed to Red Lake Falls.

**PARKER AND CULDRUM YOUNG PEOPLE WILL PRESENT PLAY**

A play entitled "The Deacon Entangled" will be given at the new H. Pierce barn in Parker tomorrow night and the proceeds will go toward a fund for the erection of a community club hall for Parker and Culdrum towns. A committee of farmers is now at work trying to get a farmers' club organized in that vicinity.

Miss Myrtle Meyers, who teaches at Starbuck, spent the week-end at her home here.

**HOGWALLOW NEWS**

**DUNK BOTTS, Regular Correspondent**  
(George Bingham)

Miss Flutie Belcher has ordered a pair of white stockings, on account of the war in Europe.

Raz Barlow is thinking of joining the army. He would make a good soldier, having already had considerable experience in shooting at people.

Fit Smith, who got mad and left home forever a few days ago, bought a midding of meat yesterday, and will start married life all over again.

The clerk in the dry goods store at Tickville has taken his spring and summer stand in the front door, where he will be pleased to meet his many friends and customers, while he plays with the awning rope and stops the girls that pass by there for no other reason.

Sidney Hocks, who swore off from all his meanness the first of the year, has got so far behind with his smoking and cussing that it will take him several months to catch up.

Our blacksmith, who is none other than Dock Hocks, says it's easy for a preacher to keep his religion, having

nothing else to do, but that if he had to shoe mules in fly time, he would have to swap places with the congregation every week.

Cricket Hicks says it looks like everything is arranged about right. For instance the onion-eating season comes at the same time of year that the people begin to raise their windows.

Clab Hancock, who has been raising a corn crop on Musket Ridge every year, will plant it this time in the Gimlet creek bottoms, where he won't be bothered with so many suggestions from people who have been reading farm papers.

The Blind Man reports business improving in his line, and is figuring on getting another tune for his hand organ, and enlarging his tin cup.

Miss Hostetter Hocks, who has done nearly everything else in the category to attract attention, has now cut off the bottom of her skirt.

Sim Flinders is having his chair bottomed, as he gets tired sitting on

the fence all the time.

**Atlas Addresses School**

Atlas Peck, who ranks next to the Wild Onion school teacher in the way of brains, made a talk before the scholars at the Wild Onion school house Friday evening, and dwelt at length on the possibilities of the imagination, which when analyzed, means that when a person lets his imagination run away with him he leaves the straight and narrow road of truth and jumps the fence into the field of doubt. During the course of his well chosen remarks, Atlas stated that his great-grandfather used to tell of a man who was several hundred times larger than anybody else, and was just as strong as he was large. There was no house big enough for him, so he slept in a large cave, and then his feet stuck out and got cold. He said this man had a very bad temper at times and when he ate four or five steers for supper and they didn't agree with him during the night, he would get up next morning out of sorts, and would go out and pull up several trees by the roots, or upset a pond or two, and grab mules by the tail and slam them against the ground. But on the other hand, when he was feeling good he was in fine humor and sometimes would laugh so loud all the neighbors thought it was an earthquake. Now, according to Atlas, this man was a great hand to do anything in his power for his friends, and it so happened one day that there was an open air meeting of the citizens to take up the project of straightening a very crooked creek; and after hearing the discussion of the difficult problem, this large man got up and advised all of them to go home and go to bed, that when they got up the next morning the creek would be straight. And they all did as the big man suggested, and the big man went down to the mouth of the creek, caught hold of that end of it and gave it a big pull and the creek stretched out as straight as a string. The talk of Atlas was enjoyed by all and was not doubted, as he is one of the trustees.

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

"Little Falls, Minn., April 4, 1916. To the Common Council of the City of Little Falls: Gentlemen: I am pleased to again, and this for the third time, deliver to you the mayor's annual message. I will touch but lightly on matters past and future, but will take them up when occasion requires. While it is possible there has been some difference of opinion on matters that have arisen during the past year, on the whole, the executive and legislative departments of the city have proceeded with a large measure of harmony, and I wish to felicitate your honorable body on the efforts you have expended the past year. The personnel of the council has been changed somewhat, but this, I am sure, will not affect the harmonious action we hope will abide with us during the ensuing year. We have tried to be useful to our city and I believe in a fair measure have succeeded; to satisfy all is an impossibility. If one's intentions and desires are good, there is satisfaction to be found either in success or failure, however. Always willing that the city and its people reap of the benefits of progress and prosperity, I have no apologies to make for my administration of the past year. Matters have come before the mayor of different natures which have been dealt with quietly, but with excellent results, not only in the conduct of the citizens involved, but in the general morale of the city—and where any other course would have but resulted in pain and humiliation to those not responsible for the acts of others. Fair criticism should be courted by a servant of the people, but exaggeration and untruth should, with the scoundrel, sink into oblivion. Infractions of the law have been comparatively few and have been punished or repressed as soon after commission as possible. Little Falls covers a large territory and although the police force is small, it has much commendable work to its credit. A suggestion I would make to you that I believe would aid in keeping better order late at night, would be the passage of an ordinance regulating the closing of pool rooms and bowling alleys; it might be well to also consider the closing of these amusements during the forenoon of Sunday. I have no antipathy toward these games as I believe they are wholesome amusements, and am also aware of the fact that many have only Sunday to take advantage of these pastimes, but with the regulations in force I also believe that satisfaction might be more general. I am aware that changes in the present city charter would make for better results in a number of respects, but as a new charter commission has just been appointed to look into these matters, I will not at this time make mention of any specific changes which might seem desirable. The mayor, councilmen and other officers of the municipality should, however, at the proper time advise with the commission, as they have practical knowledge of the conditions under which they have been laboring, which information should be valuable to the commission in the study of the charter and proposed amendments or changes. Gentlemen of the council, if at any time I may be of assistance to you in matters which pertain to the welfare of our city, you will always find me at your service, and on the other hand, I will always be pleased to receive your advice and cooperation in the discharge of the duties of the mayor's office. Respectfully submitted, G. M. A. Fortier, Mayor."

**MRS. S. GRISWOLD DEAD**  
Mrs. Sarah Griswold, a former resident of Little Falls, passed away at the home of a daughter in Lewiston, Idaho, on Tuesday of last week, from Bright's disease, after a brief illness. She was 66 years of age. The remains were laid to rest at Lewiston. She leaves three daughters and several grandchildren. Her husband, who was a Civil war veteran, passed away in 1912. They resided here for many years and were well known to many of the older residents of this city.

A new tile roof has been put on the Victor theatre. The old roof leaked, causing considerable inconvenience both to proprietors and patrons.

**GYM CLOSED WITH BANQUET**

**PAST YEAR WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL—OFFICERS ELECTED FOR ENSUING YEAR**

At a banquet at which about forty persons were present, on Friday evening, the 1915-16 season of the local gymnasium, which has been the best in its history, was closed. An excellent dinner was served, F. B. Ziske, having charge. A very enthusiastic business meeting was held, at which officers were elected for the ensuing year, as follows: President, J. W. Stephenson; vice president, Sherman Lewis; treasurer, A. E. Ashcraft; secretary, August Christensen; directors, P. J. Yasaly, Irvin Cornwell, Dr. C. H. Longley, Carl Johnson and Neill D. Woodworth. The report of the secretary for the past year was read. This report showed that the organization was in good shape, having a small balance on hand at the end of the season. The total membership was 100. The matter of keeping the gym open for shower baths during the summer was discussed. It was decided to have the members who want this done, to leave their names at the Lewis store. A vote of thanks was extended to Wm. Rothwell, physical director, to the officers of the organization and to F. R. Ziske, who prepared the banquet.

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