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THE TOMAHAWK.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWAS.
"Truth before Favor."

Published in behalf of, and
to secure the welfare of the
Indians of the United States.

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THE TOMAHAWK.

Official Organ of the Minnesota
Chippewas.

B. L. FAIRBANKS ESTATE, Owners.

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B. L. FAIRBANKS IS CALLED TO HIS FINAL REWARD.

Prominent Member of the Minnesota Chip-
pewas Succumbs to Heart Disease
After Lingering Illness.

Benjamin L. Fairbanks, owner
of this publication and Presi-
dent and senior member of the
B. L. Fairbanks Co., conducting
stores at White Earth, Red Lake,
Cross Lake, Ponsford, Beaulieu
and Naytahwaush, died at his
home here at 9:45 P. M., Friday
October 28th, of heart disease,
after an illness extending over
two months. Mr. Fairbanks was
in the 67th year of his age.

Mr. Fairbanks, or "Ben," as he
was more familiarly known among
his many friends and acquaintances,
was born at Crow Wing, one of
the early frontier trading posts,
located near the present site of
the flourishing city of Brainerd;



on November 4, 1855. He was
the son of George Fairbanks and
Margaret Neveux. His grand-
father was John H. Fairbanks, a
member of the famous Fairbanks
family, who was born in "The
Chazy," New York, July 27,
1798, who died at White Earth,
April 20, 1880, and who
early emigrated to the north-
west and entered in the fur
trade with the American Fur
Co., and also the John Jacob
Astor Co. His son, George, the
father of the subject of this sketch,
was also numbered among the
early fur traders, having posts at
Leech Lake and White Earth.
During "Ben's" early boyhood he
used to drive team and haul
freight from St. Paul to supply
his father's trading posts. After
his father's death, which occurred
Dec. 22, 1878, he became associ-
ated with his cousin, Clement G.
Fairbanks, in the trading business
at Leech Lake and also with his
brother, George A. Fairbanks, at
White Earth. Following the death
of his cousin and brother he took
charge and conducted the trading
business at both the posts men-
tioned. In 1908 the "B. L. Fair-
banks Co." was organized and at
the time of his death the company
was operating some six or seven

stores and enjoying a prosperous
business.

In a sense of the word Mr.
Fairbanks was a self-made man,
having been born and reared on
the very threshold of the wilder-
ness, he was handicapped in being
deprived of the splendid school
facilities now being enjoyed by
the youths of the land, and with
only the early Indian mission
schools available he practically
acquired only the meagre rudiments
of a limited education. However,
he possessed grit, patience and
determination and which aided
materially to his successful and
prosperous business ventures.

He was taken sick about two
months ago and for some time he
was confined to his bed; a short
time ago he seemed to have over-
come the more serious stage of
his affliction and he ventured to
take an occasional walk to his
store and the village. These
efforts were apparently too much
for an already weakened physical
condition and a relapse soon man-
ifested itself and from that time on
the course of the insidious disease
developed rapidly. For several
days previous to his death he
lapsed into frequent delirium and
which continued until 9:45 P. M.
Friday evening, when his spirit
passed into the mystic peacefulness
of the great beyond.

He was widely known for his
earnest activities and endeavors to
better and elevate the down-trodden
condition of his people, the
Minnesota Chippewas, and he gave
freely of his time and means to
assure, in a progressive and in-
tellectual sense, the best interests
of the Indians in general. And
whenever it came to a question of
funds to meet pressing financial
needs and advancing measures or
litigation, advocated by the General
Council, "Ben" was never found
wanting in efforts to advance
needed funds and, at the time of
his death, if a proper compilation
of all funds contributed through
his generous liberality were footed
up it would run up to several
thousand dollars. And we venture
the assertion that among many of
the reservation people, such as
lived in the neighborhood of his
trading posts, when need and want
urged them to seek relief at his
hands, were never permitted to go
away hungry.

Some eight or ten years ago, in
company with several other pro-
gressive members of the Chippewa
people, steps were taken for the
organization of the General Coun-
cil, Minnesota Chippewas, and
which has since developed into a
most potent factor for the general
betterment of conditions among
the Chippewas and the Indians in
general. At the time of his death
he was a member of the Executive
and Legislative Committees of the
General Council, which today
enjoys a credible recognition before
Congress, likewise a large measure
of consideration at the hands of
the officials of the Indian Bureau.

At his bedside, when he died,
were gathered the following mem-
bers of his family: B. S. Fair-
banks, White Earth; Sherman
Fairbanks, Beaulieu; Gustave P.
and Everette W. Fairbanks,
Federal Dam; Mrs. Nellie Fair-
banks, White Earth; Mrs. Alice
Lego, and Mrs. Grace E. Ostrom,
Waubun; Mrs. Annie Williams,
St. Paul, and Miss Flossie. There
are also two brothers who survive
him; Robert S. Fairbanks, of
White Earth, and Seymour Fair-
banks of Red Lake.

Following the death of Mr. Gus.
H. Beaulieu, he acquired owner-
ship of THE TOMAHAWK and fi-
nanced and operated that staunch
and fearless publication of Indian

rights and justice to the present
time and, it may be added that
THE TOMAHAWK will continue pub-
lication and its advocacy of the
rights of the Chippewas and the
Indians in general as heretofore.
He never hesitated to publish
to the world the wrongs and
injustice suffered by the Indians
through the inconsistent policies of
the government, and in this respect
he neither asked or plead for
favors, in a word he, like all other
intelligent and progressive Chip-
pewas, only demanded what is
justly due them in a sense of right
and justice and to be accorded the
courtesy becoming the 100 per
cent American citizen. In this
respect he did not always meet the
sanction of government officials
and, the fact is to be regretted,
many of his own people often
opposed him, but had the sincerity
of his conscientious motives and
convictions been better understood
volumes of praise would be added
to the memory of his name.

He was a member of Mt. Tabor
Lodge, A. F. A. M., Detroit,
Minnesota, and the members of
that body came up and assisted in
the funeral obsequies. He was
laid to rest in St. Columba's
Episcopal mission cemetery, beside
his father and mother, and other
members of his family who had
preceded him. Rev. E. C. Kah-
O Sed, assisted by Rev. W. K.
Boyle, conducted the funeral ser-
vices, and the Rt. Rev. G. G.
Bennett, Co-Adjutor Bishop, Epis-
copal Diocese of Duluth preached
a most impressive funeral oration.
Mr. George Bush, Master of Mt.
Tabor Lodge, A. F. A. M., De-
troit, Minn., conducted the beau-
tiful Masonic funeral services at the
grave.

The active pall bearers were
George Hamilton, Peter Mc-
Dougall, J. H. McCart, W. B.
Carman, of Detroit; Theo. H.
Beaulieu and O. W. Dummert, of
White Earth. The honorary pall
bearers were composed of old and
intimate friends of the deceased
and consisted of R. P. Fairbanks,
Michael LaChappelle, John B.
Fairbanks, Albert Fairbanks, J.
J. Fairbanks and W. D. Aspin-
wall.

Among the many floral tributes
tendered by the hands of kind and
devoted friends was a large wreath
with the Masonic symbol "G"
resting in the center, the gift of
Mr. Webster Ballinger, Washing-
ton, D. C., bearing the tender
message—"To my good and es-
teemed friend." Another beau-
tiful floral creation came from the
hands of Mr. Sherman Finch,
Pres. of the Finch, VanSlyck &
McConville, wholesale house, St.
Paul, and a beautiful floral tribute
from the boys of White Earth,
and there were many other
beautiful floral tributes, in fact
the casket was completely buried
in beautiful floral gifts. The
funeral was one of the most largely
attended in the history of White
Earth. Practically every resident
of the village as well as from the
surrounding country was in at-
tendance. The public school of
the village was given a half holiday
and the faculty and pupils joined
in the procession to the grave. A
large delegation from the Mahno-
men Lodge were in attendance.
Everybody knew "Ben" and his
familiar figure, his greeting smile
and cheerful laugh will be sadly
missed and not soon forgotten.
Verily, a good man has gone from
amongst us and of him it may well
be said that "the world was made
better for him having lived in it."
Requiescat in peace.

Armistice Day.

November 11th. Will Be Observed In
White Earth, Ex-Service Men
Will Be Feted.

Armistice Day will be properly
observed here, Friday, November
11th. Preparations are being
made by members of the Legion-
aire and the leading citizens of the
village of the village to have a
genuine "get-together social time."
The programme will consist of a
big feed at the noon hour and
which will take place in the old
Industrial Hall (day school build-
ing.) Addresses will be made by
prominent speakers. In the even-
ing there will be a grand dance in
the spacious boarding school dining
hall. And you may depend on
the very best of musical service.
The ladies auxiliary will serve a
collation during the evening.
There will also be Indian dancing
in the new sextagon dance hall.
All the buddies are expected to
wear their kahki uniforms just
the same as they used to "over
there." A general invitation is
cordially extended to all neighbor-
ing buddies to come and join in
the festivities of the occasion. So
be prepared to come and bring
your sister or somebody else's
sister, forget your troubles and
join the buddies in the enjoyment
of a bully good time. You will
never forgive yourself if you miss
this occasion.

Subscribe for THE TOMAHAWK,
\$1.50 per year in advance.

Isn't This True?

(By Broken Wing Bird)

You know, and I know, and
everybody knows, that no Indian
tribe anywhere in the United
States feels that it has had a satis-
factory adjustment of its affairs.
There is no Indian tribe and hard-
ly no Indian but has their griev-
ance. But anyone with common
sense and a sane thinking cap on
his head ought also to know that
not only is this true but it will
always be true unless we can go
about our tribal business in a more
business-like, sensible, fair and
honest way.

I am thinking of the deplorable
straits the La Pointe Band of
Lake Superior Chippewas are in.
Their political canoe is being
paddled over some pretty rough
waters and rapidly approaching
rougher waters. There are two
men in the canoe and one of them
is so fat and he weights it down so
that there are times when they
have nearly become submerged,
and then, neither one of the men
know how to handle the oars and
their little canoe is thrown first
this way and then that and they
(Continued on 4th page.)

\$100 Reward, \$100

The readers of this paper will be
pleased to learn that there is at least
one dreaded disease that science has
been able to cure in all its stages and
that is cataract. Cataract being greatly
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