

The Farmington Times.

VOL. 47

FARMINGTON, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1920

NO. 24

Notice! TO STATE INCOME TAX PAYERS

In view of the recent decision of the State Supreme Court affecting State Income Tax, I am holding all such tax money which has been paid me and do not expect to turn same into the State Treasury until the courts have decided just what this tax will be, at which time the proper refund, if there be any, will be promptly returned to you.

J. E. BREWER,
COUNTY COLLECTOR.

Installation of Officers

St. Francois Lodge No. 234, A. F. & A. M., at Libertyville, installed officers for the ensuing year at the regular monthly meeting Saturday afternoon, as follows:

W. M.—Dr. G. B. Perkins.
S. W.—George Hersinger.
J. W.—C. L. Snyder.
Secretary—Perry Cashion.
Treasurer—E. O. Presnell.

Work in that lodge has recently been increasing most noticeably, largely due to improved and intelligent work. Two candidates for the Fellowship degree were initiated at Saturday's meeting, which was largely attended by visitors from Farmington, and the gathering was most profitable and enjoyable for all.

St. Francois Lodge No. 234 is somewhat unusual, we believe, in the fact that it meets in the afternoon, instead of in the evening, and for this reason it usually has quite a number of visitors, who are always pleased to gather with the splendid and hospitable Masons of that lodge.

CIRCUIT COURT PROCEEDINGS OF PAST WEEK

Following are the proceedings of the Circuit Court the past week:

A. A. Meador vs. H. W. Buckley, damages; verdict in favor of plaintiff in the sum of \$375, with interest at 6 per cent; interest \$24.74.

W. C. Wallace vs. Charles White, damages; continued to next term.

Annie Bainter vs. Ben Bainter, separate maintenance; appeal granted to St. Louis Court of Appeals.

Sarah C. Ramsey vs. M. R. & B. T. Railway Co., damages; verdict in favor of plaintiff in sum of \$3,000.

Robert Henson vs. St. Joseph Lead Co., damages; judgment by agreement in sum of \$750, and satisfaction acknowledged in open court.

Sarah C. Ramsey vs. M. R. & B. T. Railway Co., damages; defendant files motion for a new trial.

Sarah C. Ramsey vs. M. R. & B. T. Railway Co., damages; defendant files motion in arrest of judgment.

J. W. Bryant vs. Benjamin Allen, account; verdict for plaintiff in sum of \$82.50.

Nannie R. White vs. Farmington Times and A. W. Bradshaw, damages; verdict for plaintiff in sum of \$200.

A. J. Pinkston vs. Artimissa Hart, ejectment; judgment by default.

Mollie Richardson vs. John G. Richardson, divorce; alimony of \$50 per month allowed.

A. A. Meador vs. H. W. Buckley, damages; defendant files motion for new trial.

A. A. Meador vs. H. W. Buckley, damages; defendant files motion in arrest of judgment.

B. H. Marbury vs. J. H. Long, legal services; judgment for plaintiff in sum of \$500.

Wm. Sackman, who formerly claimed Farmington as his home, came down from St. Louis the first of the week to spend his vacation with relatives and friends at this place.

COME AND LAUGH

Monarch, June 18th

"A Damsel in Distress"

featuring
JUNE CAPRICE and CREITON HALE.

Benefit of
Farmington Christian Endeavor.

The Citizens of Farmington Must Now Get Busy--No "Stalling" Goes

Information came to The Times some time ago that the electric railway connecting Farmington with Flat River and DeLassus was likely to be soon abandoned by its owners, the St. Joe Lead Co. Such intelligence coming only as a rumor, but little credence was given to it at the time. But now more direct evidence has reached us that this very thing is likely to occur, and that soon.

For the purpose of getting the best information on this matter, E. A. Rozier, attorney for the St. Joseph Lead Co., was called up and the question asked him whether or not he had any information to give out on the subject. He stated that at this time he had no statement to make, except to say that the owners are not satisfied with the present management of the electric line; that on July 1st, next, the interest on the bonds of such line would become due, and he thought that it was time for the citizens of Farmington to "get busy" if they desired that line to be kept in operation.

Just why the owners of that line are dissatisfied with the present operation of the road, The Times is unable to say. Neither do we understand how any other owners could operate it more advantageously than can the present owners, as it is certainly a splendid feeder for the M. R. & B. T.

railway, which is owned by the same company.

The Times feels that it does know, however, that the abandonment of that line would be a long backward step from the best interests of Farmington and the entire community. In fact it would mean nothing but disaster—the cutting off of this community from railroad connections. What such a thing would mean to every institution and interest in this community can, in a measure at least, be appreciated by every business interest. To such institutions as State Hospital No. 4, and all shipping and business interests such a course would mean a real catastrophe.

Therefore it is up to our citizens to make a move that will forestall any such consummation. It was a company of local citizens that built the electric railway, and it should not require as great an effort for another such organization of capital to take this road over, for the good of this community. While its operation would perhaps mean no great profits, with competent management it would certainly prove to be self-sustaining. Anyway, the abandonment of this line would be an inalienable blow to this community—one that cannot be tolerated by the good citizens of Farmington.

But this is no time for "stalling." The great need now is for ACTION.

Another Good Roads Project

On the convening of County Court Monday, there came up for consideration of the Judges a very important matter in regard to good roads work, the expense of which is to be borne largely by the State of Missouri. It was in regard to aiding in the construction of approximately five miles of the Farmington and Fredericktown State road, which is located between the Madison county line and Libertyville, all of which road is in St. Francois county.

It has been estimated that \$7,568.49 per mile is to be spent on this road. The County Court Judges requested the State Highway Board to set aside from the State Board Fund and the Federal Aids Fund the sum of \$37,842.47 for the carrying out of this project.

The Court further suggested plans for the construction of such road, which has long been badly needed. The county is obligated for a few things, among which is to secure the necessary right-of-way, all of which provisions the court expects to be able to carry out with but little expense to the county.

It is not anticipated that there will be any opposition to this project, which will give to this county five miles of good roads where they are badly needed, as practically a gift to the county.

Coffer Ordered to Do His Duty

The County Court has long borne the opposition of Prosecuting Attorney W. E. Coffey quietly, but the Judges have reached the point where longer forbearance in this matter ceases to be a virtue. Apparently the County Attorney has tried to stand in the way of the County Judges, in the performance of at least some of their duties, and the Court on Monday issued the following order:

Now, on this, the eighth day of June, 1920, it being during the regular May term of the St. Francois County Court, and the Court having under advisement the cases against the Federal Lead Co., and the St. Joseph Lead Co., corporations of St. Francois county, Mo., wherein St. Francois County and J. Edward Brewer, Collector of Revenue for the county and state aforesaid, are plaintiffs, and the above named companies are defendants, which said cases are now pending before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri; the Court doth now order and direct W. E. Coffey, the Prosecuting Attorney for St. Francois County, and legal adviser for this Court, to join Thomas A. Mathews and O. L. Mungler, attorneys-at-law, special counsel appointed by this Court for the prosecution of the above-styled cases; and further directs that said suits be prosecuted to the Court of last resort as speedily as the same can be done to the end that the taxes now due St. Francois County, and State of Mo., from said corporations may be collected and turned in as revenue to the said County and State.

Mr. and Mrs. Vince DeDonato drove from St. Louis last Friday for a ten days visit with Mrs. DeDonato's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Watson. Mrs. Watson, who had spent a few days with them, accompanied them home. There was also in the party an interesting three-year-old Miss, over whom Mrs. DeDonato is exercising loving guardianship for the present.

Prohibition Has Come to Stay

The United States Supreme Court last Monday gave out its long-expected decision upon the anti-prohibition nullifiers' contention against the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead law enacted by Congress under its provisions. King Alcohol as a beverage concomitant must retire from business. His votaries have been hanging to a slim thread of hope since the country went "dry" that the Volstead act might in some way be annulled, and that each State under its reserved rights or sovereignty be permitted to decide for itself how much alcohol might be used in any beverage just short of the intoxicating limit, but the Supreme Court sustains the Volstead act as well within the authority of the Congress, and that the manufacture and sale of any beverage containing more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol is a violation of the eighteenth amendment. As to the contention of the alcoholic votaries that the ratification of the eighteenth amendment by the Legislature of any State might by a referendum from its ratification be annulled by a reversal vote of the people. The decision clearly sets forth the manner provided by the Constitution how it may be amended—by the ratification of any amendment submitted by Congress by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States. From this action of a Legislature there is no appeal by referendum or otherwise to the people of the State. The action of the Legislature is final.

And now what will our thrifty alcoholic votaries do? The eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act are the law of the whole country, so declared by the highest judicial authority of our government. Will they legally submit to the law and its enforcement? To say "yes" is to contradict a strong stubborn and insistent element in human nature. They will insist that the Volstead act be repealed or so amended as to eliminate the one-half of one per cent clause and permit the manufacture and sale of light wines and beer of two and a half per cent or more of alcohol. To do this they must elect a Congress that is in favor of amending the Volstead law, for while Congress cannot change any provision of the eighteenth or any other amendment of the Constitution, it can repeal or amend its own acts. That is what the "wets" mean by bringing out candidates opposed to the enforcement of the Volstead law. That is what Judge Sam Priest's candidacy for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator means. If they can elect enough Senators and Representatives to Congress to amend the law to suit them they will have won a victory over prohibition.

It may be that a majority of the people of the United States are not prohibitionists as an abstract theory or conviction, but they are opposed to the licensed saloon, which has been such a corrupting and demoralizing influence in politics in the past, such an enticing trap to tempt and lead our boys and young men down to debauchery, disgrace and crime, an institution out of which flow all sorts of evil and not a single good thing, and so to rid the country of this baneful traffic in liquor they favor prohibition as the best and only effective remedy. The eighteenth amendment without a law on the strict lines of the Volstead law would not and could not do this. Any law that would define non-intoxicating liquors as light wines and two-and-a-half per cent beer, and permit their manufacture and sale would as surely invite the licensed saloon, with all its evils, as two and two make four. We have no fear that the "wets" can ever elect a Congress that will do their bidding, but as eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, you good fathers and mothers of the land, watch and pray and see to it that no candidate who appeals to your suffrage on a "wet" platform is ever elected to any high and responsible public position.

Fine Airdome at Flat River

G. C. Horn and several associates have just opened up in Flat River one of the best equipped and up-to-date airdomes to be found in South-east Missouri, of which Mr. Horn is in charge. This splendid place of amusement was opened Monday evening, when about 1,000 people witnessed the splendid performance. About 800 were in attendance Tuesday night, all of whom greatly enjoyed the splendid entertainment given.

A contract has been perfected for receiving the latest and best pictures on the market, and all those who are acquainted with Mr. Horn are confident that this new amusement resort will have a constantly increasing clientele of friends and patrons, and the management will see well to it that patrons are given the best programs and treatment possible.

Ice cream and soft drinks are served throughout the audience. Another feature that has been installed, and which will be carefully attended to, is a parking place for cars, where the owners may feel absolutely sure of finding their cars intact when they desire them. This feature alone is probably sufficient to insure the success of this enterprise.

The "good old summer time"—and heat—is finally arrived.

Inexpressibly Sad Tragedy

This entire community was deeply shocked last Friday evening when news reached here that C. G. Vandover, the popular and efficient Secretary of State Hospital No. 4, had been shot in the left leg, below the knee, by an inmate who had escaped from that institution. The tragedy was caused from a shot gun, fired at close quarters, while Mr. Vandover was standing on the porch of the home of the escaped patient, talking to the mother of the patient, in DeSoto.

The wounded man was hurried to St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, where every effort was made to save the leg, both bones of which had been shattered, the foot being almost severed. The great shock also reacted greatly to the detriment of the wounded man, and for a time his chances of recovery seemed slim. Dr. S. P. Vandover, superintendent of St. Mary's Hospital, who is a cousin of C. G. Vandover, finally determined that further efforts to save the foot were useless, and amputation was made below the knee about noon Monday, with the patient then in a very critical condition. His host of friends in this community, and throughout this section of the State, will be pleased to learn that at last reports he was in an improved condition.

The full story of the crime, as The Times has been able to glean it, is as follows: Geo. Stoker is an ex-soldier, and a government patient at State Hospital No. 4. The story published in the metropolitan press was that Stoker had been gassed in France. This is an error, as he had never been out of confinement. The report of the government physicians is that he presents a stigma of degeneration, and is of low order of development, probably congenital. He had been in the hospital for several weeks, and was considered to be harmless, with no outstanding ailment. He had therefore been given the freedom of the grounds and had worked in the general dining room.

He had been given permission to go to a moving picture show Monday evening, and took that opportunity to make his escape. The hospital manager soon learned that Stoker was at the home of his parents in DeSoto, and Mr. Vandover volunteered to go and bring him back. He left in an automobile soon after noon Friday, in company with Luther Matkin, chamberlain, and Wm. Hawkins, a farm hand. On reaching the Stoker home in DeSoto, the patient's mother detained him for a time at the gate, after which Mr. Vandover entered the house and saw Stoker sitting on a bed.

After that he again stepped out on the porch and continued to talk to the patient's mother, when suddenly and without warning the shot was fired through the doorway, causing Mr. Vandover to stumble down the steps and fall. This was about four o'clock. Stoker then made his escape through the rear door, and it was late evening before he was apprehended in a near-by pasture. He was returned to the hospital the same night, and has since been kept in confinement. Superintendent Eaton put him through a severe examination the following day, to try and discover why he had thus cruelly and heartlessly shot a man who had indicated nothing but friendship for him, and whether or not his adopted mother (he having been adopted and brought up by the Stokers) had anything to do with encouraging him to do the dastardly deed. He tried to excuse himself from blame by assuming a deranged state of mind foreign to him, which Dr. Eaton was quick to detect. His replies were somewhat disconnected, and yet they served to connect Mrs. Stoker with the crime. But it was only the confession of a mental degenerate, which promises little, at best, even toward meeting out of suitable punishment to the guilty party, or parties.

If Mr. Vandover will not be permitted to return to the position he has so creditably filled in State Hospital No. 4 for the past seven years, even though without his left foot, his host of friends will be filled with heartfelt thankfulness for the return to them of this most excellent young man.

Lower Court Sustained

Several years ago Robert Holmes purchased, at public sale, at the Court House in St. Louis, Mo., several shares of the Doe Run Lead Company capital stock. The Company, by its secretary, refused to transfer this stock to Mr. Holmes, and thereupon he brought a mandamus suit against the company to compel this transfer; the case was tried in the St. Francois County Circuit Court and resulted in a decree directing the company to make the transfer of the stock to Mr. Holmes. The company appealed to the St. Louis Court of Appeals; the case was argued last spring, and this week the Court of Appeals handed down the opinion sustaining Mr. Holmes in every particular.

THOMAS J. HIGLEY

Died at 7:45 o'clock Monday evening, June 7th, at his home three miles northwest of this city, aged 72 years, 1 month and 19 days. Funeral services were held at the M. E. Church in Farmington at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and interment was in the K. of P. cemetery, which services were largely attended by members of the family and old friends.