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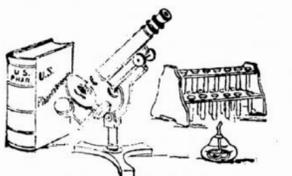
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WILLMAR TRIBUNE.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY AT WILLMAR, MINNESOTA,

BY THE TRIBUNE PRINTING CO.

VICTOR E. LAWSON, EDITOR AND MANAGER.

CONTRIBUTIONS of news items or short, witty articles on questions of general interest are thankfully received, when the name of the writer is made known to the editors.

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The WILLMAR TRIBUNE has a larger general circulation in Kandiyohi county than any other newspaper. Our subscription books are open for inspection to advertisers.

OFFICE IN TRIBUNE BUILDING.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1898.

THE VILLAGE CAMPAIGN.

At the outset of the editor's comments on the questions which are agitating the minds of our citizens, he wishes to establish the fact that he is editing the TRIBUNE himself, that no one can dictate to him a line of editorial utterance, and that he is acting in good faith in the part he has taken in the citizens' reform movement.

That the TRIBUNE has been a particular pet of the present council we deny, and we believe a glance at the item of "printing" in the financial statement will satisfy anyone in that respect.

The TRIBUNE has nothing to say personally against the gentlemen nominated for aldermen last Saturday evening. Their partisan enthusiasm may have led them to become participants in a move which they could not have supported, had it been inaugurated under its true name.

What excuse is there for a republican ticket in the village election at this time? Was it a move to inaugurate any reform? No. They propose to slide affairs along in the rut in which they are running.

The move was made that the oldtime combination might get a new lease of life. What they could not win in a straight fight on issues, they hope to win by drawing new lines.

Will it succeed? No, not if republicans place a higher estimation on good citizenship than on good partisanship.

A good republican told the editor last Saturday that the move was made by republican office-holders and a coterie of young republicans who are early developing an itch for political places and power. They are working for spoils. Do the citizens of Willmar want to encourage this sort of action? Do they want village questions decided on their own merits, or do they want them brushed aside in a scramble for office? They will decide at the polls next Tuesday.

Was the meeting which resulted in the call for the caucuses next Saturday a partisan one? Do the resolutions give any evidence that it was? What do the good temperance men who were there say about it? Was there any attempt made to force anything through the meeting? The so-called republicans had hoped that there would be a prohibition ticket and a populist ticket in the field, thus giving them an easy victory.

Why did a temperance mass meeting adopt a platform containing expressions on other subjects than the license question? Because they wanted the votes of everybody who is in favor of reform. By adopting a platform giving expression to all the issues before the people of the village they do away with the possibility of another citizens' ticket, and secure the best possible advantage for the temperance issue.

Is there anything wrong with these other demands? We would like to repeat that question to every so-called

republican voter. Point to any single thing in that platform that is wrong in principle or which would be wrong in practice. It is simply reform all along the line, and everyone must admit it. When private interests clash with the best interests of the village, the duty of every citizen is clear.

What guarantee have we that this citizens' reform ticket is not also a scheme by politicians? Because there is no ticket placed in nomination yet. This meeting merely defined the issues and provided the opportunity, and anyone who desires reform, be he republican or populist has equally as much to say in determining who the candidates shall be.

Will this caucus be a regular one, or in other words, will a caucus thus called be legal or according to usage? Prof. Hilleboe stated at the meeting that we have two precedents in this village of caucuses called by public mass-meeting, and moreover, the regular ward committees, whose duty it is to call a regular citizens' caucus, have not acted, and this meeting, attended as it was by members of these committees, could very properly act in the matter.

The Doctor Explains.

A couple of citizens wish me to state why Mr. Bishman left the electric plant last fall, and why we employed Markhus, Omlie, Anderson and Crasswell.

The facts are these: In the course of the summer, the chairman of the electric light committee, Mr. Nasset, brought in charges of inefficiency and neglect against Mr. Bishman. An informal talk in the council about this matter developed that there were three members in the council in favor of discharging Bishman at once, while the other four were strongly in favor of giving him at least a fair and impartial hearing before action was taken.

No formal action was taken however at this meeting and the matter was postponed. In the meantime Mr. Bishman was seen about this matter by his friends, and he declared at once that he would resign rather than enter into a squabble to hold his job with three men on the council against him. For the fact was that he was offered other jobs from several different places. That is how Mr. Bishman came to hand in his resignation.

Now then, Mr. Bishman having resigned, the position was applied for by Mr. Markhus. Four men on the council entertained some doubts about his capacity, but it was urged that he was a Willmar boy, a widow's son, really in need of the job, and that the council ought to give him a trial. So we employed him and there was no division on that point. Soon after this Mr. Olof Dale, assistant engineer, resigned, and Mr. Omlie was elected to fill his place. Both of these men were republicans, to be sure, but no populist on the council thought of raising any objection on that score.

By and by, however, we found that Mr. Markhus was not as competent a steam engineer as we wanted, and Mr. Crasswell was employed as superintendent of the plant.

Then everything went along fairly until one week before Christmas, when the big dynamo became balky and refused to give light. Up to that time Mr. Markhus had had the full confidence and earnest backing of the whole council. Mr. Markhus said the exciter was at fault, and a new one was needed. We immediately ordered a new one. We expected to have it here for Christmas. On the day before Christmas, I called on the recorder and found to my astonishment that the new exciter had not come, and that we were destined to be without light during the holidays.

In this dilemma, I telephoned to Litchfield and called upon their electrician to ask him if he could suggest some way out of our difficulty. He told me that he could undoubtedly make the old exciter work. I requested him to come on the next train. Our exciter was made to work, and works now.

But Mr. Markhus took offense at me for calling in the electrician from Litchfield. He accused an alderman and myself of trying to oust him of his job. Well, we tried to get light and are sorry we had to call in outside assistance, but we felt it our duty to the public of Willmar to do so.

The disclosure of the insulting letter which Markhus wrote about some of the council made us of course feel like bouncing him forthwith. But taking into consideration his age and inexperience in the world, we left him to be disposed of by the next council. There is no doubt in the minds of most citizens that the electric plant is now out of shape from one cause or another. How to restore it to efficiency is in my opinion not a political question, but simply a question of getting a competent experienced electrical engineer to operate it.

With the question fairly before them I think the citizens of Willmar can safely be left to select a council that

will attend to that in a business-like manner.

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON.

Bridge Again.

As you mentioned the Foot Lake bridge again in your last issue and are making some fuss about it, you may as well know that the Foot Lake bridge is not an issue in this village election. Just as soon as that road is completed it will be turned over to Willmar, and as most of it is within the village limits the council will have to look after it, whether they like it or not. No crank council can refuse to keep it in repair. So you may as well consider that matter settled.

TAX PAYER.

[We are obliged to "Tax-payer" for stating the matter so tersely. So this bridge, after the county has paid the first cost, will be forced onto the village, "whether it wants it or not." For maintenance and repairs. Very well, the bridge may not be an issue, but it is becoming painfully evident that it needs someone to give it a merciful COUP-DE-GRACE.—Ed.]

"Republican Principles."

The partisan movement in village affairs originated in W. T. Markhus' office, March 18th, when the Young Men's Republican Club adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, we believe it is to the best interests to the Village and community at large—that the officers controlling the affairs of the village be men upholding Republican principles, therefore, be it Resolved, That the members of the Young Men's Republican Club use their influence to have a Republican caucus held to nominate Republican candidates for village officers in the coming election.

We would like to see how the "license" issue, for instance, would be interpreted when applied to "Republican principles."

The Argus says the Foot Lake dump is a "rotten issue." Well, that's a good name for it. Nevertheless, as an issue in the village election it is livelier than the tariff or the annexation of Hawaii.

Bring up good square issues and who wins let the other die game.—Argus. We have squared our issues; now die game.

"VILLAGE AUCTION SALE."

[W. C. T. U. Department.]

April 5, the voters of Willmar will, or will not, sell at public auction the following named articles, to-wit: Thrift, Morality, Life, Happiness, Character, Health, and Wealth. Terms of Sale as follows: \$4000 to be paid into village treasury. Debauchery, Ruin, Misery, Despair, Death, Poverty, Disgrace, Madness, Disease, Damnation and tens of thousands of dollars worse than wasted.

The fathers that advocate and vote license cannot consistently condemn the young man who, after leading their daughters to the marriage altar, is injured by the use of rum.

Every voter and advocate of license places a premium upon drinking and drunkenness. In pursuing such a course he encourages our youth to fall in line. Voter, what shall you say to the young men of Willmar?

The use of intoxicating liquor is a custom. Customs come to be regarded as established rights. They can be overcome by time accompanied with proper education. Each individual is an educator. Let those who do not desire that their boys shall become addicted to its use or that their girls shall become the wives of drunken husbands, vote to so disgrace the custom that no self respecting person will have anything to do with it. The liquor traffic outlawed is a crime. License is the public stamp of respectability. Voters of Willmar, your action on election day will educate your and your neighbors' children.

High license is a revenue measure purely and simple. The voters of Willmar would not think of tolerating the saloon, were it not for the money received. But money easily gotten is easily spent. High license means increased expenditures. Public officials become spendthrifts. The indebtedness is increased, taxes are raised to the highest point. The man who spends his money in the saloon runs in debt at the grocery store; so a community that spends its money in the saloon pays the penalty by being plunged into indebtedness.

"The saloon is the product of Satanic thought, expressed in human action at the ballot box"

"It can only live by the destruction of human beings." "It will go by

Christian thought expressed at the ballot box". "When, will depend upon the individual answers to the following questions:

- "1. Do I want a saloon to destroy me, or any of mine?"
"2. Do I want it to destroy anyone else?"
"3. Will I consent by silence, thought, word, or ballot to the continuance of the saloon?"
"4. If I consent by silence, thought, word, or ballot, to the continuance of the saloon, what assurance have I, that I, or some of mine, will not be among its victims?"

"WHAT WILL YOU TAKE?" (By Thomas Sullivan.)

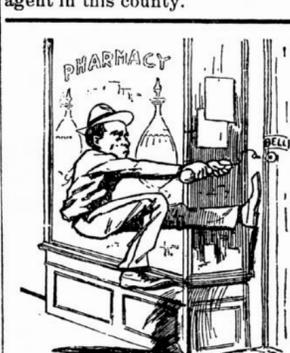
"What will you take, boys? I've drinks of all kinds, To banish dull care and drive that from the minds. Some folks would restrain us but that's their mistake—I have license to sell boys,—so, what will you take?"

"What will you take?" Christian men of this land, Rum's victims he ruined on every hand; this question we ask, whatreply can you make! For the blood of your brother, say, "What will you take?"

is now located in Willmar and will be pleased to see his many customers.

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NOTICE OF VILLAGE ELECTION.

The citizens of the Village of Willmar, Kandiyohi Co., Minn., who are qualified to vote, are hereby notified that the annual charter election of said village will be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 1898, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of said day, for the purpose of electing the following officers, to-wit: A President, a Treasurer, and two Aldermen from each ward in said village; also the question whether license for the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage shall be granted by the council of said village or not, will be submitted to the legal voters thereof at said election, which question shall be determined by ballots containing the words, "In favor of license," or "Against license," as the case may be. The polling places will be as follows: For First ward, at Rice Brothers office; For Second ward, at Village Engine House; For Third ward, at the Marlow House. Given under my hand this 22nd day of March, A. D. 1898. JOHN T. OTOS, Village Recorder.



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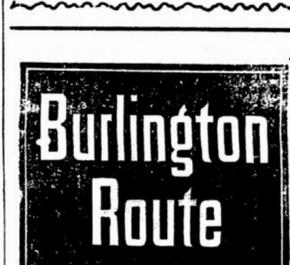
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