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Office in I. C. Olson Block.
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COUNTY NEWS.

PRINSBURG,
Dec. 17.
Christmas is soon here and there is a stir—dialogues, pieces, songs and speeches. Have you got a piece? Our neighbor Mr. Kingma and family will move to Clara City next Tuesday. The school will miss Sarah, but wishes her a good time. Let us hear from you in the future.
Postoffice has had another tip. This time from the Stob building to the barber shop and Mr. Glonne is postmaster.
Another Bible Study Society was organized last Tuesday at Mr. E. Roelofs.
Dr. Lomely called at Rev. Knott's last Thursday evening on account of their youngest daughter, A. Vins, who has been ill with scarlet fever, which has settled into inflammatory rheumatism.
Last Thursday Messrs. Garrit Nohboom, Herman Van Der Einde and Sam Roelofs left for Iowa, where they will enjoy their Christmas and the greater part of the winter.

IRVING,
Dec. 14.
Mr. Karl Jansen and family returned to his home at Edinburg, N. Dak., this week after visiting friends and relatives here.
Herman Johnson has leased his farm to William Torkelson and will remove with his family to Minneapolis where they will make their future home.
Whooping-cough is raging almost like an epidemic in certain districts of our township.
Andreas Ofstad intends to remove to Minneapolis in the near future.
Gilbert Erickson was taken seriously ill with inflammation of the lungs last Friday. Dr. Newman of New London was immediately summoned and the patient's condition seems to be improving at the time of this writing.
Extensive preparation are made to have an elaborate Christmas festival in the Norwegian Lutheran church.
A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ingwald Larson a few days ago.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.
Dec. 17.
Paul Kelly and Elmer Stannard contemplate going to Bowbliss, N. D. in the spring to file on land.
Mrs. Engebrecht Simonson left for Lac qui Parle Co. last week.
Peter Skoglund, Jr., departed for Minneapolis Wednesday.
A turkey contest was held at Emil Olson's Saturday evening and another one was held at Mrs. Peterson's Monday afternoon.
The younger generation indulged in skating on the lake Sunday.

KANDIYOHI.
Dec. 19.
Christmas is soon here and with it a call from Santa Claus is expected.
Miss Celia Carlson of Willmar was a guest at the Jones residence for a few days last week.
J. L. Peterson was called out to his home Saturday evening on account of the illness of his mother.
Messrs. George Jones and J. M. Burns drove out to '41' last Friday evening.
A. Gustafson left for St. Paul last week.
A Christmas entertainment will be given at the school house Friday evening, everybody invited.
George Jones entertained a large number of his friends at a dancing party last Saturday evening. All reported a most enjoyable time.
Martha and Geo. Enblom were at Willmar Saturday.
A progressive clinic party will be given at Jerry Lawler's this evening.
Minnie Lundquist visited friends at Willmar last week.
Willie Mattson visited in the city a few days, lately.



H. J. RAMSETT,
Clerk of the District Court.
Who is now at the St. Barnabas Hospital at Minneapolis.

LAKE LILLIAN.
Dec. 2.
Hurrah! Christmas will soon visit us again.
The Christmas choir is practicing twice a week, preparing for Christmas festivities.
Don't forget the entertainment in the Lillian schoolhouse, Dist. 83, next Friday evening, Dec. 22.
Farmers are busy hauling wheat to town, but all complain of bad roads.
The Christmas congregation will have their Christmas tree in the evening of Dec. 26, beginning at 6 o'clock.
Paul, the Roseland reporter for the Gazette, blames the Democrats because wheat is only 54 cents a bushel. Well he must be an ignorant animal that does not know that McKinley is a Republican and that they control both houses of Congress. But of course we did not expect him to know it either.
Are you going to Boston, boys, hey? Ole Westlund departed last week for northern Minnesota, where he will either take a homestead or work in the pineries.
The Roseland Rough Riders will have another entertainment in their schoolhouse, but it is not yet decided who will be their Roosevelt.

MAMRE.
Dec. 18.
Bad roads are what the farmers are complaining of now.
Albin Anderson who has been working near Hallock, Minn., for the past two years has returned here some time ago.
About twenty-five of our young people gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson last Wednesday evening and gave them a very pleasant surprise. After supper had been served they enjoyed themselves until a late hour, when they took their departure. All the boys went a crooked way home, except Joe.
August Lindgren returned home from West Superior Monday.
A. E. Sandberg is planning to go to Minneapolis after the holidays. Lyoka med dig, Anders.
Mr. H. A. Gering, of Dove, attended the surprise party last Wednesday evening.
In another week we will have Christmas with its joys and splendor. Many are the hearts that are made happy on that eventful day by the arrival of

Quite a number of Paynesville River people visited on Sloughside ave. the first part of last week.

HARRISON.
Dec. 18.
Miss Jennie Johnson visited the Misses Della and Evaline Horne, of New London, last Sunday.
Mr. Edward Pagel Sundayed at Mr. Maylander's, of Diamond Lake, last Sunday.
A turkey shoot was given across the line in Irving at Mrs. Peterson's, but owing to the bad weather few were present and only one or two were raffled off, Sam Engberg being one of the lucky men.
The Ladies Aid Society have postponed their sale till Friday evening.
A turkey picking bee was held at P. H. Parsons' Jr., last Monday evening.
Our pastor, Rev. White, will go to St. Paul this week to attend a meeting of the Presbyterian church.
So we interfered with your news, Irving. Well, we did not see anything about it in your column so we thought it would be well to let the people of Harrison know a little about it. And this time we have a little about a turkey shoot in your town and if we have made any mistake we hope you will correct it. And, dear friend Irving, if you did not have at least five months vacation it was the longest five months we ever spent. So long. THE LAD.

Advertised Letters.
Willmar, Minn., Dec. 18, '09.
Brandt, Mr.
Fosse, Miss Lalla
Hanson, Mr. Edw.
Nelson, Mrs. O. A.
Nelan, Geo. W.
Merit, Miss Gracie
Monson, Mr. E. T.
C. A. BIRCH, P. M.

WHITEFIELD.
Dec. 11
Merry Christmas to all is the wish of the Whitefield correspondent.
C Olson is visiting at Hans Anderson's.
Miss Lydia Norman of Kandiyohi, who is teaching near Priam, visited at Erickson last Sunday and took in the skating on Lake Wacongna in the evening.
An entertainment will be given by the scholars of Dist. No 57, Saturday evening, Dec. 23, at 7:30 P. M.
Misses Ellen Peterson and Hilma Englund visited at their respective homes last Sunday, having completed the course in the dress making.
Mr. Ed Erickson drove out to Priam Sunday.
It is not always prudent to say all you know but it is always well to know what you say and not say more than is reasonable, Mr. J. S.
About fifty young people gathered at the lake Sunday evening and enjoyed a pleasant skate and did not depart until a late hour.
Now is the time to be on your look out for Bargains.

LAW AND ORDER COLUMN.
Edited by the chairman of the Enforcement Committee, S. League.
"What's the use of having grand juries, criminal courts and jails, anyhow," says the law-breaker. "You cannot put a stop to crime by prohibiting it. Here murderers have been hanged and executed for all time past, but still people are murdered in every state in the union every year. Thievery, larceny, robbery, perjury, adultery, etc., have been punished since civilization began, still there is not a county in which cases are not constantly occurring. It is all a waste of money wrung by taxes from hard worked toilers to prosecute these people. I don't think of all the hard feelings and trouble thereby engendered. Let us be friendly. Just think of all the revenue that could be derived if license were given these people instead of foolishly trying to fight an evil that you cannot stamp out. Then you could regulate their evil doings. Instead of shocking the world by bungling and ghastly murders, the licensed murderer under the regulation of law then could do his work scientifically and the victims would suffer less. And then licenses for robbers could only be granted to persons of good moral character and thus insure that the robbery would be done with the least possible annoyance to all concerned. Of course, I would not advise any one to commit crime nor do I want to be robbed or murdered. Oh no! But as long as crime will be committed in spite of anything that can be done, why not make the best of it and take conditions as we find them? Then we would make a little money on the side, and let me tell you right here, when you sift the matter right down to the bottom money is the only thing we are after in this world, anyhow."

The law-abiding citizen knows, however, that the money spent in prosecuting criminals is money well expended. Without the salutary effect of frequent effective prosecutions crime would soon become so rampant that neither life nor property would be safe. He knows also that licensing an evil does not reduce it, but on the other hand gives legal sanction to do wrong and blunts the public conscience. For proof of this

latter statement witness the defense of blindpurgery by persons who themselves do not drink and who would not keep a man in his employ who drinks strong liquors. The semi-respectability thrown about the dealing in alcoholic poisons by the Iowa courts is another proof of the same thing in the minds of those people even after the business has been outlawed.

The vast majority of people are agreed that the drinking evil should be reduced to a minimum. There are some who believe that the better plan is to license a few saloons and regulate them closely. But we have shown before in these columns, and the people of Willmar know from experience how that works in practice. Even were it possible to elect an administration opposed to the evil which would undertake to regulate the saloons they would if successful find themselves confronted with the blind-pig question just the same, with less chance of being able to punish them. But such a council would hardly be elected as long as license wins. The man who pays the fiddler has the privilege of saying what music he will play, and in practice it has proven that the saloon gang which furnishes the principal revenue of a town generally runs that town, mayor, council, police, finance and all. The saloon and liquor interests are closely united and are intensely interested in village affairs. Hence it follows that when no other force is equally alert and watchful, the gang has its own way.

It is the established policy of the saloon gang to keep the finances of the village in such deplorable condition that their blood-money will be considered necessary to keep the town from ruin. They would cry out before election that they alone could save the town, and thus deceive many who could absolutely see no escape from the apparent logic of their conclusions. The old obsolete village charter has been the bulwark of the saloons at Willmar for years past. Under it no adequate taxes could be levied and without saloon money it would have been impossible to even pay the interest on the bonded debt. Hence when a citizens' movement was started a little over a year ago to secure a re-organization of the village more suitable to its present needs, and a special election was held, the whiskey gang and its friends fought incorporation tooth and nail. They did that although they knew that under the then existing conditions the town was virtually bankrupt, as it was completely at the mercy of anyone who held village orders in any amount. We mention this only to show what power and influence this liquor gang assumes when repeatedly given permission to ply its business. Instead of being controlled, it has become the controlling power.

At the last village election the people arose and gave the saloons a "black eye," as they supposed. They deprived it of its legal permission. But another complication arose. Instead of electing men who were especially interested in seeing the new policy of the village successful, the voters elected men with reference to their professions on the liquor question. They were selected because they held certain views on the tariff and other national issues.

The result has been that while the saloons were outlawed the saloon gang still retained to a large extent their influence in the government of the village. The saloons, with one or two exceptions at first, were closed at all. They remained open, selling strong drink on the sly. For many weeks they even flaunted their signs in the faces of the public. These were removed only after a protest had been lodged with the mayor by the women of the village. Otherwise the appearance of the old saloons have not changed to this day, and stragglers push over from trains yet to secure drinks.

The so-called republican organization made such protestations of their desire to enforce the laws and their conduct had been vouchsafed for by such supposed strong temperance men that for a long time the temperance people awaited with patience the alleged strict enforcement that was to come. But they waited in vain. Finally, after six months had elapsed, the Anti-Saloon League interfered and caused a number of arrests to be made. In each case the accused waived examination and was bound over to the grand jury that meets in January. The city administration then made a most pitiful attempt to prosecute a number of cases, which all failed because no evidence had been secured. It was such a howling farce that the blind-piggers themselves are to-day defending the administration streets, declaring that it did all that it could be expected to do.

The issue is still as clear as ever it was. It is this: SHALL THE POWER OF THE SALOON GANG BE BROKEN? If the people would rule, they cannot elect a council that will execute the people's wishes regardless of the interests of the saloon gang. Remember that next spring.

If the council or its friends think that we are too severe in our criticism, let them prove that we are wrong by closing up the old saloons. "Where there's a will there's a way." If it will do that this column will be the first to give it credit therefor. There is yet time to redeem the promises of strict law enforcement. The council cannot afford to be praised by law-breakers. It should punish them who they would squeal instead of as they now do, grant with satisfaction over the treatment received.

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