

ROTTENNESS IN CITY FINANCES

Former Administration of City of Willmar is Found \$5,350.17 Short in Clerk's Accounts and Records.

RECORDS JUUGLED AND MISLEADING OR MISSING.

No Entry Made in Clerk's Books For a Period of Ten Months During 1901--the Year of Much Revenue. Electric Supplies Not Accounted For.

Last Monday night the city council accepted the report of the financial expert, Mr. W. H. Donaldson, who has spent six or seven weeks checking up the finances of the city, and ordered the same placed on file and published in full in the official paper.

The deposits were \$37,251.58, a shortage of \$2,795.04. During ten months of that year the clerk failed to keep any record of his official transactions.

The report shows that the accounts of the city during the five last years of Samuel Osmundson's incumbency are in very unsatisfactory shape and in some cases missing. No attempt was made to go back into the former years of his incumbency.

"The books and records for ten months of this year were not to be found. A diligent search was made by the clerk and myself for such records without success, and it became necessary to obtain the receipts from sales of merchandise in some other way."

It was first thought necessary only to attempt to straighten out the financial records of two years back, but Mr. Donaldson found it necessary to go back to the year when Mr. Otos was recorder to get a starting point.

"By a fortunate circumstance the superintendent of the water and light department had preserved his record for installment and labor during this period. It was in diminutive form on pocket memoranda but sufficient for the purpose and enabled me to obtain a complete and accurate record of all the installment and labor for the ten months referred to."

"I found it necessary to examine the first report made by the newly elected recorder, that of March 20, 1899. This statement on its face was plainly erroneous. The uncollected light was a charge in place of a credit and the sales of merchandise was plainly out of all proportion."

Another interesting circumstance regarding the financial transactions of this year is related in Mr. Donaldson's report as follows: "A further evidence of discrepancy in this report is shown in the deposits of \$1,200 to water and light fund and \$300 to general fund, made on the last day of the fiscal year."

After reviewing the finances of '98-'99 in detail, Mr. Donaldson comes to this conclusion for the year: "Going back to the total receipts of the recorder for the year ending March 22nd, 1899, as above, we find, by reference to the report of the treasurer, that there was deposited of the above receipts the sum of \$16,334.68, leaving a balance of \$1,262.34, unaccounted for."

In the year 1902-03 the accounts of the recorder and treasurer balance. The net amount of the shortage found by Mr. Donaldson is \$5,350.17. In commenting upon the shortage in sale of supplies, Mr. Donaldson makes this statement: "Lamps were given away and no record kept of the purchases."

For the year ending Mar. 20, 1900, Mr. Donaldson found that the receipts, including bond issue, had been \$49,255.09. The deposits made by recorder during year was \$48,317.10, leaving a shortage of \$937.99. There were warrants amounting to \$101.10 paid twice during this and previous year owing to failure to mark "paid" on same by treasurer before turning over the paid warrants to the recorder.

The whole report consists of 24 closely type-written sheets and will probably cover nearly two pages of a newspaper. Mr. Donaldson makes a number of suggestions. Among others may be mentioned: A thorough revision of charter. Abolishing four justice courts and establishing a municipal court.

For the fiscal year ending Mar. 20, 1901, Mr. Donaldson found a shortage of \$1,235.70, making the total amount not turned over during the three years of \$3,436.03. In accounting for the shortage of this year the report states: "The reported sales of merchandise were \$594.73 whereas, the actual sales were \$1,307.05, a difference of \$712.32. I am unable to arrive at any solution of the method by which he arrived at his sales in any year."

The finance committees during the years examined were as follows, the first one mentioned in each case being the chairman. 1898-'99--H. J. Ramsett, R. Ziesemer, R. Spicer. 1899-'00--W. T. Markhus, G. W. Tyler, J. A. Hedin. 1900-'01--W. T. Markhus, G. W. Tyler, J. A. Hedin. 1901-'02--W. T. Markhus, F. H.

Wold, T. K. Stalland. 1902-'03--W. T. Markhus, John Williams, S. B. Qvale. No action was taken at the council meeting as to instructing city attorney to institute proceedings to recover shortage from bondsmen of city clerk.

Wanted for Forgery. A warrant asking for the arrest of Harry Eck, formerly working for the J. H. Wiggins Co., was sworn out in Judge Oatness' court on Monday, S. E. Gustafson being the complaining witness and the state of Minnesota the plaintiff.

The check bore the signature of J. H. Wiggins and was for the amount of nine dollars. Not suspecting any fraud, Gustafson took the check to the Kandiyohi County Bank where it was paid in full on August 3. Immediately afterward Harry Eck disappeared, taking with him as a souvenir a fine kodak belonging to his employers.

Harry Eck came here about three months ago and had at the time he departed for unknown parts been working for the J. H. Wiggins Co. for about two months. He is said to have had the bicycle and camera craze, buying up old wheels and cameras on time for a small amount of money and keeping them for future reference.

Sheriff Lundquist is at present busy looking for Eck and notices of his departure have been sent to different places by the authorities. The purpose of the state organization is to further the interests of the farmers against monopolists and other organizations that conflict with the interests and general welfare of the farmers.

MYSTERY STILL UNSOLVED

After About a Month's Investigation, Authorities Unable to Find Any Relatives of Jesse Turner.

A month has gone by since the accident in which Jesse Turner was killed, took place. Turner died without regaining consciousness, and at first the authorities were puzzled as to his identity, but it was finally ascertained that the man's name was Jesse Turner as believed in the first place.

The reply read as follows: "Don't know any relatives. Was a private of Company D, Fifty-second Iowa Volunteers in late war with Spain." This answer suggested that a telegram be sent to the state secretary of Iowa, as it is required of those entering the army that they give the names and addresses of friends or relatives.

After having been looking for A. J. Nord, of Lake Elizabeth, since last winter, Sheriff Lundquist finally succeeded in locating him at Mamre. Nord was wanted upon the charge of having willfully and maliciously destroyed another man's property, the property in question being a coat which had been cut to pieces by Nord upon some occasion last winter.

Those of the family left to mourn his death are his wife and a one year old daughter. He also leaves an aged mother, Mrs. Mary Sletten, five brothers, Nels, Thorvald, Peter, George and Edwin, and two sisters, Thea and Ida. The entire community extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved in their hour of sorrow.

Teachers' Institute in Session.

The Teachers' Institute for Kandiyohi county commenced its session Monday afternoon in the business room of the Willmar Seminary. The institute is in charge of Dr. Colgrove of St. Cloud, assisted by Mrs. E. K. Jacques, assistant editor of School Education.

Class A--Cattle, Sheep and Swine: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, N. O. Nelson, John Dale, Magnus Olson. Class D--Vegetables: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, P. P. Eddy, Oliver Larson, Lawrence Thorpe.

TO UNITE FOR PROTECTION

Farmers Will Form State Organization to Fight Monopolists and Help Raise Prices of Agricultural Products.

A convention of the state will be called within two weeks in St. Paul for the purpose of forming a farmers' state organization. Nine states represented at the national farmers' convention held in Chicago this week will hold a meeting within a short time for a similar purpose.

The meeting will be called by C. E. Jackson, of Buckman, Minn., who was elected by the farmers of Morrison county as a delegate to the national convention.

M. O. Sletten died at his home on Litchfield avenue yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The disease that caused his death was the dread quick consumption, that of late has taken so many from our midst. In the prime of life, only 29 years of age, he passed into the land beyond.

Passed Beyond.

Magnus O. Sletten was born on the old Sletten homestead in town of Willmar on January 20, 1875, and was at the time of death 28 years and 8 months of age. He was formerly a member of the implement firm of Sletten Bros., and was also an esteemed member of Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 of the city fire department.

The funeral will take place from the residence on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Heimdahl, of the Lutheran Synod church officiating, after which the remains will be taken to the Synod church cemetery for interment.

WILLMAR STREET FAIR

Superintendents and Judges Are Selected for Fair of 1903--The Parade.

Arrangements for Willmar's third annual street fair are about completed and all that practically remains now to make the affair a big success is good weather on the days chosen for the event.

Class A--Cattle, Sheep and Swine: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, N. O. Nelson, John Dale, Magnus Olson. Class B--Poultry and Potted Stock: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, Peter Bonde, Otto Wennerlund, C. E. Fouts.

Class C--Grain and Seeds: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, N. O. Nelson, John Dale, Magnus Olson. Class D--Vegetables: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, P. P. Eddy, Oliver Larson, Lawrence Thorpe.

Class E--Fruits: Superintendent, Ole Selin; judges, C. C. Selvig, J. M. Spioer, A. H. Sperry. Class F--Bread, Cakes and Pies: Superintendent, Mrs. James Sanderson; judges, Mrs. A. F. Nordin, Mrs. N. M. Mossberg, Miss Anna Rallison.

Class G--Preserved Fruit, Jellies and Canned Goods: Superintendent, Mrs. James Sanderson; judges, Mrs. I. T. Cramer, Mrs. Thos. H. Olson, Mrs. Martin Olson. Class H--Fine Arts and Paintings: Superintendent, Mrs. J. M. Spioer; judges, Mrs. S. L. Rice, Mrs. A. C. Dickey, Mrs. Russell Spioer.

Class J--Fancy Needle Work, Quilts and Rugs: Superintendent, Mrs. J. M. Spioer; judges, Mrs. S. B. Qvale, Mrs. W. L. Crosby, Mrs. W. W. Piney.

Class K--Special Prizes: Superintendent, E. M. Stanford; judges, F. H. Knox, Thos. H. Olson. THE PARADE. The parade will take place on the second day of the fair, Thursday, at two o'clock p. m. The following will be the order of parade: Marshal of Parade. City Police. City Council. Band. Fire Department. Street Fair Committee. G. A. R. Business Houses in Rigs. Farmers' Turnouts. Citizens in Carriages or on Horseback.

SPECIAL--Just as we had started our presses report comes that some parties tried to break the mill dam at New London last night. Report does not state to what extent they succeeded in damaging same.

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Marshal of Parade. City Police. City Council. Band. Fire Department. Street Fair Committee. G. A. R. Business Houses in Rigs. Farmers' Turnouts. Citizens in Carriages or on Horseback. The following prizes will be awarded: \$3.00 for best farmer's turnout, team, vehicle and harness considered. \$5.00 for turnout containing best-looking girls, not less than four in number. \$5.00 for best business house turnout. \$5.00 for turnout containing largest family (parents and children.) \$5.00 for oldest and most dilapidated turnout.

Committee on Parade: Chas. H. Johnson, Peter Bonde, E. C. Wellin, Wm. T. Markhus; judges of parade: L. O. Thorpe, F. G. Handy, Spencer Ericson. Parade to form on Sixth street. Business houses requested to close at one o'clock and keep closed until parade is over.

The Street Fair committee desires to call the attention of the business people to the necessity for properly decorating their respective places of business for the fair, and in this way help to give the city a festive appearance. The official colors of the fair are black, maroon and gold and, as far as possible, decorations should be made in these colors, together with the national flag.

TRAIN WRECKED NEAR DASSEL

One Man Killed and Many Injured in a Great Northern Passenger Train Wreck Last Sunday Morning.--Refrigerator Car the Cause.--Miraculous Escapes.

Another "fish" car attached to a Great Northern passenger train left the tracks and resulted in a wreck in which one man was killed and about forty persons were more or less seriously injured. The accident occurred one mile west of Dassel last Sunday morning about 6:30. These are the facts briefly related of a wreck in which it is considered miraculous that the loss of life was not greater.

The train was known as No. 10, being the east-bound passenger due here from Winnipeg at 4 a. m. It was composed of a mail car, refrigerator car, baggage and express car, smoker, two day coaches and two sleepers. One sleeper is generally attached at this point, being taken off the morning train from the Sioux Falls line, which makes connections here with the Winnipeg train for the east. The train was made up in the order named. It was in charge of Conductor J. P. Devaney and Engineer J. Merrick was at the throttle.

The train was nearly an hour late, leaving Willmar at five o'clock. It is stated that it was running at the usual rate of speed, about forty miles an hour, when the accident happened. The accident was caused by the trucks of the refrigerator car leaving the rails. All went into the ditch with the exception of the mail car, which was next to the engine, and the two sleepers, which were in the rear. One of the day coaches rolled down a fifteen-foot embankment and was turned completely upside down. The other landed about half ways down the embankment. The smoker and "fish" car were thrown together only a short distance from the track, both being reported as remaining upright. Only one of the sleepers left the track, the passengers in both these coaches escaping injury. In the coach which rolled down the embankment there was soon a scene of the wildest excitement. The passengers were thrown from their seats and tossed about in a heap. A number managed to escape from the broken windows while others had to be carried out. There were several narrow escapes from the different cars derailed and while some were congratulating themselves upon escaping unhurt a number were lying suffering from severe injuries.

All kinds of conflicting reports regarding the list of dead and injured were afloat and the first report which reached this city shortly after the accident was to the effect that two had been killed and from eight to twelve seriously injured. When more definite news arrived it was learned that only one life was lost and that only three received injuries that might result fatally. The most severely injured were as follows: Arthur E. Hennessy, of St. Louis, who suffered a dislocation of the hip and internal injuries. N. N. Horn, a merchant of South English, Iowa, broken collar bone, hip bruise and a scalp wound. August Widen, of West Superior, internally injured. Many other passengers received cuts and bruises, but not of a serious character. There were some over 200 on board, and of this number as near as we can find out the list of those more or less injured was about forty. Conductor Devaney escaped with the loss of a finger. He was on the platform of one of the coaches when he had the second finger of his left hand severed by being caught in the door. "I cannot tell how I escaped being crushed between the two cars," said Conductor Devaney. "I fell back into the doorway when the crash came, and but for that I might have been crushed between the two cars. I was immediately upon my feet after the cars had landed upon the ground, and there was plenty of work to attend to then."

Telegraphic messages were soon rushed along the line for surgeons to come to the relief of the injured and among the Great Northern surgeons who responded were Drs. E. S. and Harold Frost and W. E. MacLaughlin of this city. The Willmar doctors left here on a special train about nine o'clock and with the assistance of the other company surgeons from the dif-

ferent points they were soon at work taking care of the wounded. Those most seriously hurt were taken to the St. Paul hospitals and in a few hours all the passengers were cared for and taken to their different destinations. A special train was put into service to bring them into the twin cities. In the wreck was found the mangled body of an unknown man, who it was impossible to identify. He was supposed to be a hobo who had been stealing a ride on the blind baggage or had been riding on the brake-beams. In his pockets was found \$65. It was stated by one of the passengers that he had got on at Benson, but beyond this nothing could be learned regarding the dead man. He was thought to be about 35 years old and is described as having a light complexion. He has very light hair and whiskers. Both legs were reported as being severed below the knee and the head severed from the trunk.

Among the narrow escapes reported was that of a brakeman, who had his foot caught between a couple of

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