



VICTORY FOR HONESTY AND GOOD GOVERNMENT

The Aldermen of Willmar by a Unanimous Vote Grant the Tri-State Telephone Co. a Franchise to Do a Toll Business in This City.

Some information in regard to the Tri-State and Twin City Telephone Companies, the Coming Telephone Companies of the Northwest.

Seldom in the history of our thriving and enterprising city, have we been called upon to chronicle an event which reflects so much credit on our board of aldermen as the granting of a permit to the Tri State Telephone company to transact a toll business in Willmar. From the day when this company applied for a franchise, the local company brought every possible pressure to bear on our councilmen to shut out the Tri-state company and maintain the monopoly in the telephone business now existing; but, deaf to all such arguments, our conscientious representatives did their duty nobly and manfully. We heartily congratulate our fellow citizens and share with them the pride of having our public affairs in the hands of such honest and trustworthy officials.

This is the more noteworthy when it is borne in mind that the men who are interested in the local company are among our richest and most influential citizens, and the pressure brought to bear by them was certainly very insistent and difficult to withstand; and the credit for having done their duty fearlessly is all the more conspicuous as we are informed that aldermen of other cities in this state and North Dakota have shamelessly and treacherously abused the trust reposed in them and for a paltry telephone pass or a money consideration, have betrayed their constituents and shut out the competition so much needed to regulate rates and insure good service.

In a short interview with Mr. Moulton, president of the Tri-State and Twin City companies, who was present in the city at the time the franchise was granted, we obtained a short history of the Twin City and Tri-State companies, which, to all intents and purposes, are practically one enterprise.

The Twin City Telephone company is a reorganization of the old Mississippi Valley company, which three years ago, came to a standstill from lack of money to carry it on. Under the presidency of Mr. Moulton, the company has had a wonderful career. Beginning three years ago with but three hundred, it has now twelve thousand subscribers, which are increasing at the rate of three thousand a year. The gross receipts are approximately four hundred and ten thousand (\$410,000) dollars, which is sufficient to pay all expenses for operation, maintenance and depreciation, leaving a net surplus of enough to pay a six per cent. dividend on the common stock. The Twin City company, having arrived at a stage where it was an unqualified financial success, the same interest which owns the Twin City company, a year ago organized the Tri-State company for the purpose of building a complete system of long distance and trunk lines in Minnesota and the two Dakotas.

In order to insure a close affiliation between the two companies, the Tri-State company bought one million dollars of the stock of the Twin City company. This not only insures a unification of the two companies, but the earnings of the Twin City company which now belong to the Tri-State company insure the latter company an income sufficient to pay a dividend on its common stock. In addition to this income from the Twin City earnings, there are also the earnings from the long distance lines, which will exceed those from the Twin

City holdings. With new lines of the very best construction, reaching to every principal point in the state, the Tri-State company will take a position in the very foremost ranks of long distance companies in the United States. It is their intention to make their service so good and at such a reasonable price, that business men throughout the northwest will find it cheaper to transact their business over the long distance lines of this company, than by any other agency.

The trunk lines owned by the Tri-State company and allied companies are as follows: From Minneapolis to Duluth 150 miles, branches of the same 100 miles. St. Paul to La Crosse being built, 130 miles; St. Paul to Austin, 110 miles; St. Paul to Windom, 175 miles; Minneapolis to Grand Forks being built 400 miles, a total of 1065 miles. All this except the branches of the line to Duluth is standard copper circuit construction of the very finest description.

OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC

Annual Re-union at Spicer Largely Attended and a Very Successful Affair.

The annual re-union of the old settlers of the county held at Spicer last week Tuesday, and brief mention of which was made in our last issue, was one of the most auspicious occasions in the history of that organization. There was a large attendance from all parts of the county, but especially from the south and east central portions. Good estimates of the numbers present range from 1,500 to 2,000. In spite of threatening weather, the teams began to arrive early, and the little enterprising burg was soon filled with a happy and good-natured crowd, prepared to enjoy what the day had in store for them. The special train from Willmar brought four well-filled coaches, and the afternoon trains brought generous additions to the crowd.

The business session of the association was held before dinner at Mardin's hall, where Secretary Forsberg presided and had been kept busy receiving membership dues and handing out the fine badges, President P. H. Pyron presiding. Reports were heard. The annual membership fees of fifty cents was abolished for the year. A record book designed for the use of the association by the Hon. Henry Feig was exhibited, and the members were urged to send in biographical data to be recorded therein. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. H. Sperry, president; James Sanderson, first vice president; C. A. Birch, second vice president; A. O. Forsberg, secretary; and E. P. Wicklund, treasurer. Speeches were called for from the officers-elect, and each one vied with the others to see who could most successfully decline to "inflict punishment" upon the members. At the close of the business session it was found that the supply of handsome badges had been exhausted, and the secretary then began issuing certificates to the enrolling members.

At noon the dinner was served at the pavilion to the old settlers. The committee in charge of this matter did credit to themselves. For nearly two hours the eating continued, and all fared well. The one o'clock train brought the New London band, which for the occasion was under the leadership of John T. Oros of Willmar. Their music added much to the festive nature of the gathering. The program at the pavilion began soon after two o'clock. The newly elected president of the association acted as chairman. The first number was "America," sung by the assembly. President Sperry on behalf of the Spicer citizens made a

speech of welcome, which was responded to on behalf of the association by Hon. Henry Feig. A ladies quartette, composed of Mesdames P. C. Tonnig and M. W. Spoor, the Misses Marie Ralston and Marie Moss of Willmar, rendered a selection and the speaker of the day, Dr. J. S. Carlson, professor of the Scandinavian languages and literature at



A. H. SPERRY, President of the Old Settlers' Association.

the State University, was introduced. The doctor made an able address which was thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience. His subject was "The Past, Present and the Future." He traced the history of the races, showing that at some previous time every race has had its period of development and world power. Our country is the first instance where all races upon the face of the earth, whether white or not, have been assembled together, presenting at the same time great problems to be solved and possibilities of tremendous development. After another session by the quartette, Senator Thorpe, Dr. Johnson and Hugh Blakely each were called upon to respond to subjects connected with the early history of the county, which they did with interesting and pleasing remarks. The program at the pavilion closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," by the quartette.

The most exciting event of the sports which took place in the main street was a tug of war between residents of the old Monongalia and Kandiyohi counties. The struggle was a hotly contested one, but was finally won by Monongalia county. The prize was a half dozen silver teaspoons donated by Anderson Bros. of Willmar, and how to divide the half dozen spoons among eight persons was one of the problems before the committee in charge, and it was finally agreed to exchange prizes with the winner of the running race.

The egg race was won by Mrs. Erge Martin. The prize was an umbrella donated by Orred & Son. The foot race for residents of forty years standing was won by William Olson, and he received a box of cigars donated by Person & Johnson of Willmar.

The sack race for the pipe rack donated by Ed Mossberg of Willmar was won by William Henderson. He also won the cane donated by Carlson Bros. & Frost of Willmar, for the wheelbarrow race, and the McKibbin hat donated by the Johnson, Fridlund, Norman Co. of Willmar for the running contest.

The Gordon hat donated by Peterson & Wellin for the jumping contest was won by Harry Haroldson. The boat race was won by Hugh Campbell, who received the landing net donated by the Willmar Hardware Co. Other contests were abandoned for lack of time and the prizes will be returned or contested for at the Woodmen picnic as the donors may elect.

The game of ball was won by Atwater over Spicer by a score of seven to five, and the winning club was awarded the ball and bat given by the old settlers' association. The next year's picnic will also be held at Spicer, unless the executive committee for any reason decides otherwise.

The seventh annual picnic and re-union of the old settlers was a decided success, and the citizens of Spicer deserve credit for their efforts to entertain the old settlers and their friends.

Special evangelistic services are being held at the Methodist Episcopal church every evening this week beginning at 8:15 o'clock.

WAS UP AGAINST IT

Steam Shovel Wrecks Big Railroad Bridge--Member of Crew Badly Injured.

The steam shovel ran up against the railroad bridge in the east end of the yards Saturday afternoon and the high boom plowed clear through it, smashing every beam above the track when it passed. Even the bolted double beams on the west and east sides were cut and the supporting iron rods were bent out of shape. Had the boom been lowered as it ought to have been no damage would have been done, but it seems that the proper party or parties had forgotten to do this or else thought that the altitude of the bridge was great enough to permit of a safe passage. As it was, both the bridge and the steam shovel were damaged. The former was shut off from travel and will remain so till the necessary repairs arrive, and the latter was taken to St. Paul to have its damages looked after by experts.

As a result of the accident Gotfrid Peterson, one of the crew, received some very painful injuries. He was standing on a fat car with some other working-men when a heavy piece of bridge timber struck him in the back, fracturing two ribs in close proximity of the spinal column. His back and right shoulder were also considerably bruised. He was taken to the Commercial Hotel and Dr. MacLaughlin did all in his power to relieve the pains of the injured man.

Peterson arrived here from Småland, Sweden, two months ago and had only been in the service of the Great Northern for a month when the accident occurred. One of the Gilbertson Bros. dray teams had just succeeded in getting over the bridge with a heavy load of ice when the crash came. It was fortunate that the accident did not occur a little sooner or there would probably have been more added to the list of injured. The team was driven by Ole Gilbertson.

Married This Morning.

The wedding of Miss Alice C. Swan, of Diamond Lake, to Mr. Thomas F. Downs, of this city, was solemnized at St. Mary's Catholic church this morning at nine o'clock, Rev. Father Malloy officiating. The bride was attended by Miss Sarillah Parsons and Mr. Daniel Downs. A wedding dinner will be served this afternoon at the home of the groom's mother in the town of Green Lake and this evening a reception will be held in the Woodmen Hall at Kandiyohi. About 200 guests will be in attendance. Willmar friends extend hearty congratulations.

Death of Well-known Character.

Andrew Hovely, one of the well-known residents of the county, passed away last Wednesday at the home of his son, Halver Hovely, in the town of Green Lake. Death resulted from asthma, from which the deceased had been a sufferer for some time. He was 77 years, 7 months and 14 days of age and had been a resident of Green Lake town since the '70's. His native home was Trondhjem, Norway. The funeral took place last Friday afternoon from the Green Lake Norwegian Lutheran church.

Will be United Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Lindner have issued invitations for the wedding of their daughter, Miss Coira Wilhelm, to Mr. Guy Cumming, which is announced to take place on Monday evening, June 27. The marriage will be solemnized at the Bond Hall at eight o'clock and will be witnessed by a large number of friends and relatives. The contracting parties are among our most popular young people and the approaching nuptials will be anxiously looked forward to by their many friends.

Lutheran Bethel Church.

Services next Sunday morning. The ladies' society meets with Mrs. Hedlin in the country next Thursday afternoon. Rigs will leave the church at 2:30 o'clock. The annual Sunday School picnic will be held at Home wood Park next Friday, which is Mid-summer day. All friends of the church are invited to participate.

A party of relatives that will undoubtedly spend a very enjoyable time at the St. Louis Exposition is composed of the Misses Margaret, Nellie, Martha and Kathryn Haley, of this city, Mr. and Mrs. John Haley of Minneapolis, and Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hodgson of Fergus Falls. The Misses Haley and Mrs. Hodgson left here on the afternoon train last Thursday and were joined the same evening at Minneapolis by the rest of the party. They planned to be gone about ten days.

On the second day of the G. A. R. Encampment at Litchfield, which is to be held July 4, 5 and 6, there will be a ball game between Willmar and Litchfield teams. Atwater will play there on July 4 and on the last day arrangements are being made for a game with Hutchinson. It is probable that Willmar will be largely represented at the encampment, especially on the 5th.

Injured at Smith Lake.

Fred Magnuson, brakeman on the Great Northern, was injured last Saturday evening at Smith Lake about 6:45 while he was switching two cars onto the side track. He had just succeeded in uncoupling the cars when his left foot caught in the frog between the tracks. The wheel of the next car shoved his foot out and at the same time cut a bad gash on the top of the foot. The oncoming car forced him down and he was dragged for about three car lengths before the train stopped. The elbow joint of his left arm suffered a compound fracture and his left leg was badly bruised. He was taken to Willmar on the late train and upon his arrival was brought to the Frost hospital, where his injuries were attended to by Dr. Harold Frost. At the present time the patient is doing very nicely and there is no danger of amputation.

Fire at Raymond.

A fire broke out in the Rosmon Bros. butcher shop in the rear end of the saloon building owned by Fred Ratzlaf on Tuesday evening. The prompt appearance of the fire department prevented the spread of the fire however, and limited it to the above named building.

The losses sustained are estimated as follows, according to the Raymond News: Rosmon Bros., almost a total loss, with \$500 insurance; Fred Ratzlaf, damage to building \$400, insurance \$1000; A. D. DeLange, residing upstairs in building, damage about \$50, no insurance; H. J. Heath, of the Home restaurant in the adjoining building, damaged about \$250, with \$400 insurance. E. Meyer also sustained slight damages.

Two Shall be One.

A pretty home wedding occurred last Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, when Miss Mabel Reese, of this city, and Mr. Ole Newman, of Mamre, were joined in the holy bonds of wedlock at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Ole Reese. Rev. Peterson of the Swedish Lutheran church officiated. The bride was attended by Miss Olive Olson, and Horace Reese, a brother of the bride, was best man. Only immediate friends and relatives were present.

After the ceremony a dainty supper was served and the customary congratulations were showered upon the bridal pair.

Mr. and Mrs. Newman will make their future home upon the groom's farm in Mamre, where they have already gone into housekeeping.

Patton Receives \$3,000.

The suit brought against the Great Northern railway by Samuel Patton, to recover damages to the amount of \$5,000 on account of the accidental death of his son Charles, has been settled out of court. The case was to be tried at the present term of court in Meeker county, but through Attorney Latham the plaintiff succeeded in reaching a settlement with the company without going to trial. Mr. Patton receives \$3,000 in satisfaction of the claim. It is understood that one-third of this amount is allowed for the attorney's fees. Mr. Patton was called down to St. Paul last Thursday and the settlement as noted above was effected the latter part of the week.

Will Meet June 25.

The regular meeting of the Women's Institute for Kandiyohi county will be held Saturday afternoon, June 25, at 2:30 o'clock, on the L. O. Thorpe lawn. If the weather is not favorable the meeting will be as usual at the Old Fellows' Hall. The purpose of the organization is to bring into closer touch the women of the county. This can be accomplished only by efforts on the part of the farmers' wives to attend. Secretary.

Barck at Atwater.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Atwater Telephone Co. was held last evening for the purpose of considering the matter of connecting the local system here with the toll lines of the Northwestern Telephone Co. A representative of the latter named company was present, as was also Superintendent Barck of the Minnesota Central Telephone Co. No agreement was reached. Atwater Republican Press, 17th Inst.

Coming Nuptials.

Mr. and Mrs. Neils Olson, of the town of Green Lake, have issued invitations for the wedding of their daughter, Miss Mathilda to Edward A. Thorpe. The marriage ceremony takes place on Thursday afternoon, June 30, at three o'clock, in the Green Lake Hauge's church. A reception will follow at the home of the bride.

Agency Changed.

C. F. Olson, of St. Paul, has taken the place of C. F. Rogers as agent for the Watkins Medical Co. of Winona. Mr. Olson has been employed on J. J. Hill's farm near St. Paul as bookkeeper and comes here highly recommended by his former employers. He expects to make this city his headquarters and future home.

CONVENTION OF C. E.'S

Christian Endeavorers Have Most Successful Session Lasting Three Days.

Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday were memorable days for the young people of the First Presbyterian church of this city, as well as a large number from out-of-town points who had occasion to be with them at that time. It was the eleventh annual district convention of the Meeker-Kandiyohi Christian Endeavor Union, which closed on Sunday night after a most successful session.

The register of visitors, many of whom were in attendance as regular delegates, contained the names of 52 members of the Christian Endeavor Society. From the Benson Congregational church there were three members; Atwater Presbyterian, 9; Litchfield Presbyterian, 11; Litchfield Christian, 8; Harrison Presbyterian, 6; Greenleaf Presbyterian, 6; Mannanah Christian, 6; Eden Valley Christian, 2; Rosendale Presbyterian, 2. The state officers present were Miss Anna Smith, secretary, of the Shakopee Presbyterian church, and Rev. Thomas E. Sykes, president, of the Arlington Heights Presbyterian church at St. Paul.

The meetings were presided over by Miss Minnie S. Leavitt, of Eden Valley, president of the district. The Presbyterian church, where all of the sessions were held, had been prettily decorated for the occasion, the colors red and white being much in evidence in the emblematic decorations. The various committees were kept busy at work in welcoming the delegates and attending to their entertainment. The hospitality of the citizens was shown by the generous manner in which they threw open their homes for the visitors, all of whom returned from the convention feeling that they had been well entertained, both socially as well as spiritually.

The program included addresses and papers that could not help but be profitable to the hearers, all of them being excellent contributions. Much food for earnest thought was presented in the addresses by Rev. Wm. K. Knotts, of Eden Valley, on "The Battle of Life," and by Rev. J. S. Phillips, of Atwater, on "The Voice of the Spirit." Two most excellent sermons were delivered when Rev. Sykes addressed the convention on Saturday and Sunday evenings. The convention sermon was preached by Rev. Buell on Sunday morning, "From Servitude to Sovereignty" being the topic of what was considered by the large congregation a most masterly effort. The readings of some of the papers were followed by interesting discussions. "The Christian Endeavor Society in its Relation to the Church," a paper read by Hugh McCune, of Benson, was a subject that was of particular interest to the Endeavorers. All of the other papers were presented as given in the published program with the exception of "Missions" by Miss Elsie Iman, and were filled with very good and suggestive thoughts. Miss Anna Smith's addresses during the convention were very interesting features, especially her talk to the children at the Junior Rally on Sunday afternoon, when Rev. Sykes also gave a pleasing address.

The musical part of the program was slightly changed from that originally planned. Miss Lucy Scheibe, of Litchfield, contributed a vocal solo on Friday evening in place of Harold Handy and on Saturday morning there was a vocal duet by the Misses Wheeler and Dart, also of Litchfield, a number substituted for that of Misses McClure and McKenney. At the Sunday services a vocal solo by Miss Florence R. Porter and a cornet solo by J. T. Oros were added features.

The committee conferences held on Saturday afternoon were among the many interesting things on the program, and as a result of the conference of the temperance committee the convention went on record as adopting the following resolution: Resolved, whereas, we as Christian Endeavorers, in convention assembled, recognize the legalized liquor traffic as the chief source of crime, misery and want; that it is contrary to the Word of God and to the best interests of a Christian people. We hereby declare ourselves that total abstinence is the only safe and defensible attitude of a Christian; that we use all legal means to prevent its manufacture, sale and use except when prescribed by a physician; that the ballot is the voice of the people in the government, hence no political party should expect or ought to receive the support of Christian Endeavorers which maintains the license policy or refuses to assume an attitude of hostility to the saloon.

Many of the Endeavorers were up bright and early Sunday morning to attend the Sunrise prayer meeting held at 6:30. Another devotional service from which the members received much spiritual blessing was the consecration meeting held on Sunday evening, and which marked the closing session of the convention.

At the election of officers, which took place on Saturday afternoon, the following were chosen to serve for the

The Woodmen Picnic.

If the weather is favorable the Modern Woodmen picnic at Spicer on Friday, June 24, will undoubtedly be one of the most pleasant outings of the season. Although under the auspices of the M. W. A. it is not confined to members of that association by any means. All are welcome, irrespective of "race, sex or previous or present position," just so they know how to behave themselves. The managers will use every effort to give good, clean amusements and keep gamblers and other fakirs off the grounds and streets.

An excursion train leaves Willmar at nine o'clock a. m., and returning leaves Spicer at nine p. m. Tickets for round trip from Willmar, 40 cents. Reduced rates from other points in the county will be given.

On arriving at Spicer the crowd will proceed at once to the pavilion, where a short program of speeches and instrumental music will be given. There will be a tug of war between different camps, a ladies' egg race, free for all foot race, wheelbarrow race and sack race. At two o'clock the procession will start for the base ball park, where the competitive drill of Forester teams will be held. This will be followed by a baseball game. Admission to the base ball park will be ten cents. The grand stand has been reserved exclusively for the ladies, who will be a limited there without any extra charge.

Dancing will begin at the pavilion and at Mardin's hall at three o'clock.

Believe in Co-Partnership.

Thirteen farmers in the vicinity of Big Kandiyohi Lake have gone on record as believing in co-ownership. Last Saturday they bought a complete 25-horsepower Huber threshing rig of Ekander & Mellin Bros. They will do their own threshing next fall, and expect to come out of it "all right."

Our Luther College students are now home from Decorah, Iowa, to enjoy the summer vacation. Selmer Tallakson and Rudolph Estrem will next year enter the Junior class at the college. Herman Estrem finished this year and is now entitled to put an A. B. after his name.



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