

# ROAD IMPROVEMENT IS ORDER OF THE DAY

## URGES THAT HEAVY ROAD WORK BE DONE AT ONCE

### Thinks this Generation Should Get Some of the Benefits Of Work They Do.

The leading good roads enthusiast of Kandiyohi county is Mr. D. N. Tallman of Willmar. The following contribution from Mr. Tallman for our Minnesota Newspaper Week Edition, relative to the State Road work in our county will be read with interest, we know:

"For State Roads in Kandiyohi County there is being appropriated about \$23,400 a year. A certain portion of this comes from the State, and there is about \$5,000 for maintenance of the State roads. Last year State Road No. 1, Willmar, north to Stearns county line, near Paynesville received \$4,100. There was \$750 donated by private parties through the efforts of the good roads committee of the Commercial Club. State Road No. 2, Atwater to Lake Lillian, \$1,300; State Road No. 3, Willmar to Raymond, \$4,500; State Road No. 4, Willmar to Renville county line, toward Olivia, \$2,000; State Road No. 5, Will-

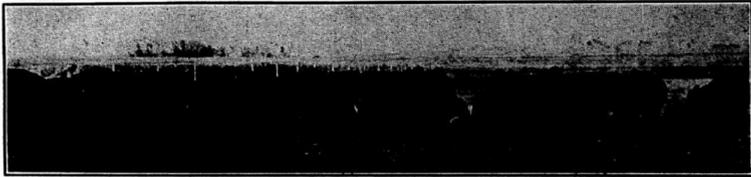
mar through Norway Lake to county line, \$4,000; State Road No. 6, from Meeker county line, west through the county to Swift county line, \$4,400; State Road No. 7, Pennoek north to county line, \$1,600; State Road No. 7, from Atwater north through Harrison, to Spicer, \$900.

"For the past few years and probably for several years to come, this money is required to be spent cutting down hills, filling up low places and building expensive bridges in order to establish satisfactory grade and for the purpose of widening the roads to the standard set by the Highway Commission. This naturally has to



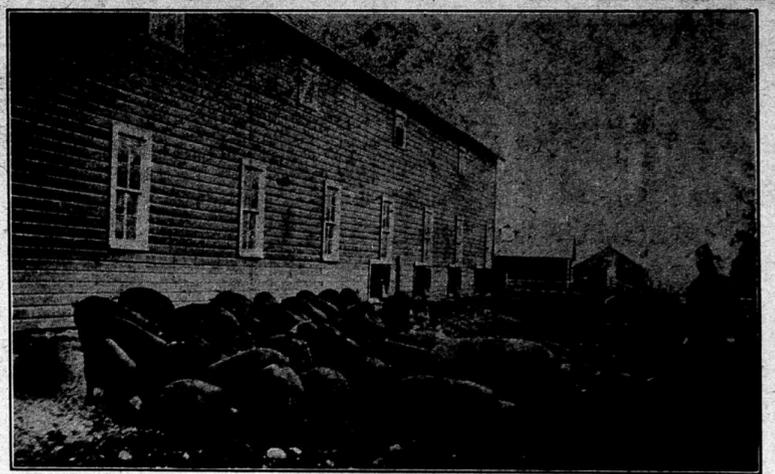
HERD OF HEREFORDS ON WILLOW HEDGE FARM. Took Sweepstakes for Beef Cattle at Kandiyohi County Fair.

be done before any permanent work done, such as graveling. While the amount we are spending seems like



A BUNCH OF BLACK POLLED CATTLE ON DAN HALEY'S FARM.

quite an item in itself, yet it does not go as far as it should go toward getting quicker results. Our roads will not be satisfactory to the public until the surface of the roads have been thoroughly treated with gravel. In some parts of the county, it is going to be hard to secure the gravel but gravel pits can be obtained and should be obtained by the county at once. The Commissioners secured one gravel pit on State Road No. 1 this season that will furnish gravel for fifteen miles on that road for years to come. The first coat of gravel placed on the ordinary dirt road doesn't last over a couple of years but each successive coat will last longer and finally the road bed will become so thoroughly gravelled that it is only a small matter of maintenance to keep the road in perfect condition. This all leads up to the proposition of whether it would not be better to spend a great deal more money for the next two or three years in order to do the heavy work that must be done before the gravel surface can be had and the way to do this would be the way it is being done in other states and that is, by the issuance of bonds. I know that in this county there seems to be a disposition to vote down all bonding propositions, but when you realize that a system of good roads through this county would add very materially to the value of our farm lands and an increase in farm lands enables us to get in more taxes on the same ratio and the farmers perhaps, will get the greatest benefit from a system of good



A Bunch of Young Male Duroc-Jersey Hogs on Hawk Creek Farm. The large specimen is Big Wonder, the purchase price of which was \$1,500.

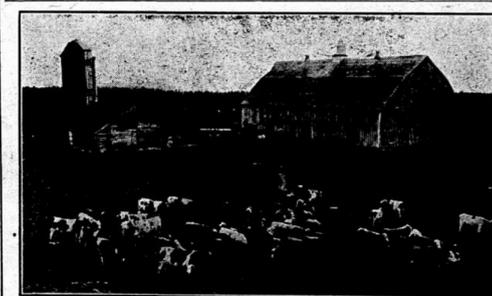
roads through the county, it would seem to me that if it was thoroughly understood, that a bond issue could be floated. A good gravel road can be secured at from five hundred to seven hundred and fifty dollars per mile and if we were to issue bonds to the extent of \$250,000 that probably could be floated at 4 per cent, the interest on said bonds would amount to only \$10,000 a year. We are now raising about \$28,000 a year so we would still have left \$18,000 a year after paying interest on our bonds, a portion of which could go to reduce the principal. It is a perfectly fair proposition to the future generation, who would be interested in the payment of the bonds, that they should have some part in the cutting down of the big hills, widening out of roads and building expensive bridges as it is this preliminary work that is the expensive part of road building.

\$800 Duroc Jersey hogs. He has 236 fine specimens of the breed on his farm at this time. He will hold his fall sale of thorough boars Nov. 9, and his third annual sale of bred sows and gilts in the spring. He brought specimens of his herd to the State Fair this year and in the face of the fiercest

year. Mr. Bergquist says that he has not gone in very heavily, for he believes in community breeding and expects to co-operate with his neighbors when it becomes finally determined what breed takes the lead. Indeed, he has recently shown some leanings towards the Holsteins, for he has even now a carload of thirty head



RESIDENCE OF C. O. BERGQUIST ON WILLOW HEDGE FARM.



BARNYARD ON WILLOW HEDGE FARM.

of purebred Holsteins which he recently purchased in the Zumbrota

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EDgewater FARM. The Edgewater Farm, 210 acres on the north shore of Long Lake, boasts of one of the finest herds of blooded cattle in the county. Five years ago David Swenson began with a herd of seven Holsteins. He has now a herd of 55, thirty of which are milk cows. A recent valuable addition to his herd is a young bull calf bought of Schroeder of Moorhead, the price of which was \$500. This calf is said to be among the best bred animals in the state.

Mr. Swenson is one of the original silo and alfalfa men of the county, having had his silo for 10 years, and raised alfalfa for eight seasons. This year he had a field of 25 acres.

Mr. Swenson is also the first dairy farmer, as far as we know, to install the milking machine in the county. He has now tried out one of these labor-saving devices for a year and a half now and is greatly pleased with the result. He says it takes the drudgery out of the dairy business, is sanitary and not harmful to the cows.

### WILLOW HEDGE FARM.

One of the most progressive farmers of the county is C. O. Bergquist, of Kandiyohi township. He was born at the old home place Jan. 20, 1875. It is eighteen years ago since he started in on his own account, and

expense of building the road and our money for many years to come will go into this sort of expense rather than getting the finished road, which this generation ought to be, in part, entitled to. Another difficulty in maintaining roads that are not designated as State Roads is to get the farmers thoroughly interested in working the roads as great difficulty is had in getting the farmers to take much interest in the road even though they are paid for it. Especially is this true of dragging the roads. Ample provision has been made for dragging the roads but the farmers seem to feel inclined that their farm work comes first and so the dragging is not done as persistently as it should be. I believe the road work is being carried on as well as it could be under the present condition of affairs and until more money is raised for the carrying on of this work on a bigger scale, which will permit the roads being completed with a good gravel surface, which is the only good roads that we will have in this county for many years to come."

### HAWK CREEK FARM.

One of the young farmers of Kandiyohi county who is making a name for himself as a progressive is John Swenson, owner of the Hawk Creek Farm of 720 acres in Town of St. Johns.

Eight years ago Mr. Swenson began farming on his own account, and five years ago he began his present specializing in Duroc-Jersey hogs. He was not satisfied with the ordinary, but went after the best. Attending sales and other meetings of Duroc-Jersey enthusiasts everywhere he became thoroughly convinced that the breed offered great possibilities, and gathered the information that is indispensable for a thorough understanding. Since 1910 John Swenson has bred and sold



INTERIOR OF DAIRY BARN ON EDGEWATER FARM. Shows man with closed milk pail and milking machine. Machine is operated by alternate application of compressed air and vacuum thru pipe, imitating hand milking exactly.

### SUMMIT HILL FARM.

John S. Anderson, proprietor of the Summit Hill farm of 300 acres near Atwater, is one of the progressive farmers of the county who devotes time and effort to promote movements for the public good. He is one of the

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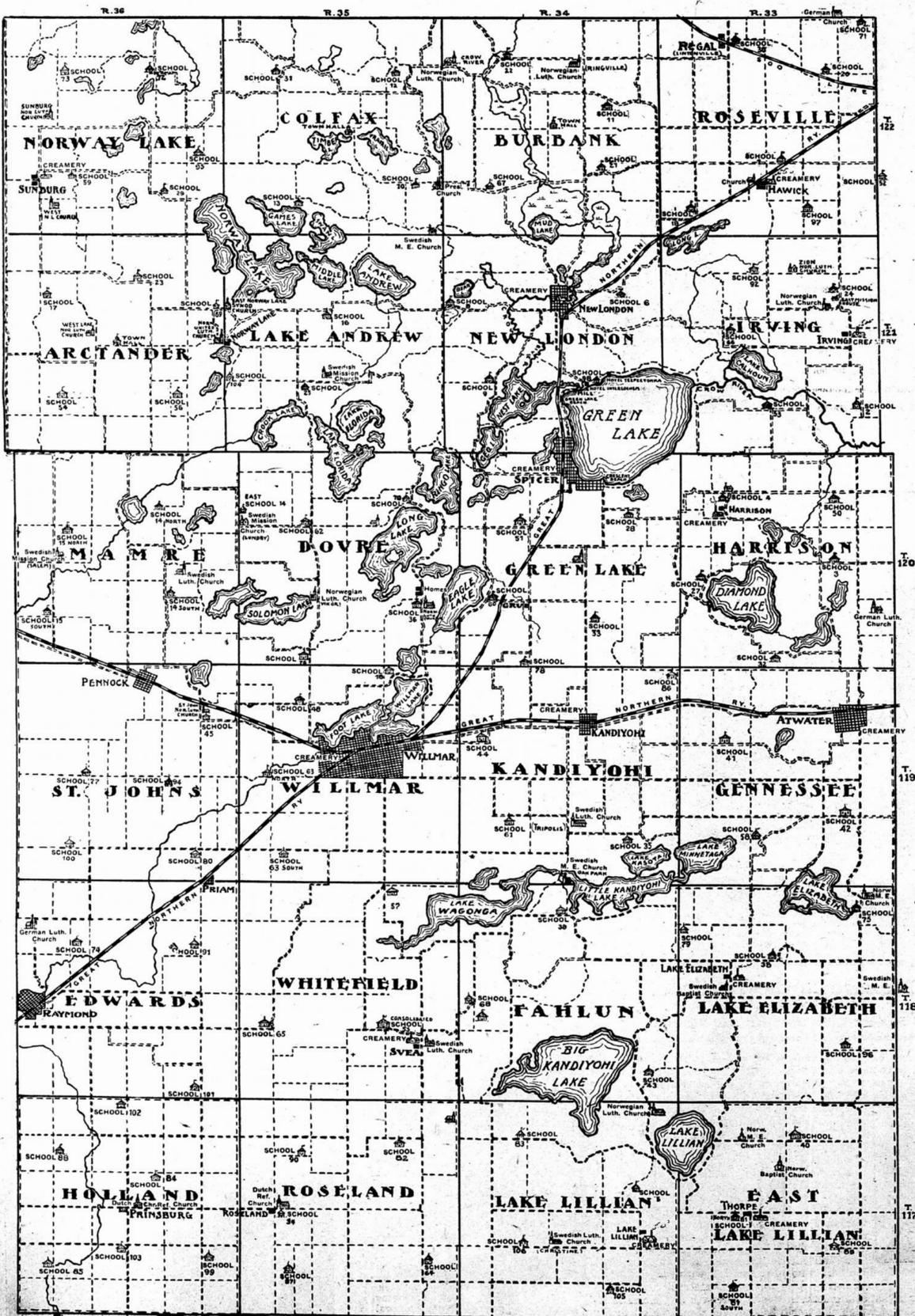
Mr. Bergquist's favorite breed of cattle is the "white-face," the Hereford. He has a fine herd of fourteen purebreds which took the sweepstakes for beef cattle at the county fair this



GOING AFIELD ON THE SUMMIT HILL FARM.

## LATEST MAP OF KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Drawn for Minnesota Newspaper Week Edition by Eben E. Lawson, of the Willmar Tribune staff.



Dotted lines indicate roads; doubly dotted lines select roads.