

CIRCULATION
3,400
COPIES
EACH ISSUE

BEST
MEDIUM FOR
ADVERTISERS
IN CENTRAL
MINNESOTA

VOLUME 23.

8 PAGES

WILLMAR, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1916

PRICE 5 CENTS

NUMBER 2

ASSESSORS MEET FOR INSTRUCTION

Eighteen Assessors of the County Have Interesting Session Thursday.

The assessors of Kandiyohi county met at the court house on Thursday, February 24, 1916, at 10:00 o'clock a. m., for a conference with the state tax commission. The following assessors were present: Carl H. Thorsen, Magnus Olson, J. C. Bjornberg, Chas. J. Bore, Ervin G. Paetel, Henry Vander Riet, Erick Elfrisson, Harry Anderson, G. Stene, Otto Tengwall, E. E. Hauge, F. H. Smithson, L. M. Nelson, Gerhard Adamson, Albert J. Johnson, Aug. Lundquist, Jas. L. Jarrett and A. G. Barnecht.

J. G. Armon, a member of the tax commission, was present and explained various provisions of the law relative to listing and assessing property for purposes of taxation. He also answered numerous questions propounded by different assessors.

As introductory to the subject of the conference, Mr. Armon discussed briefly why taxes are necessary and by whom and for what purpose they are levied. It was pointed out that in the final analysis tax levies are local, and that with the exception of the

state levy, each county and its subdivisions has entire control over the amount of money raised for public purposes by taxation.

Mr. Armon referred to growing tax burdens throughout the state and said that assessors are frequently blamed for growing tax burdens, while, as a matter of fact, they are not responsible for a high tax rate, as they are entitled to credit for a low tax rate.

He said that it is not the assessment that determines whether a tax will be high or low but the amount of money spent for public purposes. Large appropriations mean high taxes. When a community is spending a large amount of money, taxes will inevitably be high, but the assessor as an officer has absolutely nothing to say about how much money shall be spent for any public purpose. The matters of expenditures are determined by town meetings, school meetings, village and city councils, county boards and the state legislature and other people themselves have absolute control over the very thing that determines tax rates—expenditures. This control is exercised either directly through school and town meetings, or indirectly through the elective officers of the various units of government—village, city, county and state. If, therefore, tax rates are unreasonably high the fault is with the people rather than with assessors.

While the assessor has nothing to do with making taxes high or low, he has nearly everything to do with determining whether they shall be fair and just. It is his function to determine how much of the public burden of the various units of government he does when he places a value on a taxpayer's property. If he does his work in accordance with law approximate justice will prevail between the taxpayer and the government, but, on the other hand, if he departs from the legal standard of valuation, or omits any considerable amount of property from the tax list, injustice in taxation will inevitably follow. It is therefore the highest importance that all taxable property be listed and assessed in strict compliance with law.

He said that in a general way growing tax rates are largely due to the expanding functions of government—state and local—and to an increasing demand on the part of the people for more things and better things from each of the units of government. We now demand and insist that numerous things be done by government that we did for ourselves years ago or left undone entirely. To do these numerous things revenues are necessary, and the necessary revenue must be raised by some form of taxation, so that even the expansion of the functions of government entailing the expenditure of money must inevitably be followed by higher taxes.

High tax rates do not necessarily mean extravagant expenditures. If the money derived from tax levies is wisely and economically expended the benefits derived by the taxpayer may fully compensate for a high tax rate. This is a question, however, that each district must decide for itself.

Mr. Armon briefly analyzed the amount and purpose of the tax levies of Kandiyohi county. The total tax levy in the county last year and payable this year amounted to \$307,465.74. Each \$100 of this amount, however, collected, will be apportioned as follows: To the state for support of state government and state institutions, \$6.57; to the county, \$19.19; to the towns, \$2.10; to the cities and villages, \$12.76; to education, \$23.93; and to roads and bridges, \$24.45.

The total state levy in Kandiyohi county last year, including the state levy for schools and roads and bridges amounted to \$48,102.60 while the county received \$63,371.58 from the state in aid of schools, roads and other local purposes. Expressed in another way, for each dollar you levied for state purposes last year, including schools and roads and bridges, you received from the state in aid of schools, roads and other public purposes, \$1.32 in return. These figures show that direct taxes, in their final analysis are levied almost entirely for local purposes.

More or less discussion has taken place of late as to relative tax rates in the rural districts and in cities and villages. In comparing rates it should be borne in mind that farm or unimproved lands are taxed on a basis of one-

Continued on page 8.

AUTO FANS ARE ALIVE

Local Secretary Attends State Meeting and is Enthused to Rally Local Organization.

M. R. Simons attended the directors meeting of the Minnesota State Automobile Association at St. Paul Feb. 1. He reports an interesting meeting. The big question discussed was the high price of oil. An investigating committee was appointed to gather data and co-operate with other bodies in fighting this arbitrary action of the oil kings. Highways also came in for a good share of the discussion. There seemed to be a unanimous sentiment in favor of utilizing convict labor on the highways, which system is successfully used in other states. Mr. Simons returned enthusiastic about the work of the association, and hopes that the local club will respond to work of the association better in 1916 than ever before. He is the secretary, and reports that the membership in good standing is sixty-five, which he believes should be at least 165. The annual meeting date is March 31, and notices will be mailed later. Mr. Simons was appointed on the State Committee on Tours and Contests.

ROSELILLIAN.

Rosellilian, Feb. 28.—Mr. Richard Soderberg left for Minneapolis Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Rubbeck were visitors at the Dave Carlson home Monday evening.

E. H. Hanson and family and E. J. Hedof were guests at the William Lindquist home Sunday.

Ed. Misker of Olivia was called to L. J. Peterson's Monday.

Ed. Hitch of Svea was seen in this vicinity Wednesday.

Peter Hanson entertained company Tuesday evening.

A physician from Willmar was called out to the Julson home Friday, Mrs. Julson being ill.

Arthur Hed was a Willmar caller Tuesday.

Freda Johnson and Marjorie Hitch left for Minneapolis Wednesday where they expect to remain for some time.

Mrs. Carrie Johnson was a Wednesday visitor at G. Ericson's.

Mrs. Louis Peterson and Mrs. Henry Lobnitz made a short call at William Lindquist's one day last week.

E. H. Hanson of Rosville is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Emil Blomgren.

R. P. Johnson made a brief call at A. J. Johnson's Saturday afternoon.

Miss Hilda Blomquist is at present visiting with her sister Mrs. Richard Julius.

Emil Blomgren is reported to be ill.

Miss Hazel Ostrom is at present staying at the Ed. Ericson home.

Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Ericson and daughter Marie visited with H. J. Johnson and family Tuesday.

Victor Hed visited with the Norling family Sunday afternoon.

George Anderson called on some of his friends Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Holmgren were Sunday visitors at the P. S. J. Johnson home.

Messrs. Philip Ericson and Paul Hed called on some of their friends Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Sam Hageman was out sleigh riding Friday evening.

Messrs. Fred Johnson and Ed. Norling attended the Y. P. Social at the S. Solomonsen home Sunday evening.

Henry Aspaas, Miss Hilma Blomquist and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Julius were guests at the John Aspaas home at Svea one day last week.

A. Forsman's were entertained at the home of Chas. Forsman last week.

COLFAX.

Colfax, Feb. 28.—Evan and Knud A. Olson visited with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Evans of Benson over Sunday.

Mrs. Peter Erickson of Kenmare, N. Dak., arrived here on Thursday for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Wessen, who is reported ill.

The marriage of Bernt Eidevog of near Brooten took place at Belgrade on Wednesday, Rev. E. S. J. Sund officiating. Congratulations. Messrs. Henry and Olaf Severide have returned home from St. Paul, where they have taken a course at an auto school.

Miss Anna and Clara Austin, Ada Thorsen and Ingeborg Herbrandson and Messrs. Gerhard Gerhanson and Einar Austin spent Sunday evening at Katherine Olson's.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinart Erickson and family returned from their trip to the former's sister, Nettie Erickson to Fred Engel, which took place at Belgrade on Tuesday.

Mrs. Olof Gunderson visited with Mrs. Hans Hanson on Sunday.

The Larson and Albert Thorsen families spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Larson at Belgrade.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinart Erickson and family visited at Carl Austin's on Sunday.

Miss Mabel Mikkelsen of Belgrade is visiting with her parents here.

Miss Anna Aune visited at Knud Olson's on Saturday.

Long Lake Ladies' Aid.

The Long Lake Ladies' Aid will meet at the home of Otto Olson, March 9, 1916. Everyone welcome to attend.

Miss Ada Fridlund entertained fifteen of her girl friends at her home on Third street East last Wednesday evening. Sewing, music and games furnished the amusements for the evening and a delicious lunch was served.

—Miss Ida Patton Smith, formerly a teacher in the Willmar high school, was elected director on the school board of Tyrone, Pa., Feb. 5. She has taught in the schools of that city seven years.

—Miss Ellen Swanson of Kerkhoven is visiting with Mrs. Charles Skovstrom this week.

Personal and Otherwise

—Mrs. B. G. Lewis left Tuesday for a visit at her former home in St. Paul.

—Sheriff Bonde was at New London on business last Saturday.

—Miss Grace Sperry spent the week end visiting with friends in Minneapolis.

—Miss Frances Kelly spent the week end visiting with her mother in Minneapolis.

—August Lundquist of Kandiyohi was a business visitor in this city last week Thursday.

—Orrin Redfield was an over Sunday visitor with friends in the twin cities.

—Miss Jane Thorpe left last Friday for a visit with relatives at Ferguson Falls.

—Miss Vera Boon left last Saturday afternoon for a visit with relatives near Atwater.

—Miss Ruby Hendrickson spent Sunday visiting with her mother at Atwater.

—Arthur Swenson of Raymond spent Sunday visiting with relatives in this city.

—Mrs. P. C. Greenfield of Penneck was here last week to attend the funeral of Ida Greenfield.

—Miss Alma Grimlund who teaches near Penneck spent Sunday at her home in this city.

—Mrs. John Williams returned Saturday evening from a couple of weeks' visit in the cities.

—Rev. C. Sullivan came over from Spicer Monday afternoon for a visit at the O. E. Hoagberg home.

—Miss Vendale Fahlstrom returned to Minneapolis Tuesday after a week's visit at the C. W. Odell home in this city.

—Mrs. R. A. Butler returned last Thursday from a week's visit with friends and relatives at Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

—The Revelers will give their last dance before the lenten season Friday evening of this week at the Masonic Temple.

—Mrs. Andrew Hedin and daughter, Frances returned Monday evening from a week end visit in the twin cities.

—Miss Teekla Soderling returned last Sunday evening from a few weeks' visit with relatives in the cities.

—Mrs. J. A. Nichols arrived from Minneapolis last Friday for a visit with the McNairy and Nichols families in this city.

—Miss Anna Mittvet who teaches at Granite Falls spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Mittvet in this city.

—Mrs. J. F. Millard left last Thursday afternoon for the twin cities. They returned Saturday evening.

—Knute Rodberg left for his home at Benson Monday after a several weeks' visit at the home of his brother, Simon, in this city.

—John Almen returned Sunday evening from a several days' visit in the cities. He also attended the Conference of the Swedish Lutheran churches.

—Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Lewis entertained the employees of the Handy-Lewis Motor Company at a seven o'clock dinner at their home last Thursday evening.

—J. A. Nichols of Minneapolis, H. W. Bachus of Frazer and R. M. Hicks of Sauk Centre, were in this city last Saturday in attendance at a meeting of the directors of the Nichols-Hicks-McNairy Co.

—Miss Margaret Fjellman who has been visiting for the last couple of weeks with her parents in this city left today for Minneapolis, where she will visit for a couple of days before going to Duluth where she is employed.

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