

SPLENDID PROSPECTS FOR NAVIGATION

Survey of Minnesota to be Recommended by the Board of Engineers. Gen. Marshall also approves. Congressman J. Tawney before the Board. Sen. Chas. A. Johnson Greatly Interested.

Telephone Message to Dr. L. A. Fritsche.

Sen. Poehler Representing Minnesota River Improvement League is in Washington. Land Owners will Help Improve.

Will Effect Navigation on Mississippi.

Sen. Chas. A. Johnson telephoned to Dr. L. A. Fritsche late Tuesday afternoon from St. Peter, that he had just received a telegram from Congressman James A. Tawney as follows: Washington, D. C., June 29, 09, To the Hon. Chas. A. Johnson, St. Peter, Minn.

"I conferred with the Board of engineers last Saturday on the subject of survey of the Minnesota river and appeared yesterday at public hearing. A member phoned me last night saying that the Board yesterday afternoon decided to recommend the survey. I have also seen Gen. Marshall, chief of the Board of engineers who informed me that he would approve the survey."

(Signed) James A. Tawney. In sending this message to Dr. Fritsche, Sen. Johnson says this:

"The Minnesota river will be surveyed by the Government for the purpose of navigation, creation of electric power and impounding reservoirs and drainage."

The fact that the owners of lands abutting on the Minnesota river will pay part of the cost of improving the river, will probably be submitted to the board of government engineers at the hearing by State Senator A. A. Poehler of Henderson.

Senator Poehler reached Washington last week, loaded with data as to the development and the possibility of the Minnesota valley, and prepared to represent the Minnesota River Improvement League in urging the government engineers to approve the project now under consideration.

Senator Poehler was in conference with members of the Minnesota delegation. He will represent before the government engineers the weight of opinion in the Minnesota valley, that the improvement of the river will not only develop freight traffic and reduce freight rates along the Minnesota itself, but will have a great effect in developing navigation on the Mississippi.

According to the report made by Captain Morton of the government Steamer David Tipton the Minnesota river can easily be restored to navigation and the obstruction cleared away for 220 miles.

Captain Morton said that the lower portion of the river is comparatively free of obstructions, and that at no great effort navigation can be made possible for at least 165 miles, or nearly to the Minnesota border, and far enough to open to Mississippi river boats some of the richest sections of Minnesota. Immediately after clearing the bar at the mouth of the Minnesota, the government boat found herself in thirty-five feet of water and found deep water for many miles upstream.

The David Tipton will start up the Minnesota river again immediately to begin work on the channel. This will consist for the present of clearing out the snags and protecting the banks.

A CENTENARIAN

Is Admitted to Pioneer Association.

The Winona County Old Settler's association has just added a centenarian to its membership roll, James Hogan of Homer Ridge, having been admitted to the association.

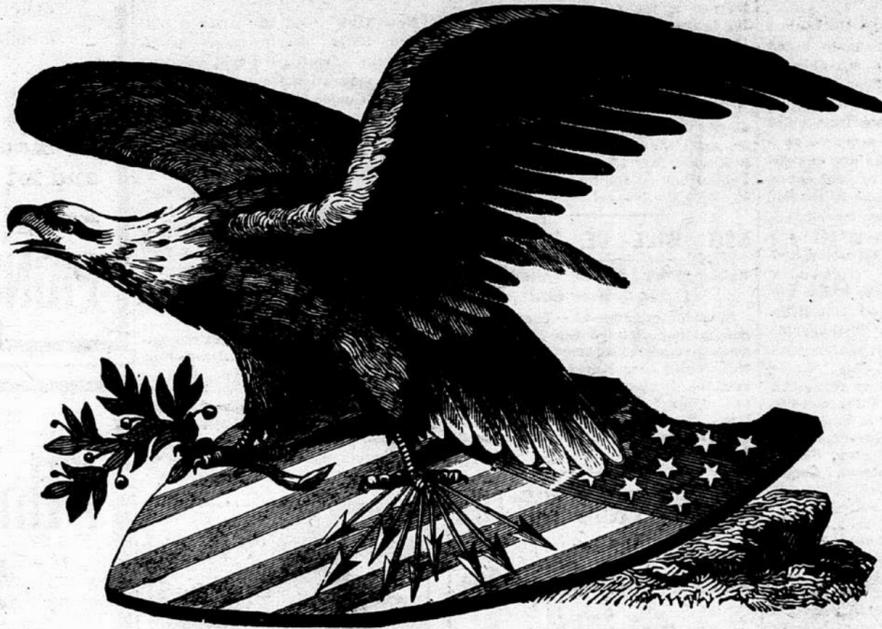
Mr. Hogan is a native of Ireland, but has resided in Winona county since 1850. His offspring include thirteen children, twenty-four grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

He celebrated the hundredth anniversary of his birth on the fourth of March last.

Dr. Jos. Preisinger of Renville, Minn., is visiting with his mother this week.

Chas. Kaiser went to Mankato Tuesday where his sister Mrs. Bertha Marose was operated upon for cancer of the stomach.

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT! THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR, WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS; THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.



Let the Eagle Scream.

NO TRADE FROM FILIPINOS

Figures show that Islanders Buy their Goods in other Countries.

Serious Question for Administration.

Figures recently compiled by the bureau of statistics regarding the trade of the Philippines show what a serious question the Taft administration has to solve regarding the eastern market. Out of a total value of imports into the islands in 1908, of \$29,186,120 only \$9,906,697 were imports from the United States, the great bulk being imported from other countries. The chief imports were cotton goods, rice, iron and steel, dairy products, flour, leather goods, wines and liquors, paper goods, chemicals, drugs, dyes, medicines and wood manufacturers.

The Philippine exports for 1908 amounted to \$32,601,072. These consisted mainly of hemp, copra, sugar and tobacco.

Pioneer Settler Dies.

After an illness covering a period of about three weeks, Charles A. Kayser, a former county official of Nicollet county and one of the very early settlers of this part of the state, passed away last Monday, June 21. His death being due to nephritis and heart trouble. Charles A. Kayser was born in Sieber, Hanover, Germany, Sept. 17, 1827, and had nearly attained his 82nd year. He came to this country in the early 50's, and for a time after his arrival lived in Arkansas. Then he came to Minnesota, reaching St. Peter in 1856, the year before Minnesota's admission as a state.

Mr. Kayser first served the county in an official capacity as clerk of the court, being elected to the office in 1861 and serving a term of four years. In 1876 he was elected county treasurer, and remained in the office until 1888. After his retirement he bought wheat in this city and at Winthrop but in recent years had not engaged in active work. Mr. Kayser was an honest, upright man, and in his death there disappears one of the prominent figures of territorial times.

Left to mourn his loss are his widow, seven sons and two daughters. The children are: Wm. C. Kayser, Milbank, S. D.; F. O. Kayser, Pittsburg, Pa.; Albert H. Kayser, San Diego, Cal.; Herman W. Kayser, Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. N. B. Patten, Minneapolis; Mrs. Barney Wood, Hastings, Neb.; Mrs. J. M. Lambert, St. Peter. —St. Peter Herald.

Saturday night lightning struck Carl Rosenau's house near the race track, doing considerable damage to the building.

There will be a Picnic at the Catholic church park Saturday July 3rd with a great variety of Amusements. Good Music and refreshments.

AND NOW FOR THE FOURTH

Next Saturday New Ulm will be Visited by Thousands. Everybody Anticipates a Grand Celebration of the Fourth. Special Features to Entertain All.

City Profusely Decorated.

Next Saturday New Ulm will be the Mecca for many thousand people who will come to celebrate the "Glorious Fourth," and give expression to their patriotism and enjoy at least one or several of the many features that are offered on that day.

All arrangements have been completed by the committee and all indications point to a grand and successful celebration of the nation's birthday. Let everybody turn out and invite your friends to come and participate in the joyous features that New Ulm offers on that day.

PACT OR WAR

Time for Either at Hand.

England as ruler of the seas of the world and Germany as the dominant power in Europe is the plan proposed by Maximilian Harden, editor of Die Zukunft, who became a prominent figure in Germany by his fearless exposure of the gross immoralities of a clique of courtiers that had ingratiated themselves into the kaiser's favor, including Prince Zu Eulenberg.

Writing in his paper Harden says the time has come for an Anglo-German pact, whereby Germany will permit England to seize the Congo Free State and any other district and territories she desires and will recognize England's mastery of the seas throughout the world. In return for this England is to recognize Germany's predominance in Europe and her needs for territorial expansion, permitting her to absorb any other European country she may desire to and to extend her frontiers in any direction. Unless Germany and England can work in harmony secure, one or the other must be crushed.

Aitken Man Named.

Gov. John A. Johnson announced the appointment of John B. Galarneault of Aitken as state superintendent of banks under the new law which will take effect Aug. 10.

Mr. Galarneault is at present a member of the state highway commission.

The governor said today that he would not announce Mr. Galarneault's successor nor any of the other appointments in the state banking department until he returns next month from his lecture tour.

Mrs. Geo. E. Brown of Minneapolis is visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Schrock.

BISHOP COTTER DEAD

Churchman Succumbs to Long Illness. Came to State in 1855.

Had Large Diocese.

Winona, Minn., June 28.—Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph B. Cotter died at his home in this city late Sunday night.

The illness which resulted in the venerable churchman's demise dates back a number of years. He had had relapses, but each one yielded to medical treatment, and he was able to continue his work until about April 1st.

Accompanied by Rev. Father Gallagher, the bishop left here early in April for Atlantic City, where it was believed the change of climate would benefit him. He grew gradually worse, however, heart trouble making it extremely difficult for him to breathe. The return home was made about the middle of May, and he had been in serious condition since that time.

Rev. J. B. Cotter was born in Liverpool, Eng., Nov. 19th, 1844. While he was still very young his people came to America, and located at Cleveland, O., later removing to St. Paul. His father, Lawrence P. Cotter, was a journalist by profession and served several terms as city clerk of St. Paul. Joseph Cotter was ordained a priest May 21, 1871, in St. Paul and the following June, the 9th, assumed charge of the pro-cathedral of St. Thomas of Winona, where he had been since.

For a number of years he was a lecturer for the Total Abstinence society of America and secured over 60,000 pledges as a result of his work. He was consecrated first bishop of Winona Dec. 27, 1889, by Archbishop John Ireland.

The diocese over which he presided embraces the two southern tiers of Minnesota, together with Wabasha county on the third tier. Its total membership exceeds 45,000.

About 20 young couples attended the dance at the Woodmen Hall Friday evening and all had a most enjoyable time. It is considered as having been one of the biggest social events of the season amongst the young people. Excellent music was furnished by a local orchestra. Lunch was served at 12 o'clock and dancing continued till 1 o'clock.

Last week the Swedish Ev. Lutheran church at Winthrop celebrated its 25th anniversary. One of the features of this occasion was a reunion of members of the 23 confirmation classes. There were 174 members present of the 420 confirmed since the organization of the church. Rev. L. P. Bergstrom is the pastor at present but will soon take up a new field of labor.

Dr. Mihleis, while attending the convention of the State Dental Association in St. Paul last week, received notice of the death of his father at Ellsworth, Wis. The Dr. immediately left for that place and is expected to return to this city today, accompanied by his wife, who had been staying with Mr. Mihleis sen. for two months previous to his death.

LEDBETER MYSTERY SOLVED

His Body Found Late Sunday Afternoon in an Improvised Grave on his own Farm. The Wired Hand, Frank Smith, Accuses Wife of the Murder. Confesses to having Assisted in the Burial of the Remains.

Four Have Been arrested.

The fate of Holly J. Ledbeter, the farmer who mysteriously disappeared May 5th from his home in Limetown, is, indeed, a sad one. He was murdered in cold blood and his lifeless body dumped into a hole on his own farm. Ever since his disappearance search was made unsuccessfully until Sunday evening. It was then that the horrible fact of the fiendish deed was revealed and made known to the public. The parties of the suspected deed are locked securely behind the bars and await justice which will be meted out to them according to the intensity of their crime.

The story of Ledbetters disappearance is known. It was said that Ledbeter disappeared on the morning of May 5th, the last seen of him by his wife and those on the farm was at the barn on his premises. He failed to respond to the breakfast call and an alarm was sounded. Neighbors responded and they instituted a search, but no clew was obtained as to his whereabouts. Stories were told of how Ledbeter was financially involved and that this worried him greatly, and his sudden leave-taking was the result of mental depression. This story was accepted by many while others were convinced that Ledbeter was a victim of foul play. Mrs. Ledbeter was repeatedly interviewed by the sheriff and he was of the opinion that no crime had been committed. But notwithstanding this impression in his own mind, the sheriff and his deputies had not given up the search. Deputy Sheriff Phillips maintained all along that Ledbeter had been murdered.

However, it was not until P. A. Ledbeter of Hayward, Wis., a brother of the dead man, arrived in Mankato last week that it was determined to make a systematic search for the missing man. The Wisconsin Ledbeter was of the belief that his brother had been foully dealt with, and it was upon that theory that the hunters who invaded the farm on Saturday afternoon proceeded with their work and successfully finished it on Sunday evening.

The story of the missing man's brother, who, receiving no intimation of the disappearance of his brother except through the papers came to Mankato determined to prosecute a search for him, at first believing him alive, and later convinced that he had been murdered, yet discouraged on every side by the police, has scarcely a parallel.

P. A. Ledbeter, upon arriving here about a week ago, visited his brother's

wife and the neighbors on adjacent farms. He announced last Thursday that he was determined to search the entire farm systematically, and for that purpose summoned friends of the family from Minnesota Lake, Medo and Redwood Falls, as well as the neighbors round about, to help him. In all about 400 persons were involved in the search. He bought in Mankato muskrat spears with which to prod about in the ground for the body, which he believed to be buried on the farm.

The party gathered Saturday morning, but was hindered by a heavy rain that continued throughout the day. Sunday morning, however, the day dawned clear, and from far and near the searchers gathered to take up the hunt. The party was attended by Deputy Sheriff Phillips, newspaper reporters and many people from Mankato, and had almost given up the search when Matt Sanger, a neighboring farmer, found the body. He had one of the 200 muskrat spears the brother of the dead man purchased for the search, and, jabbing it into the ground, met an irresistible substance, which proved to be the dead man's foot. The other members of the party which has been searching for two days were called and the body was exhumed.

Smith, according to the authorities, has confessed, implicating Mrs. H. J. Ledbeter, wife of the murdered man, claiming she killed her husband while he was asleep, and Charles Schwandt, brother-in-law of the victim, who is said to have helped the hired man dispose of the body.

Smith, Mrs. Ledbeter and Mrs. Charles Schwandt, sister of Mrs. Ledbeter, are under arrest.

William Schwandt, Sanborn business man, has also been arrested and brought to Mankato to answer the charge of being an accessory to the Ledbeter murder. He denies Smith's story and all knowledge of the murder.

When arrested and charged with the murder, Smith, the hired man, made a statement charging Mrs. Ledbeter with the murder. Smith asserted she said:

"Because I want to get him out of the way so I can love you."

Smith says that on the evening of May 4 he and Ledbeter retired about 9 o'clock. He was awakened about 12 o'clock by Mrs. Ledbeter, who had her arm about his neck and said:

"I've killed him at last!" She then led him downstairs, he says, and he saw Ledbeter lying on the bed bleeding, a kerosene lamp throwing feeble rays over the death chamber.

"While we were standing there," says Smith, "Ledbeter moaned and moved convulsively."

"With a remark I did not hear, Mrs. Ledbeter took an ax from the floor beside the bed and hit her husband four or five times on the head, crushing it into a mass, the blood flying all over the room."

They then took the body to the barn, Smith says, and buried it in a shallow hole, leaving one hand sticking out. Two weeks later the body had to be removed, he says, because of the odor. Accordingly, one afternoon, Smith says he dug a hole in the field.

"That night Schwandt and I placed the chest of the dead man over the fence," Smith says, "and Mrs. Schwandt and Mrs. Ledbeter each took a leg, and thus we carried the remains to the grave and covered it with dirt."

The story as told by Smith is denied by both Mrs. Ledbeter and Mrs. Schwandt. The autopsy disclosed that Ledbeter's head was split open by a blunt instrument like the back of an ax by an upward blow on the forehead and several other severe blows on the head. One theory is that Smith struck the fatal blow and when Ledbeter subsequently gasped, Mrs. Ledbeter struck him repeatedly with an ax. Efforts to shake them in their statements have thus far failed. Officers are endeavoring to connect Schwandt more nearly with the case and have developed several things tending to show ill feeling between the men. Schwandt was in charge of Ledbeter's store in Sanborn where Ledbeter lost several thousand dollars last fall. At that time Schwandt married Mrs. Ledbeter's sister, Goldie Harmon of Shell Lake, Wis.

After the persons implicated in the crime had been jailed a mob of citizens gathered around the jail some of the louder ones demanding Smith, whom they accused of breaking up a home. Four extra deputies were sworn in and the mob left, after being threatened with arrest.

A. Meidl who had his finger caught in a wheel at the Electric Works last week was taken to the hospital to undergo an operation for blood poisoning as a result of the accident.