

SHARP DEBATE ON REFERENDUM

Amended Pfander Bill Gets Through the House.

JULIUS SCHMAHL EXONERATED

Committee Decides He Did Not Pay Too Much for Automobile Tags, as Had Been Alleged.

(Special Correspondence).

St. Paul, March 13.—Initiative and referendum, at percentages of 20 and 40, has passed the house. In the passage of the bill the Democrats have won prestige and have secured the passage of the bill introduced by the Democratic floor leader, Albert Pfander of New Ulm, and known as the Pfander bill. Following the defeat of the Campbell bill of the day before, which fixed the percentages at 10 and 7, the house, Friday, passed the Pfander bill by a vote of 63 to 50, or fourteen majority for the measure. Seventeen of the twenty-four Democratic members voted for the bill. The percentage, as fixed, is the highest in the United States. The passage of the Pfander bill followed a vigorous debate, which included personalities at times, so much so that the speaker was compelled to caution the members to hold their tempers as well as their wagging tongues. The measure was amended in several different ways before it was passed and members said they refused to vote for it, in some cases, because they did not know what it really meant. The bill does not give the people the right to initiate constitutional amendments, but appropriation measures are not barred. One of the provisions of the bill, inserted for the purpose of preventing the use of the initiative by some small section of the state, is that which requires the petition to initiate, in addition to the required 30 per cent, to have 7 per cent of the voters from three-fifths of the counties. The bill allows only such measures to be initiated as have been defeated by the legislature.

The committee on public accounts and expenditures holds that Secretary of State Julius Schmahd did not pay too much for automobile tags, as has been charged. It was alleged that the secretary of state had paid 35 cents for the tags that he could have secured for 15 cents. The report of the sub-committee, headed by Representative F. L. Farley, completely exonerates the secretary of state, holding that while a good price was paid there is no evidence to show they could have been obtained any cheaper.

The special investigating committee which is looking into the charges against State Engineer George Ralph is going thoroughly into the work. This committee is made up of fair minded men and if there is anything wrong with the situation they will find it out. The men under investigation will also be given a fair hearing. While the investigation is in progress it will be well to remember that the men making up the investigation committee are Representatives Knapp, chairman; Robertson, Moriarty, Crane and Fowler. They are among the cleanest and ablest men in the house. Last week State Auditor Iverson was one of the principal witnesses.

It cost the state of Minnesota something like \$60,000 to engage the services of Architect Clarence H. Johnston during the year 1910. When the board of control was first organized one of the strong arguments for it was that a state architect could be engaged for something like \$7,500. Instead of engaging an architect on a salary basis the board now pays him 2 per cent on all buildings costing over \$50,000 and 3 per cent on buildings costing less than \$50,000. During the year 1910 the construction of buildings aggregating \$2,793,258 was authorized. The biggest slice of this was the state prison at Stillwater, which will cost \$2,000,000. This leaves \$793,258 for other state buildings. Allowing the state architect 2 per cent for the plans and construction of the state prison he would receive from this one job \$40,000. Allowing him 3 per cent for the other buildings, although this is possibly more than he actually receives, as some of the contracts may be over \$50,000, he would receive an additional \$23,797.74, or \$63,797.74 in all for his year's work. It is explained in the board of control that the architect, in addition to drawing the plans for the building, superintends its construction, employs his own draughtsmen, and that he already has been working on the matter over a year

before the building started. They also say that 5 and 7 per cent is the usual rate fixed by architects and that it would be impossible to secure a good architect at a salary and that the building of the state prison made Architect Johnston's job an unusually good one in 1910. Mr. Johnston has an office in St. Paul and the state of Minnesota is only one of his clients.

An attempt is being made by the board of regents of the university to force the hands of the men in the senate who are supporting the Rockne resolution, which demands that Minnesota material be used in the construction of state buildings at the university or elsewhere. The board of control is holding up the letting of contracts for the main medical building, the anatomy building and the engineering building on the ground that if the Rockne resolution should pass they will be up against the proposition of being compelled to have the contracts let all over again. They profess to believe that the use of Minnesota material would greatly raise the cost of the buildings. The regents also claim that it is necessary for them to go outside for material for the purpose of preserving the architectural harmony of the university building scheme, which was long ago decided upon. This doesn't greatly appeal to the members of the legislature who would like to see Minnesota material encouraged and they say that if the regents made a mistake long ago there is no reason why they should continue it now.

Senator James P. Boyle of Eveleth would make the tramp work. He has introduced a bill, fathered by the associated charities, providing for the establishment of an institution where the tramp could be absolved from the microbe of laziness and injected with the microbe of energy. It is assumed that when Mr. Tramp comes out of this institution he will be inspired with a feverish energy which would put the former strenuous president to shame. He will tackle wood piles and down other obstacles with alacrity and enthusiasm. The bringing about of this radical change would cost only \$100,000, according to Senator Boyle, and he wants the state to appropriate that sum.

The senate, by a majority of three, passed the house measure which would make an exception, relative to the anti-pass bill, in favor of policemen and firemen. This is the measure which has been severely criticised as letting down the bars for a final abrogation of the anti-pass law and it may be vetoed by the governor. The executive is looking over the bill very carefully and it is understood he has grave doubts about its wisdom. It is understood that he would feel more kindly towards it had it made it obligatory upon the street car people to give the policemen and firemen passes, rather than optional. As it is he fears that it will furnish the street railway corporations in the cities an opportunity to build up political machines for their own advantage besides being the first step in the direction of the abolition of the anti-pass law.

Good roads for Minnesota is now a possibility. The senate passed the Dunn good roads bill, introduced by Robert C. Dunn of Princeton. The measure caused some debate in the senate, where some amendments of a minor character were offered. The bill then went back to the house, where it was quickly passed as amended. The governor's signature will make the two measures a law. One proposes to appropriate \$150,000 for the use of the highway commission and organize the machinery by which the money for good roads is to be spent in the future. The other proposes a constitutional amendment levying a 1-mill tax for the support of the good roads propaganda in the state.

The investigation of the Red Wing state industrial school has been in progress during the week and this week the committee will visit the school. A number of friends of Superintendent Whittier have been on the stand to testify to the good work of the school. The question resolves itself into one of whether or not corporal punishment will be continued in the institution.

Reapportionment had its first inning in the senate last week. The Congdon bill, passed by an overwhelming majority in the house, has been recommended to pass by the senate's reapportionment committee. Several minor amendments relative to representative districts and one senatorial district were tacked on in the committee. The recommendation to pass was carried by a vote of 12 to 6.

Lawyers fared pretty well in the election contests that were before the state senate this winter. The expense bills submitted show that it cost the men involved \$15,636.16 to prosecute and defend their cases. Of this sum the lawyers received \$9,880 for fees,

or two-thirds of the entire amount.

Committee reports appear to be worthless in the house. In nearly every instance the house overturns them and goes gleefully on its course. The habit of allowing authors of bills to have them placed on the calendar has grown so that the calendar is being cluttered up with useless timber that will never be passed and which is saddling a large and needless expense on the state.

Woman suffrage had some unique experiences in the senate last week. Some of the women of Minneapolis have petitioned that the bill be killed, a fact that has had a tendency to make the bill a little stronger. A motion was made in the senate to indefinitely postpone and this was lost by a vote of 23 to 23. Another motion to recommend the bill for passage was defeated by a vote of 26 to 20. The chair decided to leave the bill on general orders.

CITY COUNCIL DOINGS

Property Owners on North Franklin Oppose Street Improvements. Council Petitioned to Sprinkle Broadway. Fire Limits to be Re-Districted.

Zupfer Damage Case Settled.

The question of sprinkling part of Broadway during the coming summer season was argued before the city council last session by N. Henningsen, J. H. Sigel and Dr. O. C. Strickler. Pres. Buenger reminded these gentlemen of the fact that already last year, Broadway had been included in the sprinkling district but owing to strong opposition of a number of residents on that street the desired improvement could not be carried out. The assurance, however, was given that the question will receive proper attention this year and the matter was referred to the Board of Public Works for further investigation. The petitioners desired to have Broadway sprinkled from Fourth North St. to Fourth So. St.

A number of property owners on N. Franklin St. in a petition to the council protested against the proposed improvements of grading, graveling and boulevarding that street between Seventh and Twelfth St. North. Others again petitioned the council to have the improvements carried out. The matter will be taken up for final action at the regular April session of the council.

According to a report of Health Officer, Dr. Vogel, there were seven scarlet fever cases in the city during the past six months. In the same report this official advised for our city the introduction of a regular garbage system. According to the doctor's suggestions all refuse and ashes ought to be removed once or twice a week instead of once or twice a year as has been customary in the past. The city fathers took favorably to the suggestions of Dr. Vogel and requested him to submit definite plans along these lines at the next regular meeting.

Chief Engel of the fire department urged the necessity of buying an additional 1,000 feet of hose stating that the old rubber hose now in use could not be relied upon in a case of emergency. The city clerk was instructed to advertise for bids which will be opened at the next regular April session.

Grebe and Emmerich asked the council for part payment of the contract price (\$1,585) for laying the water mains to Dr. Martin Luther college. They were granted the amount of \$1,100 which was ordered paid.

The appointment by the mayor of Chas. Vogtel as member on the Board of Park Commissioners was confirmed. The committee appointed to investigate the conditions of the Anton Zupfer family reported that food, clothing and fuel to the amount of \$48.40 had been purchased for the family, which assistance on the part of the city takes the place of a cash settlement which Mr. Zupfer demanded from the city on account of injuries sustained by him by falling on a defective sidewalk on Fifth North St. last June.

Alderman Mueller, Meyer and Gieseke were appointed by Pres. Buenger to act as a committee in conjunction with the city attorney and the chief of the fire department to draw up an ordinance re-districting the city fire limits. The fire districts, as recommended by Chief Engel, will be limited by the following streets: Fifth North, German, Second So. and Washington.

Representatives of several electric companies were present setting forth the qualities of their respective goods and making strong efforts to induce the council to buy the electric light globes from their respective concerns. The Bryan-Marsch Co. was awarded the contract.

The cities income during the past month was as follows: from light and water consumers \$3,181.68; the receipts of the city scaler amounted to \$23.50. The municipal water plant pumped 4,143,146 gallons of water during the month of February.

Building permits were issued as follows: C. F. Kaiser, building of a carpenter shop, 40x30 feet in the rear of his lot on South German street; Herm. Radloff, erection of a porch and covering residence with tin roof; And. Steinbach, addition to his residence, to be covered with sheet iron; F. C. Schnobrich, porch at the rear of his building on South Minnesota street, to be covered with sheet iron. The request of F. Fritsche for permission to build a frame cottage on South Minnesota St. was held over for the next special meeting.

The judges for spring election to be held on April 4th, were appointed as follows: 1st ward, J. A. Ochs, F. C. Schnobrich and P. J. Soukup; 2nd ward, L. J. Buenger, Theo. Mueller and H. D. Beussmann; 3rd ward, W. H. Gieseke, A. J. Meyer and Christ Filzen, Jr. Registration day will be one week before election, on Tuesday, March 28th.

Special Session Monday Night.

At the special meeting of the city council held Monday evening, the Board of Public Works reported favorably in regard to sprinkling Broadway from Fourth So to Fourth No. St. The council adopted a resolution embodying the recommendation of the board. By resolution the sprinkling district on Minnesota St. was extended to Fourth So. St. and on State St. Seventh No. St.

Town and Village Election Returns.

VILLAGE OF COURTLAND
Pres., Herman Poehler
Trustees, Wm. Sommer, D. W. Vomhof, W. F. Stege
Treas., Otto Berlich
Clerk, C. W. Block
Justice, E. D. Precht, Wm. Hulke
Constable., Jens Knutson, E. C. Etter
Assessor, H. F. Lange

VILLAGE OF HANSKA:
President, N. J. Ouren
Councilmen, Christ Hanson, F. C. Jensen, M. B. Erickson
Recorder, A. R. Eggensperger
Treas., Einar Toenberg
Assessor, Christ Ahlness
Justices of the Peace, Christ Ahlness, Henry Anderson

The license question was again the main issue and the "Drys" won the day. The vote stood 23 to 49 in favor of "No license."

SIGEL
Supervisor, Thomas Stadick
Clerk, J. A. Seilner
Treas., Wm. Berg
Assessor, Henry Waibel
Justice of the Peace, John P. Mandorfeld
Constable, Robt. Seifert, Jos. J. Soukup

Road Overseer—No. 1, John H. Hoffmann; No. 2, Jos. J. Soukup; No. 3, Frank Holm; No. 4, Edw. W. Flor.

NICOLLET VILLAGE
President, A. C. Grams
Councilmen, H. E. Aastrom, J. Q. Carrier, Hermann Stege
Recorder, F. C. Johannes
Treasurer, O. C. Heidemann
Assessor, A. J. Nelson
Justice of Peace, F. H. Olson
Constable, Henry Epper
Street Commissioner, A. H. Burg

TOWNSHIP OF COURTLAND
Supervisor, Julius Schroeder
Clerk, Louis Precht
Treasurer, Nick Reinhart
Justice of Peace, Christ Spelbrink
Assessor, Fr. Rengstorf

MILFORD
Supervisor, Wm. Gluth
Clerk, Henry J. Meyer
Treasurer, Fred Rolloff
Assessor, Herm. Albrecht
Justice of Peace, Peter Furth
Constable, Robert Lambrecht
Roadoverseer—No. 1, Fritz Meyer; No. 2, Andrew Backer; No. 3, Albert Orth; No. 4, John Essig; No. 5, Fred Rolloff; No. 6, John Gareis; No. 7, Herm. Pfander.

COTTONWOOD
Supervisor, Theo. Waibel
Clerk, Jos. J. Sperl
Treasurer, Geo. C. Griebel
Assessor, Herm. Fritsche
Justice of Peace, A. A. Schlumberger

Constable, Geo. Kopp, Geo. Jahnke
Road Overseer—No. 1, Paul Sturm; No. 2, Joe Fessenmaier; No. 3, P. P. Mandorfeld; No. 4, Andrew Groebner; No. 5, Joe Schmidt Jr.; No. 6, John Amann Jr.; No. 7, Mike B. Werner.
The amount of \$600 was appropriated for general town expenses.

TOWNSHIP OF NICOLLET
Supervisor, O. K. Dorr
Clerk, John C. Brass
Treasurer, Chas. Goodell
Assessor, Chas. Wells
Justice of Peace, Thomas Hudson
Constable, Geo. Peterson, Aug. Thom

The amount of \$1500 was appropriated for roads and bridges.

COMFREY
President, F. W. Renner
Councilmen, P. J. Carlson, J. G. Holm, Theo. Englof
Recorder, W. B. Brooks
Treasurer, A. M. Bradbury
Justice of Peace, Jos. Schumacker, C. W. Schaefer
Constable, (holds over)
Assessor, Jos. Schumacker

SPRINGFIELD
President, James Dickson
Trustees, Albert Paffrath, Sebastian Wagner, Julius Bauch
Recorder, Adolph Frederickson
Treasurer, E. F. Nippold
Assessor, Mike Huiras
Constable, Aug. Bigot
There was an opposition ticket to

the caucus ticket in the field. The latter won with the exception of the president and recorder.

EVAN
President, Christ Jensen
Councilmen, Christ Mogensen, John C. Foster, W. H. Hartman
Recorder, C. R. Tetrehm
Treasurer, E. Rasmussen
Justice of Peace, Wm. G. McPhee
Constable, Ferd. Mogensen
Assessor, E. Rasmussen
Town went dry by a vote 10 for and 23 against license.

COBDEN
President, D. M. Jenkins
Councilmen, F. Berisand, Thomas Peterson, Duncan McPhee
Recorder, John M. Steinh
Treasurer, R. M. West
Justice of Peace, Axel Newdall two years, P. J. Hundevad one year
Constable, Wm. Messerschmidt
Assessor, John D. Stewart

HOME
Supervisor, C. F. Robertson
Clerk, Wm. Dey
Treasurer, Wm. Current
Assessor, Frank Romberg
Justice of Peace, Jos. Hansen
Constable, holds over
Roadoverseer, 1 L. Current, 2, Frank Cuttle, 3, Ernest Pickle, 4, Alex Pickle, 5, Alex Murphy, 6, Wm. Lang, 7, Andr. Losleben, 8, Jos. Hauser, 9, William Frank, Henry Romberg, 10, Fred Krenz.

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OF

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Monday, Mch. 20



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