

## Tragic Events Of Week Past

### Trio of Fatal Happenings. An Accidental Death, a Murder, and a Suicide.

Last week was a time of dire happenings to several persons well-known in this vicinity. A farm hand was killed while intoxicated on the railroad track near Evan Tuesday, a Mankato policeman was shot and instantly killed Friday morning, his slayer committing suicide immediately, and a young man lost his left hand in operating a circle saw on his father's farm in Milford Thursday.

The first of the three casualties was discovered when the Redwood train reached Sleepy Eye Tuesday evening at 6:12 and the wheels of the engine were found to be spattered with blood and bits of flesh. When the Marshall train pulled in similar conditions were found and an investigation was begun. Neither firemen nor engineers on either train had noticed any obstruction on the track. The section foreman at Sleepy Eye and Engineer Webb took a handcar and lanterns and ran back to where pieces of a man's body were found scattered about the track some two miles east of Evan. The clothing was torn to shreds and the body ground into small pieces so that it was past recognition but for the finding of some small articles scattered about which had been purchased by the unfortunate man during the day in Sleepy Eye. These purchases proved him to be Christian Larson, a farm laborer employed by Rasmus Peterson living west of Evan. He had been in Sleepy Eye during the afternoon and it seems missed the train back and started to walk home. He had been drinking and probably sat or lay down upon the track and fell asleep. Coroner Reineke was called and decided no inquest was necessary as death was plainly accidental. The victim had been in this country but two years and nothing was known of his family. He was about 55 years old.

Thursday afternoon Ed. Vogel was working with a wood sawing outfit on his father's farm. Suddenly he slipped and fell against the rapidly moving saw and before he knew what was happening his left hand had been severed from his arm and he had sustained several cuts in the flesh of his chest. His wounds were dressed at St. Alexander's Hospital.

The third in the trio of untoward events of the week was the shooting of Officer Budde of the Mankato police force by Aloysius Schuette, son of a former Mankato policeman. The young man had become mentally deranged and has a mania that made his parents fear violence as he continually talked of his desire to kill Governor Eberhart and President Taft. He was finally persuaded by his father to go to the Sacred Heart Sanitarium in Milwaukee for treatment and Officer Budde was detailed to accompany him. The two men had been close friends and it is supposed that young Schuette became suddenly insane and shot Budde. The Milwaukee papers state that the other passengers in the smoking car where the tragedy was enacted heard a slight dispute between the two men over a seat and it is supposed the opposition to Schuette's wishes inflamed his diseased mind, making a violent maniac of him. After seeing Officer Budde fall back in his seat following the shot the insane man turned the gun upon himself and fired two shots, the latter causing almost instantaneous death.

Officer Budde was 45 years old and leaves a family. Schuette was 23 and unmarried.

F. P. Starr is confined to his home with a severe case of grippe. Mr. Doehne is also suffering from a like affliction.

Miss Lulu Doehne entertained a party of friends at a thimble-bee last Wednesday. The decorations were in pink and yellow and delicious refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fesenmaier were agreeably surprised Friday evening at their home on N. Minn. St., in honor of their silver wedding anniversary. Cards were played and prizes were awarded to the following: Mrs. Chas. Engelbert, George Vetter and Mrs. Otto Schneider.

## Juvenile Court Needed Here

Concrete proof that Supt. Merica of the Training School was correct in a statement made at his recent lecture in New Ulm that children are forced into crime by the prevailing social and economic conditions was furnished Thursday morning when Eugene Small, a lad not quite 13 years old was in Justice B. H. Deters' court on information filed against him for the purpose of having him committed to the State Training School. The lad who was born here is the son of Ed. Small and has lived in Denver, Col. for the past three years. His mother died several years ago and since then the boy has had no real home and has simply gone to the bad.

According to his own admissions he was a member of a gang of juvenile thieves at Denver and volunteered the statement that he stole \$15 from a woman and used this money to defray his expenses to New Ulm where he arrived January 16th. He is a bright little fellow and made a very favorable impression on the various persons that he called on. Two of our business men were so favorably impressed that they were planning to find a home for the boy and send him to school but the escapades of the young fellow as they were related in Justice Court precluded any such action on the part of our good citizens.

It appeared from the testimony that the boy took \$1.80 from his grandfather, B. Marschner, \$1.50 of which he blew in on a slot machine. He also took a watch from Seber, the furrier, a compass and other articles from the home of Dr. L. A. Fritsche and wound up by stealing a \$40 gold watch from the home of Herman Mueller across the river.

At the hearing County Attorney Frederickson appeared for the State and Richard Higgs represented the accused. The evidence was so conclusive that City Justice Deters could not do otherwise than enter an order committing Eugene to the State Training School. Judge Olsen to whom the evidence was submitted approved the findings on Tuesday and Sheriff W. J. Julius will take the lad to the Training school this week.

## That Ubiquitous Ghost.

The "Ghost" story grows by leaps and bounds until a goodly number of New Ulm's fairer sex hesitate about going about alone after dusk falls. The phantom is seen here, there and the other place, and strange to say the accounts of what he, (she or it?) looks like quite generally tally with one another and lend color to the belief that someone is very foolishly tempting fate by playing pranks. One of our citizens on going to bed saw his "Ghostly Highness" (all accounts agree that the specter is exceedingly tall) emerge from the alley back of Postmaster Liesch's residence and turn into Washington Street, Sunday evening, gliding along in most approved ghostly fashion. Others have seen him appear, wraith-like, from the rear of Buenger's furniture store. One young woman going home along German Street was terror stricken by seeing what she believed was the disturbing creature. This latter adventure however was explained away by those who said the girl had seen the moon shining on a pile of ice. Another story had it that one of our brave young men had chased the ghost and heaved a stone at it, whereupon the ghost leaped a fence in quite human fashion. Persistent rumors Monday and Tuesday had the ghost lodged in the County Jail but if there he must be a real ghost for our sheriff declares that the ghost is invisible to him. Equally persistent rumors said the ghost had been caught by someone and given a good drubbing before being turned over to Landlord Julius. A number of the North State Street residents where the ghost seems to make his most numerous are said to be prepared to give the offender a warm reception. It is our opinion that the imprudent night-walker will quietly cease his pranks and disappear—as indeed would be the wisest course considering the satisfactory excitement he has succeeded in stirring up.

Herman Bentzin of Cottonwood recently sold his farm of 153 acres to Christ Stulber of Milford, the price being something over \$91 per acre, or \$12,500 in all. A son of Mr. Stulber will run the farm and will take possession in March at which time Mr. Bentzin will move his family into New Ulm. They will occupy the house owned by them at 406 South State Street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Starr.

## Senator Wallace's Measure Branded An Iniquitous Scheme

### Bill Said To Be Framed In Interests Of The Corporations.

### Private Secretaries For Burnquist and Rines Cost State \$2000.00

In depositing Senator Carl Wallace from the tax committee and placing him at the head of the committee on corporations, Lieutenant Governor J. A. A. Burnquist owes the progressive republicans an explanation. If Senator Wallace exerted an improper influence over tax legislation, and that he did, there seems to be little occasion to question, why was he placed at the head of the committee which at this session at least will be as important, if not more so, than the tax committee?

Mr. Burnquist knew that one of the most important measures would be a public utilities commission. Senator Wallace as chairman of the committee on corporations, introduced a measure providing for such a commission and it will be his measure over which most of the discussion will take place. It is not the intention of the writer to present an argument for or against a public utilities commission, but the iniquity of Senator Wallace's measure should be shown up in no uncertain terms. Progressive democrats in the senate have an excellent opportunity when this bill is up for discussion to show their mettle.

That Senator Wallace did not write the bill goes without saying. It was penned by a skilled hand. There is a serious conviction that it was drawn in the legal department of a big public service corporation. At any rate it is a bill which could be endorsed by all the legal departments of all the public service corporations in the state. The responsibility for this measure is partly Mr. Burnquist's fault for placing a man at the head of the corporation committee whose convictions are such that he leans toward the corporation side of every question.

A few features of the Wallace bill are sufficient to convince any one of its source. The law provides that the members of the proposed commission should be appointed. Make them elective and Mr. Wallace and those backing the bill know that it will be lost. Another provision of the bill provides that if a municipality desires to acquire one of the public service corporations, it will take three-fifths of those voting at the election to start the action. Three-fifths of all voting at an election is a safe margin for the public service corporation. After the voters decide they want to operate the utility, they must then go into court and submit the necessity of the taking of the property to a jury. This is only a portion of Senator Wallace's bill. There are other features equally hostile to the best interests of municipalities. The wonder of it all is, however, why did Mr. Burnquist, usually recognized as a progressive, appoint Senator Wallace chairman of the corporation committee? Will any progressive republican, or just plain progressive, step forward with an explanation?

It might be well to say in this connection that the public utilities are backing the Wallace bill. The democratic side of both houses is in full possession of facts. It is hardly likely that they will stand behind the forces agitating this measure. The measure may be clothed in progressive attire but it is a reactionary bill and the democrats should be on their guard. Several prominent members of the democratic delegation are just itching to get at the Wallace bill.

Senator Works of Mankato, probably will receive the solid backing of the democrats for his measure to abolish the board of visitors. This board has been used by Governor Eberhart to harass the board of control because that board is controlled by the democratic members. As long as the board was in harmony with the chief executive the board of visitors was a quiescent body. No sooner was it known that P. M. Ringdal might oppose Governor Eberhart than the board became very active. Its secretary, James Matchitt, is a son-in-law of Sillas W. Leavitt, a former member of the board, who would like to fill Ringdal's shoes. Another member is J. T. Schain, Browns Valley. He is an applicant for Mr. Ringdal's position. With these facts known, how much credit should an intelligent public give the recent lurid reports of that board?

Is the Burnquist-Clague-Wallace-Haycraft machine in the senate after Senator Moonan's recall bill? At present it looks as though the machine in the senate was out to rob him of the credit his measure deserves, and also to render impossible his bill. Such a procedure was in operation when the senate was dominated by S. Y. Gordon. Unless a bill originated from his side of the senate it was promptly and effectually riddled.

Now the elections committee, of which Senator Haycraft is chairman, and the elite of Burnquist's machine are associate members, proposes an amendment to the Moonan bill which doubtless will kill it and clear the decks for a new bill under the championship of the senatorial clique. The amendment proposes to recall appointive officers. As everyone knows this would not be feasible or right. The elective officer and not his subordinate should be the one and the only one recalled. Through him, the public can reach the offending subordinate and fix responsibility at the same time. Senator Moonan by showing his ability in fathering clean cut progressive legislation has offended the Burnquist machine. The senate organization has proceeded far enough now to indicate clearly that Burnquist is going to give the democratic minority the same old deal which characterized Gordon's reign. Will it prove as disastrous to Burnquist's ambitions as it did to those of Gordon?

W. I. Nolan, Speaker Rines' floor leader was rebuked the other day by H. H. Dunn. The political and legislative "piety" of the Rines organization is getting offensive to both the Dunn and their following. The Lundeen motion for a committee on committees was up for discussion and Mr. Nolan, who supported a similar measure vigorously two years ago, opposed the same principle when directed against his own machine. This stirred H. H. Dunn, who said:

"I don't like to see any one member arrogate to himself all the tissue paper sweetness of progressiveness."

It will be noted that when the vote was taken several of Mr. Rines' supporters broke away from the organization. Chief among these was Thomas Strassman of Spring Valley, who is not pleased over his committee assignment. Mr. Frankson is too much in favor of tonnage tax and other matters, which are opposed by Rines and his immediate following. Other breaks in the motley group composing the Rines organization will be noticed from time to time in this column.

Last week was progressive week in St. Paul. The progressive Republicans met Thursday at the old capitol building and listened to Senator Kenyon. Progressives or bullmoosers attended rallies at the Merchants hotel and the auditorium and listened to Senator Beveridge and a battery of speakers sent out by the publicity department of the new national party. Republican members of both houses were kept busy running between the two conferences. Some stayed away, others attended one of the conferences and many went to both of them. In justice to the bullmoosers it should be said they put up the best showing.

To paraphrase one of Bryan's characterizations of Colonel Roosevelt's political evolution, one might say of Governor Adolph Olson Eberhart: "He did not enter the progressive vineyard at the eleventh hour, he waited until a quarter to twelve." During the primary campaign when it was known that the initiative and referendum composed the chief platform of P. M. Ringdal, Mr. Eberhart was silent upon the issue. During the election campaign, he was usually silent, although Mr. Ringdal went up and down the state expounding the initiative and referendum. Mr. Eberhart's friends counted noses in both the house and the senate and after determining that some kind of an initiative and referendum measure would probably pass, they proceeded to advise the governor to recommend it in his message.

Less than two weeks before the session convened, Ralph W. Wheelock declared that Governor Eberhart would not mention the initiative and referendum. Governor Eberhart himself was silent. At a quarter to twelve, however, he approves of the initiative and referendum, saying:

"There is today a genuine demand on the part of the people for direct legislation. No one questions the capacity of the American people for direct government."

Many questioned, however, whether Governor Eberhart sensed the "demand" during the primaries or the election campaign.

The convening of the legislature has revived gossip relative to Governor Eberhart's political aspirations. It is practically certain that he will be a candidate two years hence to succeed himself as governor. Mayor H. P. Keller has been urged to get into the race, but has decided to run for mayor under the new charter.

(Continued on back page)

## Citizens Bank Secures Option.

It looks now as tho the Citizens' State Bank of New Ulm might give up the idea of remodeling their present bankinghouse and enlarging it by erecting an addition on the adjoining 25 feet recently purchased from Mrs. Toberer. On Saturday they secured an option on the Leibold block next to the Dakota House. This option will be good for 30 days only and the directors of the bank must decide within this time limit whether the location is suitable and the price secured by the building committee is acceptable. It is planned to put up a modern banking house with a frontage of 35 feet.

At the annual meeting of the State Bank of Esig held last Tuesday the following officers and directors were elected: Pres., Emil G. Hage; Vice Pres., W. C. Heilmann; Cashier, Christ Dahl; Directors, Herman Albrecht, Louis Spelbrink, Peter Furth, Henry Mueller, Gottlieb Geisler and E. A. Pfeifferle.

At the annual meeting of the Security State Bank of Hanaka held at the banking house Tuesday afternoon the following officers and directors were elected: Pres., Iver Stone; Vice Pres., Emil G. Hage; Cashier, Alfred B. Ouren; Asst. Cashier, Clifford Bellug; Directors, Iver Stone, Emil G. Hage, Ellet Bjertness, Eer Thorsen, B. L. Bjertsen and Einar Toenber. The change in the cashiership was due to the resignation of Einar Toenber which goes into effect Feb. 1st. A 10% dividend was declared, the surplus fund was increased to \$4,000 and \$2,500 will be carried as undivided profits. Casper Oistad who was at one time manager of the Minnesota Central Telephone Co. at this place, will succeed A. B. Ouren as cashier of the State Bank of Courtland.

Oto E. Naegle, one of our enthusiastic out-of-town Junior Pioneers, who has been in the active banking business in Minneapolis for the past 27 years has retired to private life. At the time of his retirement he was Vice President of the Metropolitan National Bank which position he has filled with credit to himself since April 1911. Mr. Naegle feels that he needs a rest after a long business career and has no intention at this time of re-entering active business life. Mr. Naegle was one of the guests during Home Coming Week last summer and is a loyal son of New Ulm. At the time of the Indian Massacre he was 5 years old. His mother took him and two of the other children to St. Peter in an ox cart on the afternoon of August 19th and this team was the last to cross the river ferry before the Indians attacked the town.

## Steps Taken To Increase Capacity of Plant.

At the special meeting of the City Council held last Tuesday evening a contract was entered into between the City and the Oscar Clausen Engineering Co. of St. Paul thru their representative, J. F. Druar. According to the terms of the contract the Clausen Engineering Co. is to prepare a preliminary report showing the different ways open to the city to increase the output of the electric light plant, with an estimate of the cost of installing each method. The advisability of entering into a contract with the Consumers Power Co. of Mankato to supply the electric current, is also to be considered by the engineers in their initial report.

For this service the City obligates itself to pay the sum of \$125. If the City should take favorable action on any one of the plans submitted, the Engineering Company is to prepare all the necessary plans and specifications. For this service they are to receive 5% of the contract price of each improvement if they do not exceed the sum of \$12,000; 4% if they are between \$12,000 and \$15,000 and 3 1/2% if they are in excess of \$15,000. The contract also provides that a competent engineer is to be furnished to superintend the work while under construction if the City desires it for whose compensation an additional 1 1/2% of the contract price will be allowed.

Rev. Hohn suffered a very severe attack of Grippe and rheumatism Saturday and Sunday and is just able to be sitting up at this writing. Rev. Wheeler filled the pulpit at the Methodist church Sunday evening and the Congregational church members attended service there. It is expected that a similar joint service will be held at the Congregational church next Sunday evening.

## Reds and Blues Play War Game

### Matters Military. New Equipment Received By Machine Gun Men.

Friday evening Major Arthur Johnson umpired the second war game which was played in our city. He was assisted by Wm. E. Brand of Winona. The scene of the conflict was laid in the state of Kansas, east of Ft. Leavenworth, along the Platte River. Major John Buschers was in command of the Reds of Missouri and Capt. Oliver D. Quass of St. Peter commanded the Blues of Kansas. The game opened at 9 o'clock before it was finally concluded. No decision is rendered by the umpire and we are therefore unable to state who got the worst of the conflict. Capt. Pfander, Lieut. Robert Smith of Worthington, Lieut. Robert Ervin of Mankato and Capt. Alfred Larson of Madison supported Capt. Quass in the strategic work while La. Klaus, Capt. Vogel and Lt. E. E. Miller of St. Peter were in charge of the troops under Major Buschers. It was quite generally conceded that the Blues had the best of the argument when time was called. Their part of the problem was, however, not quite so difficult to solve as that of the Reds.

Capt. Wm. Kinne of Northfield, Lieut. Wm. Bierbaum and Dr. L. A. Fritsche were interested spectators. After hostilities had ceased the entire party repaired to Turner Hall where a fine lunch was served them in the Dutch Room. It is expected that the next war game will take place here in the middle of February.

Sunday, members of the Machine Gun Company and Second Regiment had indulged in a short hike. This was done mainly to show off the new olive-drab overcoats which had arrived the previous Wednesday. The Machine Gun Company retained 50 and the Band 25.

The first mule for the Machine Gun Company arrived the other day. It is made of wood and is the product of the shop of Weilandt & Stegemann. For the recruit this will prove more convenient and more safe to practice on than the tricky army mule. The real article is expected to arrive in early spring.

Fifteen of Co. "A's" crack shots took part in the indoor practice shoot at Star Hall last Wednesday evening. Lt. Adolf Klaus made the highest score, securing 47 points out of a possible 50. With the exception of two, all of the boys made 40 or more which is certainly some good shooting.

## School Building Burns

The Lincoln schoolhouse caught fire Friday morning and is a total loss. Fire was discovered shortly before 10 o'clock and the teachers marched the children out to safety without the least difficulty. People living in the vicinity saved most of the books and much of the furniture. The fire department was soon on the scene and encountered some difficulty in securing water, the first hydrant being frozen and some time was lost in making connections at the next hydrant.

The destroyed building was of brick veneer construction and has been considered a fire trap. It was built nearly twenty-five years ago and was a two story structure with four class rooms. The fire had apparently started over the boiler and was communicated to the wooden partitions. Considerable headway has been made before the alarm was turned in.

The loss is partially covered by insurance to the amount of \$6,500.

The pupils attending the school will report at the Central building Wednesday morning and provision will be made for them at the Washington building. The school board will hold a special meeting to consider ways and means for the future.—St. Peter Free Press.

Miss Grace Dignin, teacher of the First Grade in the Union Building returned Saturday evening after a week spent at her home in Merriam Park on account of the serious illness of her mother. Miss Antonia Zieher substituted for Miss Dignin during her absence.