

CHRISTMAS TRAFFIC HEAVIEST IN YEARS

RAINS RUN DOUBLE HEADERS AND IN SECTIONS. ALL HOURS LATE.

O. DEPARTMENT HANDLES CHRISTMAS RUSH WELL. NO CONGESTION.

Never before in his experience as station agent was the traffic on the Northwestern line anywhere near as heavy as it was this year, during the holiday season, said Fred P. Starr to a review reporter yesterday. The rush started coming about 10 days before Christmas and it was necessary to increase the size of the standard train running thru here from Chicago to the Dakotas until it consisted of eleven, twelve and even fourteen coaches.

The eleven coach train consisted of 2 rail cars, 3 baggage cars, 4 day coaches, inner and sleeper. These trains were pulled by 2 monster engines. The two engines were not able to make satisfactory time with these long trains and related trains were a daily occurrence. About four days before Christmas, conditions had become so aggravated that the company decided to split each of their four big thru trains into two sections each. The first section carried the passengers and the second section consisted of the mail, baggage and express cars. This improved conditions considerably. It is needless to say that the coaches were jammed with the traveling public. As a rule every seat on the day coaches was taken, the sleeper was filled, a large number of short trip passengers were standing between stations and even the diners were requisitioned to take care of passengers.

Traffic immediately prior to Christmas was also materially increased on the M. & St. L. The New Ulm train carried an extra coach all the time and the midday passenger one and sometimes two extra coaches. On the main line the equipment was practically doubled.

The Christmas business at the Post Office loomed up big and preparations were made to handle the same with the greatest possible dispatch. Emil Hempel was on duty for about 10 days and Jacob Engel for nearly a week as sub-clerks and Joseph Schuster assisted as sub-carrier during the greatest rush. By having the parcel post taken care of at one of the rural delivery windows, the work of taking care of the Xmas packages was considerably expedited. They have no accurate record of the number of packages that came in and went out but it is confidently believed to have been in excess of those of last year.

With to-day the old mileage book goes out of existence and in its place comes a mileage book which can be used only for interstate business. Instead of \$40 the new book will cost \$45 and can not be used for traffic entirely within the State. Before the new ruling went into effect mileage could be purchased good on at least 25 to 30 roads. The new mileage will cover interstate business only and there seems hardly any occasion for issuing mileage books at all because thru tickets can be purchased now at practically 2 cents a mile and it is hardly to be expected that the new passenger rate for interstate tickets, to go into effect next month will exceed 2.4 cents a mile, the advance recently allowed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The state rates will continue the same as now and nothing would prevent a passenger from purchasing a ticket to the state line of Minnesota and one again at the state line of Wisconsin and so on if the thru tickets are sold at such a rate as to make it an object for a passenger to get off the train every time he enters a new state.

Station Agent Starr expected to sell at least 30 of the old style mileage books yesterday and Station Agent Leary of the M. & St. L. estimated that by night he would issue about 20 mileage books in all. Yesterday morning shortly after 10 o'clock he had already issued 10 of them. He says there is a strong demand for the old mileage books all along the line and thousands upon thousands of dollars, possibly millions, will be handed to all of the railroad systems in the U. S. for services which they have not as yet rendered but will render some time during the coming year.

Stephen Somset, Municipal Judge of Winona, and a member of the firm of Brown, Abbott & Somset, spent Christmas at the home of his brother Henry.

GETTING CHUMMY WITH IOWA.

Good roads workers from various parts of Minnesota and Iowa held an important meeting at Fort Dodge, Iowa, last Tuesday, when an organization was perfected to build the Daniel Boone Trail from Des Moines to the twin cities. A St. Peter man was honored with one of the offices in the new organization, Al J. Potts being elected as a member of the board of directors.

The Daniel Boone Trail is the new name for the Minnesota Valley Scenic Highway, which project was revived recently when J. B. McHose of Boone, Iowa, offered a proposal that Iowa build a highway from Des Moines to Mankato. At the latter place the scenic highway route would be taken over, and the road will run through St. Peter, Le Sueur, Belle Plaine, Jordan and Shakopee to the cities.

At the meeting at Fort Dodge last Tuesday the following officers were elected: J. B. McHose, Boone, president; John H. Hohmann, Mankato, first vice president; B. F. Ford, Fort Dodge, second vice president; W. J. Hargen, Boone, secretary and treasurer. The Minnesota directors are: John H. Hohmann, Mankato; Al J. Potts, St. Peter; J. A. Moriarity, Shakopee; J. H. Beek, St. Paul, and J. J. Waddell, Minneapolis.

The Minnesota delegation offered to complete graveling the old scenic route from the Iowa line to the cities if Iowa would agree to gravel the road from Des Moines to the boundary. Iowa will undertake to do this, meeting Minnesota's completed road by July 1st. Ultimately it is planned to extend the road to Duluth.

LEFT-OVER CASES SET FOR JANUARY

JUDGE OLSON DETERMINED TO CLEAN UP CALENDAR NEXT MONTH.

CRIMINALS RECEIVE SENTENCES AND ARE TAKEN TO SERVE THEM.

With the last of the jury cases disposed of Thursday, Court adjourned until January 5th at 9 o'clock a. m. when the Court cases set for that day will be taken up. Judge Olson is evidently bent on cleaning up all the court cases that were on the civil calendar at this term, especially those that have been pending for some time and were being continued from term to term, for he set every one of them for trial during the month of January.

The first case set for trial in January is No. 1 in the Matter of proceedings to enforce Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes for 1907, State of Minn. against Henry Steinhauser, which will be reached January 5th at 9 o'clock. The case of the State Bank of New Ulm against the Minnesota Flint Rock Co. et al, will be taken up January 6th. For January 7th the following cases have been set: W. H. Hubmer vs. New Ulm Athletic Association; Anna Gieseke vs. Albert Gieseke; Edward F. Berkner vs. Julius Krueger and August A. Petrich vs. George Foster. The last case is an argument on a demurrer interposed by the defendant. The case of Nels Erickson vs. Town Board of Linden has been set for January 8th. The case of Hattie Walter vs. William L. Walter will be tried January 10th and the case of John J. Schmidt, Joseph J. Schmidt and Katherina Schrimpf against Anna Schmidt, Henry Schmidt, Wenzel Schmidt and Annie Schmidt, his wife, is scheduled for January 13th. The appeal from Probate Court in the Matter of the Estate of Jacob Pfenninger, deceased and the Appeal from Probate Court in the Matter of the Estate of Christiana Pfenninger, have been set for trial on January 18th. The case of Katie Wilfahrt vs. Fritz Wilfahrt and that of Frederick M. Boulven vs. Jane Boulven will be tried January 20th.

The last civil case that of Herman Schmidt vs. New Ulm Brewing & Maltng Co. went to the jury Thursday afternoon about three o'clock and before Court adjourned the jury brought in a verdict of \$183.40 in favor of the plaintiff. In this case the plaintiff sought to recover for his services at the rate of \$150.00 per month for an entire year, less pay he had received for four months from the defendant and the amount he had been able to earn elsewhere after his discharge. Under the terms of his contract he was entitled to one month's notice and this the jury allowed him plus the 5 days that he had worked and for which he had not received pay.

The only other civil jury case tried last week was that of The Northern German Conference of the Methodist

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

To be contented, but not satisfied; to be a credit to the work I am doing and to make that work a credit to me; to greet each new day with a smile of confidence and end it with one of satisfaction; to work heartily, to play freely, and to deal squarely with my God, my fellow men and with myself--this is my New Year's resolution.

--- Kellogs's.

BUSINESS MEN ARE GOING TO SCHOOL

STOCK BREEDERS GET THEIR COURSE OF INSTRUCTION NEXT WEEK.

MERCHANTS WILL LINE UP FOR LESSONS LAST WEEK IN JANUARY.

One of the features of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University Farm, St. Paul, January 3 to 8, 1916, will be a congress of live stock breeders. The breeders will come together in the general meetings of the Minnesota Live Stock Breeders' Association, Thursday, January 6, for the discussion of large problems relating to live stock. Probably President George E. Vincent, of the University of Minnesota, will deliver an address of welcome. L. E. Potter, president of the Live Stock Breeders' Association, will give a response. W. A. Cochel of the Kansas College of Agriculture, who has had 20 years' experience in feeding, will discuss feeding poor quality roughage to beef cattle. D. T. Haecker will talk on the cost of producing beef, basing his talk upon experiments carried on for years at the Minnesota Experiment Station. George McKerrrow of Wisconsin, will talk of pure bred live stock for the Northwest. G. Watson French of Davenport, Iowa, will probably discuss the foot and mouth disease, and the appraisal of pure bred animals. F. W. Merrill, a well known dairy expert, is also on the program.

The various auxiliary breeders' associations will hold their individual meetings. The speakers at the meeting of swine breeders, Wednesday, January 5, will be L. P. Martiny, one of Wisconsin's most successful hog breeders; R. C. Ashby of the Minnesota Experiment Station, on the value of self-feeders; and M. H. Reynolds, also of the Minnesota Experiment Station, on diseases of hogs. At the meeting of sheep breeders, Wednesday, January 5, George McKerrrow of Wisconsin, for 35 years a successful breeder of sheep, will discuss the feeding of sheep for the show ring and the market; and T. G. Patterson of the Minnesota Experiment Station, will make a comparison of cross breeds and grades.

At the meeting of horse breeders, Wednesday, January 5, if arrangements are carried out, A. E. Trowbridge of the University of Missouri, will talk on breeds; and Dr. Shores, who has promoted the successful colt shows at Lake City, will discuss colt shows.

The star of the beef breeders' meetings, Friday, January 7, will be John Clay of Chicago, one of the largest breeders of beef cattle in the United States. At the meeting of Jersey breeders, Friday, January 7, M. D. Munn, president of the American Jersey Cattle Club, and president of the American Society of Record Associations, will be one of the principal speakers. With him on the program will be Hugh Van Pelt, of Iowa.

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OUR MEN OF AFFAIRS



"LOUIE" VOGEL CO. AUD.

FIRE DESTROYS FARM HOME.

Fire of unknown origin drove the family of G. J. Grossmann of Linden from their beds last Wednesday night and prevented them from saving more than a very small part of their household goods. It is supposed that the fire began in the basement, near the chimney as it was first discovered between the walls.

After the family had gone to bed one of the members heard a rattling noise in the wall and supposed it was a mouse scuttling about and thinking to frighten it into silence rapped on the wall. The crackling continued and it was noticed that there was smoke in the room and a hole was cut in the wall where the noise was heard. The flames burst forth fiercely and nothing could be done to check them. Neighbors arrived and assisted in getting out some of the furniture but little could be saved owing to the start the flames had secured. The house was a large one and was built within the last few years, being one of the finest farm homes in that section. There was insurance of \$2,800. on the building and \$1300 on the furniture but this will not nearly cover the loss.

The family moved into the granary the next morning and will live there until the building season opens.

The old Toberer property will soon be vacant again as the barber shop recently opened there will be moved to the basement of the Farmer's and Merchants Bank after the first of the year. The shoe shining parlors will accompany the barber shop and a cigar stand will be established also.

SILK THIEVES GET PRISON SENTENCES

CONVICTED OF BURGLARY IN THIRD DEGREE. ALIBI NOT ESTABLISHED.

PLEAD GUILTY TO LARCENY AND ARE GIVEN INDETERMINATE SENTENCES.

The trial of Geo. Moore and Jos. H. Wilson, the store robbers who broke into the Friedl store at Gibbon and stole silks and other merchandise amounting to over \$400 on November 13th, was held before Judge Morrison in district court last week at Gaylord. The grand jury brought two indictments against them on charges of third degree burglary and first degree larceny. The first charge was tried Monday and the case continued all day Tuesday.

After the selection of the jury the state presented its case, County Attorney A. L. Young calling upon Geo. Oswald, Jos. Friedl, Wenzel Friedl, Wm. Guggisberg, Harvey Guggisberg, Earl Johnson, Wm. Dahlgren, Arthur Schempf and Oscar Bengtson of Gibbon and Wm. Sundberg of Winthrop as witnesses.

The evidence offered was much the same as that given in the preliminary hearing held in justice court on the day the robbers were captured. In addition thereto Oscar Bengtson testified that he saw two men get off the evening passenger train of the night of Nov. 12, on which he was a passenger, on the side away from the depot, though he could not identify them. Wm. Sundberg of Winthrop identified Geo. Moore as one of those to whom he had sold a ticket on the morning following the last robbery at Winthrop.

The defendants had summoned two brakemen as witnesses, but they would not testify as the robbers desired and were therefore not called to the witness stand. The defendants tried to prove an alibi and wanted the brakeman to testify that they had been put off at Fairfax that morning by a freight going east.

Both Moore and Wilson took the stand and presented an alibi which took them from Chicago and Omaha to Sioux City, Watertown, Morton and Fairfax. According to their story they then walked from Fairfax to Gibbon and were in the corn field on private business when the posse from town came to capture them. They claimed no knowledge of the hay stack and suit cases. They were able to make the accounts of their travels correspond quite well, but in a number of instances became muddled upon cross examination. They claimed that they had never been in Gibbon, nor at Winthrop.

Their evidence, no doubt, caused some impression on the jury for they deliberated three hours on the case before coming to an agreement. They then returned a verdict of guilty of burglary in the third degree, the maximum sentence for which is five years in prison.

The second charge was taken up Wednesday morning but was quickly disposed of as both robbers pleaded guilty. The judge then sentenced them to an indeterminate term in state prison with a maximum of ten years and postponed his sentence in the first charge, making the longest term which they can be committed to the state prison fifteen years.

County Attorney A. L. Young had charge of the case in behalf of the State and Atty. O. S. Vesta was appointed by the Judge to act in behalf of the defendants.

The robbers were taken to Stillwater Thursday. In the testimony offered Moore gave his birthplace as Dublin, Ireland. He is not married. Wilson was born in Aurora, Illinois. His father and mother died when he was a child and he was brought up by an uncle in California and came east this year. He also is not married.

Somebody is very careless with a gun along the river banks, we are told, two people having come within an ace of stopping a bullet while walking along the river the past week. But for a convenient tree in one instance there might have been a job for the undertaker for a bullet pinged thru the air and lodged in said tree not half a foot to one side of the pedestrian. It would seem that parties who simply must monkey with shot guns or rifles should be chased out into a clearing where they could at least pick their victims with care instead of taking chances with friend and foe alike.