

DEPARTMENT LACKS SUFFICIENT FUNDS

STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORTS INABILITY TO COMPLETE WORK PROPERLY

BROWN CO. CITIZENS SUFFER LOSSES AMOUNTING TO \$25,492.00.

According to the annual report of the state fire marshal, Robt. W. Hargadine, there were 2,595 fires in the state during the past year, endangering property of the value of \$15,038,040 and damaging the same to the extent of \$4,722,925. Insurance carried on this amounted to \$16,335,607.

Hennepin county of course leads the counties both in number of fires and amount of damage, having 713 fires and a loss of \$1,222,250, with St. Paul second with 525 fires and a property loss of \$1,170,382.

Brown county had 13 fires charged up against it, causing a loss of \$25,492 to buildings and contents valued at \$86,200. The insurance carried amounted to only \$4,510.

One of the queer things to be noted in the report is the return from Blue Earth county. Number of fires is given at 15; value of buildings and contents, \$113,765; damage to buildings and contents, \$159,315; total insurance, \$150,045. It is barely possible that there is a typographical error in the figures of the report, but if that is not the case, it reveals a peculiar condition. How a piece of property can be damaged to a greater extent than its value is a conundrum and how it can be insured at nearly \$40,000 more than it is worth is another.

The cost of administration of Mr. Hargadine's department, including salaries and all expenses has been \$23,596.59 during the year.

Concluding his report the state fire marshal makes the following recommendations:

As a result of the experiences of the last year it is believed that the State Fire Marshal's Department could be made more efficient if the following suggestions were considered in respect to the present law:

The act should be so amended as to give the Department more authority to investigate, regulate and enforce all laws in relation to moving picture theaters in the State.

The Department should be given power to prohibit the use of buildings in which occupancy is hazardous to life and limb.

A State Building Code should be enacted which would require the construction of all buildings within our State upon a safe and sane plane—this code should include regulations providing for the proper installation of electric wiring.

In the interests of efficiency the State Fire Marshal should be appointed for a longer term, possibly six years. This would enable the incumbent to get an intelligent view of the work needed and at the same time remove many difficulties surrounding his duties.

It has become manifest that the Department should have a larger appropriation to carry on the work effectively. Under the present system the department is severely handicapped by lack of sufficient funds. A force of four deputies to investigate a territory of 125,000 square miles and safeguard the lives of more than two million people is, on its face, ridiculous. Provision should be made so as to provide at least one Deputy Fire Marshal for a territory comprising, say, one congressional district, making an even dozen men working all the time to reduce the ever present menace of fire loss in Minnesota.

HERZOG AND HIS CREW GIVE BOES THE HOOK.

War has been declared by the local police on the Weary Willies who have been infesting the railroad yards and moseying around the back alleys of the residence districts looking for a likely looking place for a handout. No more of that, Dusty Rhodes, take notice.

Last Friday complaints were registered at the police station that four of the choicest specimens of the genus American hobo were loitering near the brick yards. Officer Herzog received the description of the quartette and recognized them as the ones he had ordered out of town the day before. Pete Graff's road hog was at once requisitioned, with the boss up on the front seat and Fred Christiansen and Carl

Stone pressed into service as handy men. The hobos had their scouts out, however, and when the officer and his crew arrived upon the scene they scattered. Herzog managed to land two of the birds and Carl Stone a third. Fred had the time of his life trying to make his victim change direction towards the Redstone bridge. Mr. Hobo dodged under, over and through fences and other obstacles with the agility of an acrobat, but Fred finally forced him to take the lead in a stern chase. Even there the hobo gave the court house man a run for his money and had it not been for stopping to lace up his shoes he would have gotten away. But coming to a dead stop and stooping over while doing a 10 second clip had its disastrous results as Fred being a close second and coming under a full head of steam was unable to set the brakes and—well, let Fred tell the rest of the story.

The state fair board has given it out that the Waseca band has been awarded a three days' contract to play at the next state fair, receiving \$450 for the job.

EXPENSE OF OILING CHARGED AT LARGE

WATER WILL BE USED ON ALL DOWNTOWN STREETS AND BROADWAY.

NEW ASSESSOR APPOINTED BY MAYOR QUALIFIES FOR POSITION.

At an adjourned meeting of the city council last Friday evening Alfred Schlumpberger was appointed city assessor for the year, Fred Seiter, the Mayor's original appointee being unable to qualify as a freeholder. The salary of the assessor was fixed at \$300 for the year and an assistant, Chas. Grussendorf appointed at a salary of \$200. Both have qualified. The work of the assessor this year will be considerably greater than ordinarily, because all the real estate must be reassessed in addition to the usual personal property assessments.

City Engineer Minium was re-appointed, but there was considerable argument over the salary question of this official, some of the aldermen being of the opinion that the engineer did not devote enough of his time to his duties, as he also holds position of county surveyor which necessitates more or less work outside of the city. Mr. Minium wanted a raise of \$40 per month, or a salary of \$150 per month, but this the council refused to grant at least for the present and the old salary of \$110 per month was re-established. It was the sense of the council that the city engineer take complete supervision of all of the street work, giving the street commissioner all necessary orders as to work to be done. Should the engineer find time to execute these duties the members of the council were agreed that his salary should be raised to the amount asked for.

During the discussion of the question of oiling the streets, the matter of preparing the roadways for oiling was discussed and it was finally decided that the city should purchase a steam roller with which to pack down the streets before they are oiled.

The expense of oiling will be borne by the city at large as under the charter assessments for this purpose cannot be levied against abutting property as is done in the case of street sprinkling. Just how many streets and what sections of the city are to be oiled will be decided at a later meeting of the council after the committee on streets has made a thorough investigation and has become familiar with the oiling proposition. It was decided, however, not to include State, Washington and Franklin streets and those connecting these thoroughfares in the sprinkling district, consequently these streets will be rolled and oiled. It is also possible that the approaches to the city both on the south and north sides will be given applications of oil as it is believed that the city at large would be benefited if the great clouds of dust which sweep down Minnesota street from either direction during the summer months can be prevented by the use of oil.

The meeting was rather a warm one and it would seem as if the present council is likely to be less harmonious than was the body which recently went out of existence. President Behnke aroused the ire of Councillor Filzen and the latter was quite frank in expressing his opinion of the presiding officer. Things were smoothed over, however, and no serious rupture is anticipated.



CHECK LAW SELDOM ENFORCED. DUCK HUNTERS IN TROUBLE.

Federal Statutes Say Issuing of Check For Less Than One Dollar Is Illegal.

One of the laws no one seems ever to have heard of being enforced is the one found in the federal statutes under the title of "Offenders against the currency, coinage etc., section 178, criminal code of the United States."

Under the provisions of that section any person who issues a check for a less amount than \$1.00 lays himself liable to a fine of \$500 and imprisonment up to six months in a federal prison. The practice of issuing checks for such small amounts is a very common one and is done a dozen times a day in the business world.

The section of the federal law reads as follows:

"No person shall make, issue, circulate or pay out any note, check, memorandum, token, or other obligation for a less sum than \$1 intended to circulate as money, or to be received, or used in lieu of lawful money of the United States; and every person so offending shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both."

COMMERCIAL CLUB BANQUET NEXT WEDNESDAY

All arrangements have been completed for the annual banquet of the Commercial Club, to be held at the Turner Hall gymnasium. The supper will be served by the Turner Ladies' Society, which in itself is sufficient guarantee that the solid part of the program is well taken care of.

The committee has arranged for several outside speakers, among them several representatives of the commerce clubs of neighboring towns. Local speakers also will be on the program, but as several of the speakers have not yet given a definite answer, the complete list will not be given out until later in the week.

The dental offices in New Ulm will be closed on Saturday afternoon during the summer months. The dentists have all agreed upon this to be effective May 1st. It would be a fine thing if all the business houses would make a like agreement and everybody take a little time off from the rush during the hot days. Who next?

of court elections in the state this year, which would mean that the present clerks are to hold over or be re-appointed for two years more. Abel claims this law is unconstitutional, and demands that he be allowed to file for the office. The legislature fixes the terms of all county officers except the clerk of court and judge of probate whose terms are fixed by the constitution.

The new law lengthens the terms of county officers, except the judge of probate, from two years to four years.

The decision will effect thirty-four clerks of courts in the state. Clerk Manderfeld was elected two years ago for a four-year term, consequently does not have to worry about the decision.

Among the long list of convicts seeking pardons or parole before the state board of pardons last week was Emily Tanke, formerly of Lafayette, serving a life term in the state penitentiary for second degree murder, having been convicted in July, 1902, of slaying her first husband, John Wellner. The board did not grant her petition for parole.

SALOON MEN CHARGE CRIMINAL SLANDER

ALFRED BALTRUSCH ARRESTED UNDER RECENTLY PASSED LIBEL LAW.

HEARING SET FOR MONDAY IS POSTPONED ON REQUEST OF DEFENDANT.

The hearing in the case of the State of Minnesota against Constable Alf. Baltrusch, arrested for criminal slander upon the complaint of Arthur Schleif Thursday of last week, was postponed until next Monday by Justice Henningsen when the case was called Monday forenoon.

Attorney Alfred W. Mueller appeared for the defendant and Alb. Pfaender for the state. The former read an affidavit made by the defendant in which it was set forth that a material witness for the defense is out of the state at the present time, but is expected to be home for Easter, when an attempt will be made to serve a subpoena. According to Mr. Mueller, this witness will be able to substantiate the charge that Mr. Schleif kept his saloon open after hours.

The case is creating considerable interest, not only among the saloonists but throughout the city and should the case be tried by a jury which seems very probable, it will be hard to find six men who have not already made up their minds as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant.

The action is the aftermath of the council meeting when the liquor licenses were granted. Constable Baltrusch at that time made rather serious charges against Mr. Schleif on account of the manner in which he is said to have conducted his saloon on the corner of Broadway and Second North streets, among them the statement that the place was open after hours whenever a dance was held at the Union hall.

It is not expected that the defendant in the action will attempt to deny that he made the charges and statements, but will attempt to prove that the charges were true and, consequently he was justified in making them as an officer of the law.

The law under which the action was brought is a new one on the statute books, passed by the 1915 legislature. It reads as follows: "Every person who in the presence and hearing of another, other than the person slandered, whether he be present or not, shall speak of or concerning any person, any false or defamatory words or language which shall injure or impair the reputation of such person for virtue or chastity or which shall expose him to hatred, contempt or ridicule, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Every slander herein mentioned shall be deemed malicious if no justification therefor be shown and shall be justified when the language charged as slanderous, false or defamatory was true and was spoken with good motives and for justifiable ends."

A misdemeanor is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail of not more than three months or by a fine of not to exceed \$100.

There are morals as well as fables in slang. Here is one: "There are no fies on him; he's a live one." If you are a live one you will have no fies on you, in your house, barn or creamery this summer; and to keep them out you will destroy their breeding places.

ENGINEER REPORTS ON HEATING PLANT

WASTE STEAM AT CITY PLANT CAN BE PROFITABLY UTILIZED AS HEAT.

EXPERT TO COME TO NEW ULM FOR INVESTIGATION OF WASTE STEAM PROBLEM.

Experts employed by the city council on the heating plant proposition have submitted two reports—one a preliminary detailed report and the other a summary of the whole matter.

The preliminary covers the manner in which the system may be installed in this city. Because of the fact that Minnesota street is paved, the laying of pipes in the middle of the street is made prohibitive on account of the cost and the engineers suggest that easements be secured from the property owners on both sides of the street for the purpose of placing the pipes in the basements near the front of the buildings, connecting the two lines of pipe at both ends and thus obtaining not only a better circulation of the heat, but also giving opportunity to shut off any certain building should a fire occur or anything come up which would demand such action. It is estimated that the cost of running the pipes through the basements would be even cheaper and in the end more economical than if laid in the street or alley, because the covering would not have to be as heavy and repairs can be more easily and readily made.

The estimated cost of the system is approximately \$20,000 and upon that figure all of the conclusions in the report are based.

With regard to the financing of the proposition, the first report says, speaking of a town where similar conditions as those in New Ulm existed, "A stock company was organized and in this case an electric light plant was built and turned over to the city for operation, the city agreeing, out of the income, to pay a certain amount per year (amount being stated) until the whole had been paid. This plan was found to work out successfully in this one instance. We do not know whether your city charter would allow of such an arrangement. In the case above mentioned the whole procedure was pronounced legal by the attorneys for the city and the company."

Concluding, the report says: "In the case of New Ulm we believe from our study of the conditions that a properly designed steam distribution system would be a successful venture, both from a mechanical and financial standpoint, provided that the system was not extended beyond a point where too great a percentage of live steam would be required, and a rate be established that would provide adequate return for the service furnished."

The report is signed by Chas. Foster who visited the city a few weeks ago and gathered the data upon which the report is based. Mr. Foster is expected to arrive in the city today and go into the water problem in a thorough manner, gathering data for the purpose of submitting a report showing how the city can guard its water supply for the future. Not only the well system, but also the creeks and the filtering system will no doubt be thoroughly gone into in the report.

Members of the city council seem very much impressed with the manner in which the Pillsbury Company has handled the problem so far, as it goes into detail on every proposition upon which a conclusion is based. The report in its entirety is regarded as very conservative.

The second report to the committee giving a summary of the heating plant situation follows:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council, Gentlemen:—

In our report submitted to you on April 10th, 1916, we endeavored to present to you certain facts to show what might be expected with a distributing system for steam heating from your electric light and power plant using what exhaust steam the lighting and power load would produce and supplying the balance of steam required with live steam during the three months of the year which would require the greatest amount of steam for heating purposes. We now desire to submit to you a more complete report showing what might be expected in the way of steam used during the entire heating season.

We have proportioned the percentage
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