

New Ulm Review

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXXVII.

NEW ULM, BROWN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1916.

NUMBER 19

MAY COURT TERM OPENS NEXT WEEK

ONLY SMALL LIST OF CASES SLATED FOR DISPOSAL BY JURIES.

INSPECTION OF COURT HOUSE ABOUT ONLY DUTY OF GRAND JURY.

District court for Brown County convenes next Monday morning, May 15, for the spring term, but the prospects are that the session will be one of the shortest on record, as there are only twelve civil cases scheduled for trial and even of this number some may be put over for another term.

As far as is known there will be but little work for the grand jury outside of the usual inspection of the court house and other county buildings. No cases have been sent up to the district court from justice courts for examination. There is a persistent rumor to the effect that the grand jury will make an investigation of the Postal case, and the county attorney probably will open it up if demand is made for an investigation or if he feels that the circumstances justify an investigation.

The twelve cases set for trial are as follows:

N. C. Hoffmann against S. A. Woodrick, continued from last term. This case was tried a year ago, but the jury disagreed. It is a wage dispute.

George Guggisberg against William H. Boettger. This is a suit for damages alleged to have been incurred by the plaintiff through the purchase of stock upon the alleged representations of the defendant. Plaintiff claims the defendant recommended to him and other farmers the purchase of stock in a twine manufacturing plant and that the stock was not worth what it had been represented. It is understood that a number of other actions against the same defendant are awaiting the outcome of this case, as the twine company disposed of considerable stock under the same circumstances. This case is liable to be put over for another term.

Hattie vs. Walter William L. Walter; divorce case, continued from last term.

August A. Petrich vs. George Foster, continued from last session and involving a land transaction.

State Bank of New Ulm vs. Minnesota Flint Rock Co., continued from last term and probably will again be continued.

Edward F. Berkner vs. Julius Krueger, continued from last term; involves a dispute over a land transaction.

Albert Hesse vs. Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co., also continued from last term. Plaintiff alleges that he was put off from a train of the Northwestern company at Mankato during 1915 and is now seeking to recover damages. This case also has been pending in the district court since last fall.

State of Minnesota vs. Alex Deinken. The defendant in this action is at present serving time in the penitentiary, having been convicted in the district court last fall on a charge of carnal knowledge of a minor. The civil action is an outgrowth of the criminal case.

Franceska Sellner vs. Mary Conley. Sleepy Eye people in dispute over the lease of a hotel.

Farmers' Seed & Nursery Co. vs. Springfield Farmers' Elevator Co. Plaintiff is suing for payment for a batch of seed corn, which the defendant alleges was not as represented.

Henry Schriever vs. Ferdinand Hofschild. Labor dispute over carpenter work done by the plaintiff. The defendant, however, has put in a counterclaim to offset all the claims made by the plaintiff.

Albert A. Paffrath vs. Herman F. Wenzel. Case comes from Springfield and is over a land transaction.

The only cases of real importance are the Hoffmann-Woodrick labor case and the personal damage suit of Hesse against the Northwestern road.

Last spring the calendar was a heavy one, but court business seems to have dwindled away since that time, the usual heavy fall calendar last December having been reduced to 35 cases and this spring the number dropped to a scant dozen.

Police headquarters may be established in the Dietz block in rear of the Fesenmaier grocery store in the near future, if plans of several members of the city council are carried out. A proposition to lease the place probably will come up before the council at the adjourned meeting Thursday evening.

ANTI-MILITARIST TO LECTURE AT HANSKA FRIDAY.

The foremost figure in the anti-militarist propaganda in America today is George R. Kirkpatrick, who will speak at Liberal Union Hall, Hanska, Minn., at 8 o'clock April 12th. His book, "War, What For?" has sent a thrill thru the nation and has achieved a popularity unequalled by any other book opposed to war. It has taken front rank among the vast number of books on socialism in this country.

Up to the present time 150,000 copies of this great book have been disposed of. There has been an increased sale since the outbreak of the war in Europe.

As a speaker Kirkpatrick is incomparable. He holds his audience in a grip of iron. He paints capitalism and militarism to them with a vivid reality that makes men and women forget themselves and listen with breathless attention to his cutting sarcasm, his word pictures, his terrible indictment of war and the commercialism which produces war.

Kirkpatrick was graduated from Albion College (A. B.). He is a one year graduate student (with paying scholastic fellowship) in public finance, economics and history, of Vanderbilt University, and a one year graduate student in sociology, education and economics of the University of Chicago. Kirkpatrick is a lecturer for the New York City board of education; an instructor in the New York Rand School of Social Science, and has taught college classes in sociology and economics at various colleges and universities.

Mr. Kirkpatrick comes to Hanska under the auspices of the Socialist local of that village in co-operation with the national organization. Quite a number of New Ulm people are planning to motor out to Hanska Friday to hear the noted speaker.

CROP REPORT SHOWS DECREASE IN WINTER WHEAT.

According to the government May crop report for the state of Minnesota, compiled by the bureau of crop estimates and transmitted through the U. S. weather bureau last Monday the amount of winter wheat planted this year shows a decided decrease, the production last year having been 1,170,000 and the estimate only gives the state 885,000 bushels. The average throughout the United States also shows a falling off, but not so pronounced as that in the state.

Spring plowing on May 1 was completed to the extent of about 60 per cent, which is up to the standard set by former years. Spring planting is only finished to the extent of 47 per cent, as compared to 71 per cent last year and 66 per cent for the ten-year average. The old hay crop is estimated at about the same as former years in the state, but the balance of the country shows an increase of at least 10 per cent over last year and 15 per cent over two years ago.

P. O. SLEUTHS AFTER YEGGMEN.

Postoffice sleuths are evidently determined to break up the gangs of yeggmens who have been paying visits to the post offices in various parts of the country of late and have asked the co-operation of police officers in the matter by asking them to take particular notice of tramps traveling in gangs. It is evidently the belief of the department that the robberies were committed by hobo's rather than by professional burglars. The great distances between the post offices visited has led them to believe that the tramps live on the proceeds of their loot in their wanderings and when they run short of funds replenish them by the simple expedient of tapping a government till. Tramps seem to be giving New Ulm a wide berth for the past few weeks, only a few having stopped off at the usual hangout near the brickyards of late and still less have ventured into the city. It is no unusual sight, however, to see a dozen or more on a single freight train passing through the city.

ENGAGEMENT POSTPONED.

A special engagement will prevent the Oberammergauer Peasant Players from filling their date at Turner Hall next Sunday. The troupe had been regularly booked, but the advance man received notice Monday that the company had entered into a contract for a special engagement in Chicago, which made it impossible to fill the local date. The troupe will come to New Ulm, however, at a later date and fill the engagement.

BOND ELECTION AT NICOLLET.

A special school election will be held in the Consolidated School District No. 18 of Nicollet county, Wednesday, May 10th for issuing bonds in the sum of \$40,000 to be used for the refection of a new consolidated school building in Nicollet, and furnishing it in a modern manner. The election will be held in the Nicollet village hall and the polls will be open from 2 to 6 p. m. Men and women over twenty-one years of age will be allowed to vote. Voters must be citizens of the United States, residents of the state for six months and must have resided in the district not less than thirty days.

STATESKAT ONKELS MEET IN NEW ULM

FOUR HUNDRED ENTHUSIASTS EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN TOURNEY.

SPECIAL TRAIN OVER M. & ST. L. TO CARRY DELEGATION FROM CITIES.

Officers of the New Ulm Skat Club have been notified by the secretary of the State Skat League that the annual mid-summer tournament will be held in New Ulm on Sunday, June 4, the date being selected at a recent meeting of the board of directors. Henry Schreiner of St. Paul, state secretary of the league, informs the local club that at least 200 players may be expected to participate from the Twin Cities. A special train has been arranged for by the Twin City contingent over the M. & St. L.

Besides the players from the Twin Cities it is expected that a great number of players will come from the surrounding towns. Mankato will furnish its usual quota of from twenty to thirty players and as many more may be expected from the western part of the county, so that in all about 400 players will participate in the tournament. An entrance fee of \$1.00 will be charged each player and the total pro rated among the prize winners. First prize probably will bring from \$50 to \$75, with others ranging down to the \$5.00 prize.

Arrangements have been made for the use of Turner Hall gymnasium for the occasion, where there will be room for upward of a hundred tables. Should the number be greater than anticipated additional tables will be placed in the upstairs rooms. Two sessions will be held, the first beginning at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and the second at 7:30 in the evening.

This is the first state tournament to be held outside of the Twin Cities, although New Ulm had been host to a number of district tournaments, held under the auspices of the local skat club.

The following committee was appointed by the local skat club at its regular weekly tournament last Monday evening, to have charge of the arrangements for the state tournament: Otto Oswald, Dr. J. P. Graff, Robert Williams, A. S. Dorn and W. J. Julius.

The prize winners at the weekly tournament were the following: Robert Williams, first prize, 15 net games; Joseph Sonntag, second prize, 529 net points; A. S. Dorn, third prize, club solo against four matadors; George Liesch, special prize, grand with three matadors and schneider.

MOTHER'S DAY PROCLAIMED BY GOVERNOR.

Sunday, May 14th, has been designated as Mothers' Day by Governor J. A. A. Burnquist and sermons appropriate to the occasion will no doubt be held in the several churches of the city next Sunday. Custom provides that sons and daughters should wear white flowers on that day in memory of their great friend and colored flowers in her honor if she is living, or send a potted plant to her as a gift.

The proclamation by Governor Burnquist is as follows:

"Whereas, by joint resolution the legislature of this state has designated the second Sunday in May as Mothers' day; now, therefore, I, J. A. A. Burnquist, governor of the state of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 14, 1916, as Mother's day, and urge that said day be observed by appropriate public exercises, and that we individually, in some special way, pay tribute to our mothers in recognition of their unselfish devotion to us and of their refining and self-sacrificing influence and the great and noble service performed by them in the preservation of the home and in the development of good citizenship."

HEATING FRANCHISE READY.

Attorneys for the New Ulm Heating Co. have completed the draft of an ordinance which permits them to operate in the city and use the alleys and streets under certain restrictions and the instrument probably will be submitted to the council at the next regular meeting. An agreement between the company and the city also has been drawn up, by which the city agrees to sell the exhaust steam at the water works plant to the city at the price recently agreed upon.

BRIDGE DAMAGED BY SPRING FLOODS

ICE FLOES DAMAGE STRUCTURE CROSSING COTTONWOOD NEAR MILL.

CITY IS OBLIGATED TO PAY COST OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.

Considerable damage was done to the bridge over the Cottonwood river below the Cottonwood mill by the outgoing ice and it is believed that it will cost the city several hundred dollars for repairs. Six of the supporting braces under the floor of the bridge have either been broken off or the threads on the rods damaged to such an extent that new rods will be necessary and the nuts on others are cracked so that they will have to be replaced.

The damage was no doubt done by an ice jam shortly after the river above the dam began to break up. The pressure must have been tremendous, as the rods are about an inch thick.

Repair and repainting of the bridge recently was brought up in a meeting of the city council and the matter referred to the street committee with instructions to confer with the board of county commissioners with a view of having the county pay a part of the costs of repair. A member of the board of commissioners states, however, that while the bridge was built jointly by the city and county, it was agreed at the time that the maintenance of the structure would devolve upon the city. Whether or not this agreement is in official form is not known.

The other bridges leading into the city also have been inspected within the last few days, but are found in a good state of repair. The lower Minnesota river bridge which had been under water for several weeks is not damaged at all because the current at that place is not very strong and the pressure upon the structure was but slight. The other bridges were not reached by the high water, although the approaches to some of them were slightly damaged.

The water in both of the Cottonwoods has reached practically a normal stage, but the Minnesota still is at a higher stage than usual at this time of the year. Many fields in the lowlands still are under water and in many cases the prospect of raising a crop during the coming season seems hopeless. Should the waters recede, however, within a reasonable length of time the hay crop on these lands will be a bumper.

Roads along the bottoms are in a passable condition, but need a long spell of dry weather to put them into good condition.

COUNTY SEAT FIGHT PROBABLE IN REDWOOD.

Agitation for the removal of the county seat of Redwood county from Redwood Falls to Wabasso is again renewed and it is very probable that the matter will be threshed out in a hot campaign in the course of the year. The rather queer part of it all is that Wabasso citizens do not seem so eager to get into the county seat classification than the other towns of the county. They seem reluctant to enter the fight on account of the expense.

The Lambert Star comes out in favor of the court house removal on the grounds that the present court house buildings are in great need of repair. It says:

It is no secret among those who are in a position to know, that the court house is actually in need of extensive repairs and that the building does not afford enough room for the various offices to properly handle their records. The cost of the repairs will be sufficient to pay half the cost of a new building. That the court houses will ultimately be located in the center of the county is as certain as the fact that water will seek its level. There is absolutely nothing to be gained by delaying the removal to Wabasso, the center of the county.

MUTUAL COMPANIES EXEMPT.

Insurance Commissioner Works, who recently returned from a trip to Washington where he consulted head officials of the internal revenue department in regard to insurance matters, states the department has ruled that mutual insurance companies, particularly farmers' mutual companies, will be exempt from the requirement of putting internal revenue stamps on their policies. The ruling of the department exempts all such companies as do not do business for a profit.

HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES JUNE 5.

Friday, June 2, will be the last day of school for the present term and the class of 1916 will step forth from the local high school, having completed the prescribed four-year course. Commencement exercises will be held the Monday following the last day of school and will take place at the Turner Theatre in the evening.

The usual commencement program will be carried out, consisting of the valedictorian and salutatorian addresses, vocal and instrumental musical selections and an address. The speaker this year will be Prof. A. J. Todd, head of the department of sociology of the State University and his subject will be "Creating a New World, or In the Grip of the Inevitable." Prof. Todd is no stranger in New Ulm, having delivered an address at the convention of the State Society of Charities and Correction last fall and being a visitor to the city on several other occasions. The valedictory and salutatory addresses will be given by Stonia Kunze and Ruth Olsen, respectively, the two honor students of the class of 1916.

There are thirty-four graduates in the class of 1916, fifteen boys and nineteen girls, as follows: Benj. Alwin, Winona Alwin, Viola Backer, Francis Bastian, Sherburn Beecher, Leo Berg, Minnie Brust, Lucile Buschers, Hilton Durbahn, Clara Epple, Agnes Gieseke, Edna Knees, Stonia Kunze, Rose Lipp, George Mayer, Arthur Miller, Reuben Moe, Naomi Mueller, Harold Nagel, Olea Niemann, Ruth Olsen, Erma Palmer, Mira Pederson, Leslie Peuser, Thomas Pfaender, Lucy Pfefferle, Walter Puhlmann, Fred Roloff, Ellen Schoch, Annie Thordson, Marguerite Vogel, Herbert Wandersee, Gretchen Winkelmann and Otto Zimmermann.

SCHOOL CHILDREN TO BE TOLD STATE'S GREATNESS.

Superintendent of Public Instruction C. G. Schulz, has sent to all of the schools of the state a booklet containing a lot of facts about Minnesota, which it would not hurt even grown-ups to know. These things are to be told the children during the exercises held on Minnesota Day, May 11.

Here are some of the facts taken from the booklet:

From 6,077 in 1850, the population grew to 172,123 in 1860.

A bushel of Minnesota corn will make about ten pounds of pork when fed to a hog.

If all the eggs laid in one day were poured in one shell, it would make a shell 20 feet long by 16 feet in diameter and it would be worth \$30,000.

Minnesota hoists more ore than Germany; twice as much as England, and three times as much as either France or Spain.

The first sawmill was established near Fort Snelling in 1821.

An army of 17,000 teachers directed by 500 superintendents and 86 county superintendents have charge of 471,137 school children.

"The purpose of this day," Mr. Schulz said, "is to invite a study of Minnesota in relation to its history, resources, natural features and industries, and to promote a spirit of state patriotism."

CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

The Swedish Lutheran Church of Bernadotte, Nicollet county, celebrated its golden anniversary Thursday and Friday of last week, special programs having been arranged for the mornings, afternoons and evenings of both days. Outside speakers were on the program, among them the president of the Augustana Synod, Rev. A. L. Johnson of St. Paul, Rev. P. A. Mattson, president of the Minnesota conference of Cannon Falls; Rev. J. H. Nelson, Lake City; Rev. J. A. Gustavson, South St. Paul; Rev. G. O. Schroeder, Fargo, N. D.; Rev. O. J. Arthur, Mankato, and Rev. N. O. Grundeth of Lafayette. The arrangements for the successful affair were in charge of Rev. C. B. L. Boman, pastor of the church, and a committee appointed by the congregation. The Bernadotte Lutheran societies in the state, as well as the largest in Nicollet county outside of St. Peter.

JOHNSON SPEAKS AT FAIRMONT MEMORIAL DAY.

Fairmont has called upon New Ulm to furnish the people of that city the speaker of the day on Memorial Day. Fred W. Johnson having accepted an invitation to speak at the exercises in the Martin county city. Speaking of the choice of the committee the Fairmont Sentinel says:

"J. T. Swearingen, chairman of the Memorial Day committee, obtained a telephone acceptance from Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm to deliver the Memorial Day address at the opera house, in Fairmont, May 30th.

"Fred Johnson is a brother of Gov. John A. Johnson, deceased. In many ways besides looks he resembles the latter. He has strong mental endowments, has been a great student, and at times rises to brilliant heights of oratory. "The committee is fortunate in securing his services and the people are to be congratulated upon having an opportunity to hear him.

"Mr. Johnson's acceptance means a successful celebration of one of the most important events of the year."

FOUR-YEAR TERMS IN SUPREME COURT

ARGUMENTS ARE HEARD TODAY ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF NEW LAW.

COUNTY OFFICIALS EXPECTING DECISION ON MATTER THIS WEEK.

County officials particularly and voters generally will be interested in the proceedings before the state supreme court today, when arguments will be heard on the constitutionality of the four-year term law passed by the 1913 legislature.

The matter is brought to the supreme court by Fred J. Fischer of Buffalo, Wright county, who attempted to file as a candidate for county treasurer. The county auditor refused to accept the affidavit of nomination, holding that there would be no vacancy in this or any other county offices for another two years.

The legislature of 1913 provided for a four-year term for county officers. The present incumbent in the office of county treasurer was elected in November, 1914, and, according to the new law, would hold office until January, 1919.

The attorney for the prospective candidate contends that the constitution fixes the term of county officers at two years and that the legislature had no right to change it to four years.

It is said that an association of county auditors of the state has been formed and raised money for the purpose of defending the act of the legislature. Prominent counsel, among them C. D. O'Brien of St. Paul and State Senator G. H. Sullivan of Stillwater, have been engaged to represent the Wright county auditor before the supreme court.

Interest in the case is the greater because the supreme court only last week declared unconstitutional the extension of the term of clerk of courts, holding that the constitution fixed the terms at four years, without specifically stating in which years the terms shall begin or end.

County officials, on the other hand contend that a change from four to two years would not only be a repeal of the 1913 law, but also a rank injustice to the present incumbents of county offices. All were nominated and elected with the understanding that they would hold office for four years. Many have made disposition of their business interests to cover that period of time, some even having entered into leases of homes for four years at the county seat. The campaign of 1914 was conducted on the four-year term proposition and candidates expended money in proportion.

The four-year law was passed by the legislature upon the instigation of office holders throughout the state, many of whom had been in office a good many years already and to whom the biennial recurrence of the election became monotonous and regarded as a superfluous expense and burden. There had been no general demand for the change from two to four years by the people of the state, although at the time of its adoption there was but little opposition to it.

It is confidently expected that the supreme court will rush a decision of the case, because the time for filing for county offices expires May 30. Should the law be declared unconstitutional there will be a scramble of candidates to get into the game, not only confined to present incumbents.

JOHNSON SPEAKS AT FAIRMONT MEMORIAL DAY.

Fairmont has called upon New Ulm to furnish the people of that city the speaker of the day on Memorial Day. Fred W. Johnson having accepted an invitation to speak at the exercises in the Martin county city. Speaking of the choice of the committee the Fairmont Sentinel says:

"J. T. Swearingen, chairman of the Memorial Day committee, obtained a telephone acceptance from Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm to deliver the Memorial Day address at the opera house, in Fairmont, May 30th.

"Fred Johnson is a brother of Gov. John A. Johnson, deceased. In many ways besides looks he resembles the latter. He has strong mental endowments, has been a great student, and at times rises to brilliant heights of oratory.

"The committee is fortunate in securing his services and the people are to be congratulated upon having an opportunity to hear him.

"Mr. Johnson's acceptance means a successful celebration of one of the most important events of the year."