

New Ulm Review

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Editor: A. Steinhilber.
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The Constitutional Amendments

The eight amendments to the State Constitution to be voted on by the electors of Minnesota at the coming election, November 7, are being printed now in all of the daily and weekly newspapers of the state. There is no reason why every voter should not fully understand the purport of each one, and be able to vote intelligently on all of them.

In the first place every voter who goes to the polls should cast his ballot one way or the other. Failure to vote at all is a vote against the amendment.

The amendment causing the most agitation of the state press is No. 1, which provides for the improvement of state lands to be sold to settlers. If carried the great project contemplated will not cost the voters of the state a cent. The sum of \$250,000 is to be temporarily borrowed from the state school fund, to be used in improving the land so that the settler may go onto his property and earn his living there while paying for it and making such improvements as are necessary. He will not be obliged to go to the lumber camp, or seek other employment to keep hunger away from his wife and children while clearing up his farm. The attraction to the young farmer who wishes to own his own farm and secure a home for himself and family will be greatly enhanced and the settlement of state lands in the northern part of the state be much more rapid than as been the case in the past.

The settlement of those state lands will be a benefit to every resident and taxpayer in Minnesota. It will help the matter along if you vote for amendment Number 1.

And by the way, it won't hurt anybody if you vote for all of them.

Military Education Not Wanted

That military training for the public schools has not died out, as it should, is emphasized by a news item in another column of the Review this week. It is noted that the United States government is now offering to equip the high school boys of this state with Krag-Jorgensen rifles, and a bill is to be prepared for presentation to the legislature next winter authorizing military courses in our schools.

It was not so very long ago that the whole country was crying out against what was termed "Prussian Militarism," and demanding that it be crushed and made forever inoperative. Then, anyone who did not subscribe to this demand was declared un-American. Dr. William A. Ocker, director of physical education and school hygiene in the public schools at Indianapolis, has contributed an able article to a recent issue of "Mind and Body", a monthly journal devoted to physical education, in which he declares that the need of the youth of the country is not military, but physical education, in our public schools.

Dr. Ocker says that the same newspapers and class of people who rush into print without due thought or consideration, are now demanding "militarism" on a much larger scale than had ever been practised or dreamed of by Germany or any other European country, only now they call it "preparedness."

"Under this heading," he says, "we are asked to increase the size of our army, to build more aeroplanes, dreadnoughts and submarines, to strengthen and increase the number of our coast fortifications, and lastly by far the most unreasonable, to introduce military training in our public schools."

There are many kinds of preparedness—everybody believes in the right kind—but they do not believe in equipping our school boys to shoot and kill each other or their neighbors, either at home or abroad.

It should be of interest to know that the efficiency of the German soldier is not due to the military training obtained in the public schools, for the reason that Germany does not permit military drilling in her public schools.

As the military branch is but a small part of modern warfare, why should school children be forced to practice military drilling?

Not only in this country, but in many foreign nations men of authority in military affairs have declared against the military training of school boys. Sir William Aitkin, professor of pathology in the Army Medical School of England, says in a book which he has recently published, that boys given military training at 18 make soldiers who are less robust and efficient than

men with whom this training has been deferred a few years, remaining in civil life until their bones, heart, lungs, liver, etc., were more matured and developed.

"Recruits at 18," Sir William declares, "show physical immaturity which results only too frequently in their ending in the hospital or being discharged as invalids."

While both Germany and England are declaring against too early military training the United States government is furnishing the American school boy with high power guns, and it is proposed to encourage this sudden craze for militarism by authorizing its organization in the schools of the state.

We certainly hope the law makers at the state capitol next winter will not be duped into such an outrage and that the government's death-dealing guns will be returned with thanks.

Lending A Helping Hand

That a careful scrutiny should be placed on prisoners who are about to be released, so that mental defectives may be taken care of, was the contention of a speaker at the convention of the American Prison Association, in session at Buffalo, a few days ago. The other delegates agreed with him.

The speaker, who was the superintendent of the Oregon Prisoners' Aid Society said: "We should take care of the defectives, and should demand that the police and police officers give other released prisoners a chance to get along. They are all too ready now to hound them back into prison."

Those who have had to do with the police departments in the large cities know too well that many a man who has served time in the penitentiary is fairly driven back into crime by the undue activity of the police.

It is a well-known fact that frequently men who have left the cells with a defined purpose to travel the straight and narrow path in the future have been practically unable to do so because they were not let alone by the police.

It is all too common when an ex-prisoner has secured a position and is doing his very best, he has been pestered by some over-zealous policeman until he has lost his place, has become discouraged and then a fresh start on the downward path is quick and his progress rapid.

Drainage Plan Is Popular

Plans for a great state-wide drainage enterprise for Minnesota, are attracting the attention of business men all over the state. At a gathering of traffic men in Minneapolis recently, A. L. Crocker, chairman of the All Minnesota Improvement Association, outlined the plans, and they were applauded by the 125 members of the Minneapolis Traffic Club present. It was also voted to start a comprehensive campaign of education on the subject. There are 500 members of the Minneapolis organization of traffic men, and those not present at the meeting are to be sent literature that will enlighten them along the plans of the development association.

While the drainage scheme is planned to drain large tracts in Northern Minnesota, the Minnesota river valley is also to come in for its share, it being the intention of the promoters that in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000 is to be expended along that stream. The entire project is to cost about \$100,000,000 and it is estimated that the money will be returned to the state many times over. Twenty years will be required to complete the work.

It is asserted by Mr. Crocker that the annual crop and livestock produced on the land of Minnesota is worth \$500,000,000, and that it can be raised to \$1,700,000,000 if the waste land is made available by drainage for agricultural and stock raising purposes.

Dr. F. W. Sardeson, a federal geologist who is also interested in the project, says that with the exception of the extreme southeastern and southwestern corners, there is scarcely a farm in the state that does not need some sort of drainage.

Five millions of dollars have so far been spent in the Minnesota valley in judicial and county ditches. Under the plans of the All Minnesota Improvement Association it is proposed to expend \$20,000,000 more in this valley in the next ten years.

The needs of the state relative to better drainage and the benefits to be derived therefrom have been thoroughly investigated by leaders in the present movement, and that the state is to be greatly benefited as a whole is the opinion of all those who have studied the question to any extent.

The cost, as has been pointed out before, will not fall upon the taxpayer, and it is believed there will be but little if any opposition, especially when the proposition is fully understood by the citizens in general.

Roe Is Popular

Herman Roe, editor of the Northfield News, and secretary of the Minnesota Press Association, is a candidate for representative in the legislature from Rice county. Several business men of Northfield have volunteered to help Mr. Roe along in his candidacy.

Redwood Falls is to have a fire truck. At a meeting of the city council a few nights ago, appropriation of \$500 was made towards its purchase.

Hughes Still Silent

Charles E. Hughes, Republican candidate for President remains silent on all of the important questions that have been put to him during this campaign. He hasn't yet told us what he would have done had he been President when most of the important crises took place in the past two years or more. His criticisms of the acts of President Wilson and his administration continue unabated, but not a word as to what his action would have been under like conditions. The people want to know.

Minnesota To Go Democratic

Popularity of the Democratic national ticket has been growing so rapidly in the past few weeks that the Republican leaders surprised their followers last week by announcing Minnesota as in the doubtful list with the chances of its giving its electoral vote to Wilson and Marshall. While the President has been gaining in strength Hughes and his party have made an admittedly poor showing and the few votes they had in the beginning have been fast ebbing away.

Many of the Democratic leaders go far enough to believe Hughes will carry about as many states in the election two weeks hence as Taft did in 1912, and they were hardly worth counting.

"Knocker" Is A Nuisance

The man who can't speak a good word for the town in which he lives and in which he earns his living, had for the benefit of the town and for himself—best get out of it. Not that the "knocking" of such an individual hurts the town particularly, but he usually makes such an infernal nuisance of himself that the town could much better be rid of him. Fortunately there are not many of that kind in New Ulm. An exchange very aptly says:

"Keep boosting for your own town. Every boost makes a bigger and a better city."

U. S. Leads In Sugar Exports

The United States now leads the world in sugar exports, is the claim made by a Chicago trade paper. The publication gains its figures from the trade department of the National City Bank of New York, and they are no doubt correct.

In the fiscal year of 1916, the second year of the war, our exports of refined sugar were 1,500,000,000 pounds as compared with 500,000,000 pounds in the first year of the war, and less than one-tenth of a billion before the war began.

This marked change in our status as a sugar exporter is due wholly to the fact that those countries which were our chief competitors prior to 1914 are now importers, their industries having been either so greatly demoralized or cut off from the world's trade that they are not producing enough for their own consumption, to say nothing of exporting. Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia, in the past, have been the chief exporters of refined sugar. The exports of Germany in 1914, were 3,460,000,000 pounds; Austria-Hungary, 2,369,000,000 pounds, and Russia about 1,000,000,000 pounds. France, in normal times exports 400,000,000 pounds, but now is buying about that much from the United States. Belgium, which normally exports about 350,000,000 pounds is sending none away now.

With these figures at hand the New Ulm housewife, as well as all others in the United States, can well understand why they are paying 8 cents or more a pound for sugar when they were formerly paying 6 cents or less for that commodity.

Newspaper Men Not All Angels

Pollock's Newspaper News, of Minneapolis, in its last issue, does a little bragging about our noble profession when it says:

"It is interesting to know that the newspaper profession is about the only one not represented in the Minnesota state penitentiary, and that it has not been represented there since the opening of the penitentiary. May this condition continue!"

Of course we newspaper fellows are all right, and a pretty square lot as a rule, but we shouldn't blow our horns too loudly. The biennial report of Warden C. S. Reed, who runs that little institution down at Stillwater, of which all Minnesotans are so proud—if they are on the outside—has just been published. From it we learn there were confined within its walls on July 1, 1916, representatives of our kin and allied orders, as follows: Newspapersmen, 1; reporters 3; printers, 3. The report doesn't say for what crimes they were imprisoned, but they are presumably some city chaps who were convicted of stealing news from country editors.

John W. Boock, who was a resident of New Ulm from 1898 to 1906, during which time he was employed as a book-keeper, is a candidate for State Representative from Sibley county. Since leaving New Ulm Mr. Boock has been cashier of the Citizens' State Bank at Gibbon, which position he now holds.

Potatoes in Minnesota this year will average about fifty bushels to the acre, against 110 last year, according to estimates received by State Immigration Commissioner Fred D. Sherman of St. Paul.

MINNESOTA EDITORS' COMMENT

New Ulm citizens are discussing the advisability of moving the Indian monument from the intersection of State and Center Streets. A Ford ran into it last week and they don't want to take any more chances.—*Springfield Free Press.*

Complaint is made in Philadelphia that "Unistatia" as a new name for the United States sounds too much like a hair tonic. If we could wheedle Canada and Mexico into our league, America would be a pretty good name to tie to.—*Minneapolis Journal.*

Julius Thorson, of Benson, will be supported by every Democrat in his fight for lieutenant governor. Not only will the Democrats vote for Mr. Thorson, but many Republicans, especially those to whom Mr. Frankson's nomination seemed a little bit "queer."—*St. Peter Herald.*

Someone who has counted says that Roosevelt used the pronoun "I" only seventy-five times in his Battle Creek speech. T. R. has grown surprisingly modest and retiring.—*Mankato Review.*

PROGRESS IN MEXICO

The *Christian Science Monitor* prints an official statement of things done by the Constitutionalist government in Mexico. Agrarian commissions are at work in various states in accordance with the comprehensive plan announced two years ago. Community lands are being restored to their rightful owners, and those desiring tracts for cultivation are fast receiving them. Peonage has been destroyed by a law limiting the debt of any laborer, and another wiping it out, whether liquidated or not, after a certain period. The eight-hour day has been decreed, and laborers in shop or factory must be paid for overtime. A minimum wage law has ended the hiring of laborers for a pittance of a few centavos daily. Unions have for the first time been recognized and even encouraged. Decrees have been promulgated governing the exploitation of mineral, forest, and other resources to prevent monopolies. Taxation has been equalized, thousands of new schools have been established, and amnesty is gradually being granted the opponents of the Government. Upon this the *New York Evening Post* comments thus: "The Carranza Government may in some of these matters be speaking of things as though almost accomplished which it has merely set afoot and which will be difficult to push through but, allowing for this, the statement holds out the hope of a new and better Mexico." At the least, is not the programme better than the war into which some people want to drive us and Mexico? But perhaps the war is wanted to stop such things!—*Reedy's Mirror.*

STATE PRISON REPORT RECEIVED

The nineteenth biennial report of the Minnesota State Prison has been issued from the press of the Prison Mirror, the publication of the prisoners, printed inside the prison walls. It is a book of 114 pages and contains the report of the warden, the statistics of the institution, rules governing the inmates and a large number of illustrations of the exterior and interior of the new state penitentiary. The book presents a very neat appearance and the information contained therein would prove of value to any one who is interested in social problems.

Julius Thorson, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, is making an active campaign both for himself and the national ticket. His recent tour of the Seventh congressional district is said to have made many votes for the Democratic ticket.

A straw vote recently taken at Paynesville, resulted as follows: Wilson, 46; Hughes, 29. The vote was taken on the street of that town at random, farmers and business men being questioned. When it is considered that the district is normally Republican by 5 to 1, the figures gained in the straw vote are significant.

"Nothing new under the sun", we say, but who ever heard before of any use for old false teeth that have outlived their usefulness as teeth? And yet, a man in Otsego, Mich., is advertising that he will pay cash for just that very article of commerce. One wonders!

"DRY" TOWN FARMER CAN'T RESIST MANKATO SALOONS

Al. Anderson, a farmer residing near Swea City, Iowa, recently visited Mankato, bringing his young son, and accompanied by a neighbor. Anderson became lost in the whirling maze of the city, and his neighbor taking the boy with him, drove back home, leaving the "lost" one to his fate. Anderson was later found in an alley, in the rear of a saloon, dead drunk. He was taken to the police station and arraigned in municipal court, charged with being intoxicated. He said he only took three drinks, which statement he modified later by saying that he could only remember taking that many. He was fined \$15, but he had spent all his money

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before falling into the hands of the police. After communicating with a bank at Swea City the farmer's check was accepted for the amount of the fine and costs.

Winthrop is to have a Municipal Christmas tree, the Commercial Club of that place, at a recent meeting, deciding to take a hand in the matter, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

R. B. Tucker, a pioneer resident of St. Peter, but now of Pasadena, Cal., is visiting old friends in the former city. He came to St. Peter before the Civil War, coming up the Minnesota river by boat as far as Belle Plaine and walking the balance of the distance. Mr. Tucker is now 96 years old.

Benjamin Rice, accused of manslaughter in the Nicollet circuit court, it being maintained by the prosecution that by recklessly driving his automobile he caused the death of Frank Anderson at St. Peter last May, was acquitted at his trial last week. The jury was out about four hours before a verdict was reached. Several witnesses attested to Rice's good character.

Frank Trapp, an old resident of Sanborn, died at his home near there last week, after an illness of nine months. Mr. Trapp was born at Lenz, Pommern, Germany, April 14, 1854. He came to America in 1873 and two years later settled in Redwood county. He leaves a wife and five children. Mr. Trapp was quite well known throughout this section.