

COMMERCIAL CLUB TO HELP MILITIA

COMMITTEE IS APPOINTED TO HELP STRAIGHTEN OUT AFFAIRS.

CONSIDERABLE BUSINESS IS AC- COMPLISHED AT MONTHLY MEETING.

Road improvements, and some of the things to be expected along that line, and the situation relative to New Ulm's military organization, Company A, were among the more important questions discussed at the regular meeting of the New Ulm Commercial club Monday evening.

A feature of the meeting, and one which called forth hearty applause, was a short address by J. A. Kennedy, who is soon to leave the city, and who gave the members of the club a bit of friendly advice on how to make this city larger and better.

Prof. H. C. Hess, secretary of the legislative committee, said that there was no final report except to say that nearly every bill favored by the committee had passed and likewise most of those opposed had failed to run the gauntlet of the two houses.

State Aid For Road.

C. A. Stolz, chairman of the good roads committee, said that he had been informed that practically \$7,500 had been secured for the repairs and improvement of the Kuehnel road, and that in such case \$7,500 more would come from the state, making a total of \$15,000 for the benefit of that unfortunate highway.

A letter from O. M. Phelps of Huron, S. D., secretary of the South Dakota Black and Yellow Trail Highway association, asked what was being done in this territory toward improving that road.

County Auditor L. G. Vogel said the board of county commissioners had made an application for \$25,000 from the federal government, which would probably be available next year to grade and gravel this road thru Brown county.

Major Albert Pfander brought to the attention of the club the military conditions in this city. Major Pfander explained that where New Ulm, a few years ago had three military companies, based on which the state had given to the city its present fine armory, it now had but one, and that with comparatively few members. While there are some forty-eight members in Company A, he said, only a few have taken what is known as the "dual oath," which is required by the federal military authorities. He blamed the present commander of the Second regiment for the present conditions, but said that should the regiment be called out, which is liable to happen at any time the state of affairs as now existing, would be a disgrace to New Ulm, which had long been noted for its enterprise in military affairs.

He moved that the president of the Commercial club appoint a committee of five to investigate conditions, not only in the local company, but in the regiment, and take whatever action it deemed necessary to place the company on its feet.

Defends Present Organization.
Captain Adolph Klause said conditions in Company A were no worse than was the case in 1898, when the company returned from the Spanish-American war, and laid the blame to the objection on the part of the soldiers to the fact that the taking of the "dual oath" would place the men in a position where they could be sent out of the country to fight, in case the government wished to send them there. He urged the club to take action which would give its moral support to recruiting the company to its normal strength.

L. G. Vogel, a Spanish-American war veteran, said the present affairs were no parallel with those of 1898, as at that time the troops were all mustered out of the federal service, and the National Guard regiments immediately reorganized.

The motion to appoint a committee, as suggested by Major Pfander, was carried, President Ottmeyer appointing the following: Philip Liesch, Ferdinand Crone, Emil Metzinger, C. A. Stolz and Adolph Meile.

Prof. A. Ackermann, chairman of civic committee reported on the progress made toward securing the improvement of South Market square, which is now being done under the direction of the park board. That body has announced its intention to expend \$500 on the square this year.

Gives Sound Advice.
J. A. Kennedy, whose forthcoming departure from the city became known when it was announced that his name had been withdrawn from the club's membership list, was called on to make a few parting remarks. He responded by telling the club members how sorry he was to leave New Ulm, and then gave them a bit of advice on how to make the city larger and better. He called attention to the fact that quite recently a stock salesman came here and carried away \$37,000 to be used in an automobile assembling plant in Minneapolis.

"With this \$37,000," he said "an automobile assembling plant could be established here in New Ulm, and be a help to this city instead of to Minneapolis. Let every one pull together, get more factories here instead of helping building them in other cities, and New Ulm will double in size within the next five years."

He said he expected to return here and see that having been accomplished.

The following were dropped from the membership of the club: F. C. Schnobrich, Gay Rawson, W. H. Bierbaum, Fred Hamann, W. S. Vercoe, H. Engel, T. F. Hamlin, J. A. Kennedy.

New members added were as follows: H. J. Cooper, M. Ranweiler, C. R. Hennick, L. M. Norelius, Geo. H. Miles.

KLAUSE NOW HEADS MILITARY COMPANY

Adjutant of Co. "A" Promoted
to Captaincy By Colonel
Mollison.

Lieutenant Adolph Klause on Monday morning received his commission as Captain of Company A, M. N. G., and is now in absolute command of the company. His appointment came from Colonel Mollison, who a week ago placed Klause, who was then first lieutenant of the company, in temporary command, following the resignation of Captain Groebner. It was understood at that time by Lieutenant Klause that his official appointment would follow.

Military Laws Changed.
A change in the state military laws has made a change in the selection of line officers. Instead of electing the captain and lieutenants of National Guard companies they are appointed by the commanding officer of the regiment.

With the promotion of Lieutenant Klause to be captain, and the resignation of Lieutenant Alfred Puhlmann, which was forwarded to Colonel Mollison when Captain Groebner resigned, there are vacancies of both first and second lieutenants in Company A. Captain Klause said yesterday he had not yet recommended any one for either vacancy, but would probably do so before long.

Recruiting Work Progressing.
Captain Klause is making special efforts toward recruiting for the company, but so far without a great deal of success. A mass meeting is being discussed to work up a little more enthusiasm and one will probably be called within a short time.

Many of the former members of the company have expressed the opinion that the general apathy in Company A is caused by the trouble among the regimental officers, some even doubting if there will be much doing unless Colonel Mollison and Major Quane both step out.

Home Guard Organized.
L. G. Vogel, who has been organizing a Home Guard for this city, has secured sixty-one members, ranging in ages from 45 to 78, a list of which he has forwarded to Major Seeback at St. Paul. As soon as the necessary papers arrive Mr. Vogel will call a meeting of the members when officers will be elected.

Mr. Vogel says great interest was taken by those approached on the subject, and he had no difficulty in securing the membership. The guard is made up largely of Spanish-American war veterans, former National Guard members and a few Civil war veterans.

RAILWAY HELPS TO CUT LIVING COST

NORTHWESTERN COMPANY WILL GIVE FREE USE OF LAND TO EMPLOYEES

SIXTY THOUSAND ACRES ALONG RIGHT-OF-WAY AVAILABLE TO CULTIVATE

The Chicago & Northwestern railway is advising its employes to plant gardens along the road's right-of-way, and division superintendents have been instructed to urge employes in every capacity where they are situated so this will be possible to cultivate the land along the road to the utmost. The following circular letter has been sent to the superintendents by the general manager:

Available For Gardens
"With living expenses constantly rising you should, when consistent, encourage section foremen, agents or others, to utilize available pieces of right-of-way, that can be used without disadvantage or inconvenience to the company, for raising products for the maintenance of such employes and their families. This practice exists to some extent, and it would seem advisable to extend it further reasonably."

The railway company will also give advice regarding the planting and culture of such gardens, especially with respect to what vegetables are best raised in various localities, requesting that special attention be given to the raising of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, parsnips and other vegetables which will provide food thruout the winter. This work is being carried on in co-operation with the various universities and agricultural colleges in states which the road traverses.

Is For All Classes
The Northwestern railway has over 10,000 miles of road, which runs thru the best agricultural country in America. Allowing twenty-five feet on each side of the railway for farming and gardening purposes, it is estimated that if all the ground available by the company's offer should be planted by employes, it would comprise 60,000 acres. The number of employes who will probably take advantage of the company's offer, to help keep pace with the steadily increasing cost of foodstuffs is expected to represent, a small army consisting of all classes, from the section men residing along the line, to the officials living at the division points.

APRIL WAS COOL
According to the monthly weather report issued by Alex. Henle, local weather observer, April averaged cooler than usual. The mean temperature was 42.6. The maximum was 79, on the 19th, while the minimum reached 26 degrees on the 5th of the month. There was a slight hail storm on the 17th and thunderstorms prevailed on that day and the day following. There were nine clear days, eleven partly cloudy and ten cloudy during the month. The prevailing winds were north and east.

GROWTH SHOWN IN TELEPHONE LINES

ANNUAL MEETING OF NEW ULM RURAL COMPANY REVEALS PROSPERITY.

INCREASED RATES ARE URGED AS NECESSARY FOR NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

The New Ulm Rural Telephone company shows a substantial increase in business in the past year. This was disclosed at the twelfth annual meeting of the company, held at Schell's hall last Thursday. There were over one hundred or about a quarter of the stockholders present at the meeting.

There was a gain of 105 telephones in use from April 16, 1916 to April 16, 1917, eighty-eight of which were in the city and seventeen on the rural lines. There are 326 miles of pole lines and 545 miles of circuit, 161 miles of which are in Brown county and 165 miles in Nicollet. Three and a half miles of pole lines were added during the year.

Directors Are Elected.
The meeting was called to order at 10 a. m., by President Fred Pfander, who appointed twelve election judges, after which nominations of directors were made. The meeting then adjourned until 1 p. m.

The election took place during the first hour of the afternoon session, the following eighteen directors being chosen:

New Ulm—Fred Pfander, F. H. Retzlaff, H. P. Bastian, Joseph Wiesner, A. G. Bierbaum, William James.

Cottonwood—Mathew Roeck and Joseph J. Sperl.

Milford—William Gluth and Fred Kollhoff.

Courtland—Henry Mueller and Nicholas Reinhart.

Sigel—John A. Sellner and H. A. Hilleheim.

West Newton—Mathew Walsler and L. P. Bushard.

Lafayette—John Huelkamp and Fred Wellner.

Assets Have Increased.
The financial statement, which was read by Assistant Secretary A. G. Bierbaum and also distributed to the stockholders in printed form, made an excellent showing. The total assets are \$88,451.50, including \$2,766.86 cash on hand. The receipts of the company for the year were \$34,537.09. The gross earnings for the year were \$25,340.90, of which \$22,931.05 was for telephone rent. This is about \$1,000 more than for the previous year. The maintenance and operating expenses were \$10,803.73. Construction from April 16, 1916 to the same date this year, was \$25,001.20; this included the new office building which costs \$11,570.39. The company paid dividends during the year of \$4,301.50.

Assistant Secretary Bierbaum announced that a dividend of 7 per cent had been declared at a meeting of the directors held a few days before the annual meeting.

Manager Kohn Advises Improvement
In his report to the stockholders Manager Otto R. Kohn took occasion to call the attention of the members of the company to the fact that a number of improvements are necessary that adequate service may be afforded the subscribers. He said that in numerous instances as many as fifteen subscribers were on a single rural line. Extra lines, he said, should be provided to relieve those overburdened. He said the cost would be about \$3,500, but it should have been done several years ago. He said he proposes to patrol all of the rural lines and make necessary repairs, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$600 or \$800.

Mr. Kohn's report started a spirited discussion as to the advisability of raising the telephone rates, which are now much lower than any others for similar service in the state.

The rates made by the St. Peter, Hanska, Sleepy Eye and other companies in near-by territory is \$1.25 a month, while here the rate remains at \$1, the same as when the company was organized twelve years ago. The Mankato, Cambria and others charge \$1.50.

Several of the stockholders discussed the situation at length. Owing to the fact that so large a percentage of the members of the company were absent, those present did not feel that it would be proper to take definite action on raising rates. It was voted, however, to authorize the directors to take such action in the matter as they deemed necessary for the welfare of the company.

The directors will elect their officers at their next monthly meeting which will be held in June.

President Pfander announced that the switchboard, to be installed in the new building, built at Rochester, N. Y., was completed and a telegram just received from the builders announced that it would be shipped at once and is expected to arrive this week. It will take about two months to install the new board and make the transfer from the old offices to the new.

RENVILLE CITIZEN DIES
The death of John Garrity occurred at his home in Morton last week after an illness of only a few weeks. Mr. Garrity, who was 75 years old at the time of his death, had lived in Renville county since 1887, served twelve years as judge of probate of that county, and was well known to many citizens of Brown county. Miss Margaret Garrity of the Loretto hospital of this city was a sister. He had been crippled in both hands and feet for many years from having been frozen during a heavy storm in the winter of 1873, while a resident of Wisconsin.

CENTRAL HEATING PLANT A SUCCESS

STOCKHOLDERS EXPRESS DE- LIGHT WITH FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

DIRECTORS ARE RE-ELECTED; AND MAY ADD TO HEATING DISTRICT.

Monday afternoon the stockholders of the New Ulm Heating company held their annual meeting at the Commercial club rooms for the purpose of listening to the report of the secretary-treasurer and of electing a new board of directors. The meeting was very serene and well it might be, because the financial report of the venture submitted proved beyond peradventure of doubt that the heating plant proposition will prove a financial success. The figures show it and there is no getting away from it. With total returns of \$4275.78 for only part of the heating season on a capitalization of \$26,400, approximately 17 per cent, it was quite apparent that the heating plant must prove a financial success.

Little Live Steam Used.
The amount of live steam consumed during the year was but a negligible quantity and the heating experts gave it as their opinion that not only would there be enough exhaust steam to supply also the buildings in the two blocks now connected with the plant but that there would be enough to take care of two additional blocks, the abutting property owners of which are very anxious to get the service also.

If the buildings now connected with the heating plant had been supplied during the entire year, the receipts would have been at least \$6,000. As it was the receipts for heat amounted to \$4,275.78 distributed over the following months: November and December (estimated) \$1099.04, January \$1062.90, February \$998.15, March \$738.69 and April \$377.00. The receipts for the balance of the heating season will certainly bring the totals to \$4500.00. Under the arrangement with the city, interest on the capital stock at the rate of 6 per cent will be first paid, then 5 per cent will be placed in a sinking fund and the balance can be utilized for the purpose of paying back the moneys borrowed and retiring stock.

Stockholders Elected.
The stockholders are elected with the first year's showing and the board of directors have every reason to feel satisfied with their efforts. Since they had a great many obstacles to overcome, the greatest, no doubt, being the idea that so many had, that the proposition might not prove feasible or might not prove a sufficient money maker to warrant the outlay. The best proof that the plant is satisfactory in every way was given when representatives from the block north and from the one south of the area now covered by the heating plant appeared before the stockholders' meeting and petitioned for the extension of the heating mains to cover these two blocks also.

May Extend Plant.
The stockholders went on record as favoring such an extension but left it entirely with the board of directors to have such extensions made if the conditions warrant it. Supt. August Mueller of the electric light and water plant came in for words of praise for his untiring efforts in getting the plant installed and overcoming the many difficulties and obstacles which the Board of Directors had to face and which were at times most discouraging.

Mention was also made of the satisfactory manner in which the contractors had done the work and the consulting engineers were also given due praise for the manner in which they worked out the plans for the system and supervised the installation. The old board of directors were re-elected as follows: Ferdinand Crone, Alfred J. Vogel, F. W. Johnson, H. N. Somsen and G. A. Ottmeyer.

The detailed financial report submitted by Secy-Treas. Johnson reads as follows:

Stock subscriptions	\$22,400.00
Borrowed from banks	4,000.00
Total	\$26,400.00
Disbursements.	
Preliminary Work	40.09
Contract construction	22,136.92
Engineer's fees	1,180.21
Supt's Salary and Expenses	728.57
Valves and fittings	526.86
Freight	51.06
Meters	1,203.82
Repairing Groebner Sidewalk	40.00
Charts for Station	18.17
Revenue Stamps	11.00
Incorporation, filing and Pub.	
Fees	101.44
Attorneys' Fees	218.00
Publishing Ordinance	16.75
Guages for Central Station	30.40
Printing, etc.	14.50
Total	\$26,317.79

MANKATO WANTS OUR BAND.
The Mankato Free Press in its Monday issue, urged that city to get busy and secure for itself the Second Regiment band. The Free Press was evidently prompted to its action by a suggestion from Captain Harold S. Nelson of Owatonna, who tells the Mankato folks that they can have the band with but very little effort.

At a special meeting of the stockholders of the Nicollet Creamery association the articles of incorporation were amended permitting that organization to borrow money to complete the new creamery and buttermaker's residence. The contractors, Fred Volk of Nicollet and Puhlmann Brothers of this city, will resume work at once.

OLD GLORY FLOATS OVER SCHOOL HOUSE

Grand Army Women Present Hand-
some Flag to Lincoln
School.

The Ladies Circle of Hecker Post of the Grand Army of the Republic has purchased a flag for the Lincoln school of New Ulm. It was presented on Monday afternoon, with appropriate and patriotic services, in which members of the G. A. R., the Ladies Circle, the superintendent of the public schools and the children and teachers participated. The exercises took place in the building, all of the grades of the school being assembled.

The members of the Post marched to the school in a body, with "Old Glory" proudly borne before them.

The program opened with the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," which was followed by a recitation, "My Flag," by Mrs. John Schapekahn. The handsome new flag, 4 by 8 feet in size, was then formally presented by the ladies, with Mrs. Otto Heymann making the presentation, in words fitting to the occasion, and the acceptance was spoken in behalf of the school by Miss Freda Maurer. All then joined, standing, in singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Superintendent Hess spoke to the children of the principles for which the flag stands, and said that this is a fitting time for every one to pay this tribute to their country, and too in a school named for our greatest man—Lincoln.

Then the children sang one of their school songs, "There Are Many Flags in Many Lands," with a spirit that showed they believed there is none like their own red, white and blue.

Jacob Klossner, Jr., commander of Hecker Post, told the children what the flag stands for, and how the words, Hecker Post, No. 48, on their banner distinguished it from all other flags, and what is expected of a Standard Bearer. He said this flag is the emblem of our country; it stands for the pledge of every citizen; it should hold us together, and we should be all of one mind, for "United we stand, divided we fall."

"Flag of Our Country" was sung by the school.

The ceremonies were concluded on the lawn. Everybody took part in the applause as the beautiful new flag was unfurled by Professor Hess, the children giving the flag salute.

A steel flagstaff, forty feet high, has been bought and will be raised on the school grounds within a short time. A similar staff has been purchased for the east primary school.

SENIORS PRESENT A PLEASING PLAY

"ROSE O' PLYMOUTH TOWN" IS GIVEN TO LARGE AUDIENCE WEDNESDAY.

STUDENTS PERFORM LIKE SEAS- ONED ACTORS AT TURNER THEATER.

One of those pretty wholesome pleasing plays with not a single doubtful line in it was the "Rose of Plymouth Town" given by the Senior Class of the New Ulm High School at Turner Hall last Wednesday evening. The cast was small and the work of the actors was naturally more finished than it could have been had the play called for a large number of young people to take the different roles. There were but eight characters and every part was handled in a most satisfactory manner and while it seems a little too bad that so few of the members of the Senior class took part the result was without doubt more finished and pleasing to the audience than might have been in the case with a large cast.

The play was eminently suited for the purpose and the young people were well fitted by nature and personality for the roles they played. Certainly there could have been no lovelier Rose than Aimee Krook nor more gallant lover than Max Freitag and Josephine Fredricks was surely a reincarnation of Barbara the wife of Miles Standish. Ernie Schlander played the part of the doughty captain and his military bearing together with the suit of armor furnished all of the necessary stage presence and Armin Koehler made a most delightful villain. Ellen Ochs and Ludwig Hofmeister took the secondary lovers roles and were very sweet and appealing in their youth and innocence. Caroline Stolz was excellent as the world-weary woman seeking a new sensation and cynical of the virtues of men.

The story was a pretty little love and war drama with everybody happy at the close except the villain, who, of course, did not deserve to be.

The class of 1917 may well be proud of their representatives who showed what can be done in a dramatic line. A full house greeted the young people and paid them the compliment of going away very well satisfied.

The musical numbers given by the orchestra, by Victor Reim and Miss Turner, Adela Ouren and John Scheidecker were all highly approved by the audience and encores demanded. All in all, it was a very pleasing evening for everyone.

John Kierzek, formerly an instructor in the local high school, and who is now doing post-graduate work in the English department of the State University has been elected to Lambda Alpha Psi, the national honorary fraternity for distinguished work in languages and literature. Mr. Kierzek spent two years at New Ulm and his friends here will be glad to hear of the honor he has won.

STOCK WORTHLESS VICTIMS WIN SUIT

GUGGISBERG GIVEN JUDGMENT IN COURT CASE AGAINST W. H. BOETTGER.

DEFENDENT TO ASK REVERSAL OF DECISION BEFORE SU- PREME BENCH.

A decision was handed down by Judge Olsen Friday in the long drawn out case of George Guggisberg against William H. Boettger, involving some \$1,700, over the sale of stock in a Twin City corporation, which has failed to materialize. Mr. Guggisberg was given the decision, Mr. Boettger being ordered by the court to pay the amount with interest at 6 per cent from May 20, 1912 to the present time. The suit was started about two years ago, but has been advanced on the calendar from term to term, and was tried in chambers before Judge Olsen in March last, and taken under advisement at that time. Owing to the prominence of the parties, considerable interest has been taken in the case by the public.

Case Will Be Appealed.
The case will be appealed to the supreme court, according to Pfander & Erickson, attorneys for Mr. Boettger. The claim of the defense is that Mr. Boettger had no interest in the sale of the stock, except that he was employed by the stock salesman to convey him around the county, furnishing a team for that purpose.

According to the evidence B. Costberg appeared in New Ulm in the spring of 1912, representing the Ware Grain Binder Attachment company, manufacturers of grain binding attachments for reapers. His mission here was to sell stock of the company, which he represented. It is alleged that he engaged Mr. Boettger to assist him in the sale of the stock. It was also claimed at the trial that Costberg received 50 per cent of the money received, while he was to pay Boettger 5 per cent to take him around the country districts, introduce the stock salesman to his former friends, furnishing a horse and buggy for the purpose.

Claims Misrepresentation.
It appears that they first approached Mr. Guggisberg at his farm home in Sigel township, who claims that thru the representations made by Mr. Boettger he bought \$500 worth of the stock, paying cash. He claims that it was represented to him that the binding attachment was being used by the farmers of South Dakota, that it was being manufactured in large lots at Midway, and that the company also owned a twine factory located at Winthrop, and that the statements were false; that the attachment had never been used in South Dakota or elsewhere, except for the purpose of trying it out, and in fact it was at that time only in an experimental stage.

Others to Get Money Back.
Five other farmers, Frank H. Seifert, G. Kassulke, Martin Mohr, Henry Holm and August Hoffmann, made practically the same contention, alleging that thru the influence of Boettger they purchased stock in the concern, which proved to be worthless. The amounts received from the six farmers were as follows: Guggisberg, \$500; Seifert, \$100; Kassulke, \$200; Mohr, \$300; Holm, \$300; Hoffmann, \$300; a total of \$1,700.

When it was discovered that the stock was of no value, that the company was insolvent and that nothing could be collected from Costberg, suit was started against Boettger, as a party to the deal. The other victims assigned their interests to Guggisberg, that the suit might be brought in one action.

Judge Olsen sustained every contention made by the plaintiff and ordered judgment as stated.

Mr. Boettger contends that he made no claims for the machine or the company except that he had seen it at work at the Brown County Fair, when it worked perfectly, and he still believes that but for that changed conditions brought about by the war, the company would have made good.

**KENNEDY RESIGNS AS
HEAD OF GAS COMPANY**
J. A. Kennedy, president and general manager of the New Ulm Gas company since its organization two-and-a-half years ago, has resigned, and will leave here the latter part of the week. R. L. Griggs of Duluth becomes president of the corporation and C. R. Hennick, secretary, and who has had charge of the company's office since its establishment, becomes general manager. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy will leave the latter part of the week, intending to take an extended western trip.

Mr. Kennedy has large interests in the west which he expects to look after before settling down to taking a life a bit easier. He has made hosts of friends in New Ulm since coming here, who would be glad to have the family return to make this their permanent home.

This week the public schools will give their annual exhibit of work done thruout the year. The teachers feel very anxious lest parents do not show the interest they should in this affair. It is said that very little interest has been shown the past year by parents. Several teachers report that not one parent has visited in their grades during the year. This is rather discouraging when teachers are trying their best to produce good results. It would be supposed that parents should take some interest in the manner in which their children spend their school hours, but they do not evidence any startling eagerness here in New Ulm.