

MINN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ST PAUL MINN 2ND

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SHRINKING FUNDS LIMIT ROAD WORK

CANNOT CONTINUE PRESENT SCALE OF IMPROVEMENT SAYS BABCOCK.

APRIL 6 BIDS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AT ANY PRICE.

Winter and early spring contracts together with maintenance and other fixed charges taking the available trunk highway funds for 1922, which are greatly reduced in comparison with the 1921 total, Charles M. Babcock, state highway commissioner, today cancelled the call for bids April 6 on projects estimated at nearly \$500,000 and announced that no additional construction can be undertaken this year. Results this year on the trunk route system, however, will compare favorably with those last season, in spite of the reduction in available funds, the commissioner said. New construction is well up to the mark set, he said, and maximum provision has been made to continue maintenance operations on virtually the same lines as last season.

Price Levels Down One-fifth. The unfortunate side of the situation as viewed by highway officials, is that the state is without extra funds to build needed highways on a bigger scale now that bids demonstrate that \$4 will do the work of \$5 last season. Indications are that the lowest price levels have been reached and costs may go up next year, he continued, but the state cannot take advantage of the unusually favorable conditions because special legislation is necessary and the next regular session of the legislature will not open until January.

Savings Would Offset Interest. "Always striving for and taking pride in creditable results under the new plan, the highway department naturally regrets that it is obliged to curtail operations instead of speeding the program under the most favorable conditions now existing," said Mr. Babcock. "Good business judgment ordinarily would call for enlargement and expansion this season. Savings possible under present costs would more than offset interest charges on borrowed money, and the public would gain also by getting the use of the improved roads for longer periods without additional expense. A creditable showing is expected but with funds limited, and decreased in a ratio double the cut in prices, no new records can be hung up."

Comparisons. Official figures were given out to afford comparisons between the amount used in 1921 and those available for trunk highway purposes this year:

Source—	1921	1922
Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$5,616,000	\$5,577,000
1921 Balance		73,000
Federal Highway Aid, 1921 Balance	2,840,000	2,123,000
County Reimb Bonds	4,250,000	2,400,000*
Totals	\$12,706,000	\$10,613,000

\* Net 1922 total available, after interest payments.

Disbursements and charges to be made against the 1922 total of \$10,613,000 are listed as follows:

Liabilities	Amount
County Reimb, Bond Projects	\$4,075,000
Winter Work Program	2,002,000
Maintenance required by Law	2,230,000
Contracts awarded March 10	850,000
Uncompleted 1921 construction	923,000
Surveys, Right-of-way, etc.	383,000
Administration	150,000
Total	\$10,613,000

Where The Money Goes. County reimbursement bond projects on trunk highways which top the list include the paving from St. Cloud north beyond Little Falls at \$900,000, Red Lake County work at \$175,000 and many smaller jobs to be built this season. The Northfield-Westcott paving contract at \$700,000 was part of the winter work program to speed the highway program and relieve unemployment. These and other items show how the department put 1922 work under contract early and at low prices while the 1921 projects could not be started until June. John H. Mullen, deputy commissioner and chief highway engineer, pointed out that trunk funds were practically intact on June 1 last year, owing to delays in necessary legislation, and for that reason were used during the last seven months. Funds for 1922, however, must be spread

over twelve months, although revenues are decreased and interest charges, also uncompleted 1921 work must be paid from them.

The effect is shown in numerous ways and particularly in the maintenance fund. Maintenance forces began operations about June 11 last year with \$2,225,000 to use, the law fixing the amount at 60 per cent of the annual motor vehicle tax revenue after \$150,000 is deducted for administration. This year spring break-up and other early operations will take about \$700,000 and the maintenance fund balance on June 1 will not exceed \$1,800,000, it was officially announced. Parallel comparisons based on official highway figures disclose that less than \$3 will be available for actual trunk highway work this year against \$5 last year and the reduction will offset more than twice the drop in prices. The figures were announced following conferences to work out every possible economy and spread the maximum benefits, highway officials asserted, and the state will get the biggest gain to be had on the low cost but not the measure which could be hoped for.

## WATONWAN WILL STAGE CROW HUNT

THE BLACK TROUBLE MAKERS MUST DIE, SAYS GAME AND FISH CLUB.

ASK NEW ULM HUNTSMEN TO JOIN IN A GENERAL CROW MASSACRE.

The Review is in receipt of the following communication from the Watonwan Game & Fish Club. This letter arrived just before the hour of going to press and we were unable to learn whether any action will be taken here or not but the idea is worthy of publicity. "The Watonwan Game & Fish Club passed a motion at their last meeting that a committee be appointed to write all sportsmen clubs in counties adjoining Watonwan and at the same time to take the matter up with all the newspapers in the towns of these counties to solicit their co-operation in an effort to destroy the crows. "Last year we staged a crow hunt for two days in Watonwan County and destroyed old and young crows with eggs numbering 1500 and gave prizes of \$5.00; \$3.00 and \$2.00. The greatest result of this initial crow hunt is that the interest has been so intensified, especially among the farmers, that we are going after it big this year.

One Week's Hunt. "Our crow hunt for this year is (Continued on page 3.)

## ROAD AND DITCH HEARINGS.

The final hearing on County Ditch Number 32 will be held in the village of Cobden on the 6th of April and on the 3rd of April Judge Olsen will hear the petition for the Judicial Road from the outskirts of the City of New Ulm to Cambria in Blue Earth County. The proposed highway is to be four rods wide and will start at the Metzzen bridge in the Town of Cottonwood and will run through the timber tracts along the right of way of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. The laying of this judicial road has been contested by the Town of Cottonwood and also by quite a number of owners of timber tracts who claim that the laying of the road will practically destroy their timber holdings.

P. A. Hillesheim of Sleepy Eye was a New Ulm business visitor, yesterday afternoon.

## STORY OF TURKISH HORRORS RELATED

ELOQUENT SPEAKER HOLDS AUDIENCE BREATHLESS WITH SYMPATHY.

AWFUL TALE OF SUFFERINGS AMONG THE CHRISTIANS OF PERSIA.

What proved to be an intensely interesting lecture was given at the local Methodist church Monday evening when Mr. Y. H. Shahbaz of the former city of Urmia, Persia, told a large audience, of the sufferings of the Persian Christians in the part of the world he comes from, when they were attacked by the Mongolian Kurds and massacred or driven from their homes by the thousands. The church was packed to the doors and so great was the interest manifested that whenever the speaker paused for a moment, the ticking of the clock could be plainly heard all thru the room as people held their breaths in the eagerness of their interest and suspense.

An Eloquent Speaker. Mr. Shahbaz is a wonderfully eloquent speaker, dramatic, forceful, convincing, and nothing that he said appeared to be exaggerated altho it was hard to realize that some of the things he told could be truths in this day of twentieth-century civilization. In fact, he left the impression that he had not told the half of what might be related of the sufferings of his people at the hands of the unspeakable Kurds.

The speaker was educated at Colgate College, Maryland, and went back to his native land years ago as a Baptist missionary and teacher. He had married a young lady from New York and together they were giving their lives to the work of Christianizing the Persians. They were apparently in good circumstances, living in the midst of plenty, with a good home and fair comforts. Two of their sons were sent to the United States to go to school and there were four younger children still at home when the trouble with the Kurds began.

The Attack of the Kurds. Mr. Shahbaz described the early morning attack of the Kurds upon the city of Urmia, telling how suddenly the firing from thousands of guns broke the early morning stillness with frightful alarm. The Christians had been fearing an attack of the Kurds because they knew that the Kurds were murdering and burning and pillaging all over the lands occupied by those who had repudiated the Moslem faith. The Christians came running by the thousands to the Mission for protection and it was at first thought that the American flag which flew over the mission might save them but Mr. Shahbaz persuaded them to leave, feeling that the Kurds would simply find it the easier to massacre the Christians wholesale if they were gathered together in such masses in a place with no possible means of defense. He told of the separation of families in the crush, the fears, the tears, the prayers and wallings, the imploring supplications of the women and children who besought Mrs. Shahbaz to speak as an American woman to the Kurds, thinking she could thus save their lives. The youngest boy, of the Shahbaz family, a child of less than three years, was lost and was not found for two days, and in all that time he had had no food and as a result died shortly afterwards in his mother's arms.

Leave Their Homes. The people left their city when they saw no hope of saving their lives, going northward, most of them being clothed only in their thin nightclothes, as they had been roused from sleep, having no food, struggling along, falling and struggling on again, only to fall, finally exhausted. A number of the mothers with children and the old men who were not strong enuf to go, stayed behind, taking refuge in a church. There they were later cut to pieces by the Kurds when they were found, every man, woman and child.

Those who went on found that there was no safety in the next village and that in turn was left behind, and on and on they went, until after having left a score or more such cities and villages behind them they came to Tabriz, Persia. There was a large Mission house with grounds enclosed by a twenty-foot wall. The space enclosed within the walls was the size of a city block. Into this enclosure, twenty thousand miserable refugees crowded, hoping against hope that safety might be found there. Each day their supply of food consisted of a little bread and water, nothing else, and as the bakers who supplied the bread were all Mohammedans, often

the bread was made unfit for consumption by having baked within it steel shavings, and other refuse, even more horrible.

In that city square, with absolutely no sanitary accommodations, twenty thousand miserable wretches spent months. Day by day they died like flies, of typhus and other dread diseases. Daily they buried a hundred whose struggles were happily over. Day by day they hoped and prayed and despaired.

Mr. Shahbaz and his family decided to go and live in a deserted house across the road from the Mission, believing it better to die out there than within the awful enclosure of the Mission. Here for six months they lived in a bare room, with no clothing, no bed, no chair, and with constant fear for their daily companion. Here the father of the family spent every night upon the roof, keeping watch against surprise by the Kurds. Finally one day, came a knock at the gate of the wall about the house, and peering over the wall, Mr. Shahbaz spied the form of a Mohammedan friend of his seeking admittance. When the Mohammedan found the plight in which his friends were living, he took them under his care and daily sent to them food and such other comforts as he could give them.

The Blue-Eyed People Come. Finally, one day came the glad tidings that the "Blue-eyed People" as they named the Russians, were coming to their assistance. The word was whispered about fearfully, none daring to believe that it could really be true. Nearer came the Russians, 25 miles, 15 miles, 5 miles, and finally the day that they would arrive was set and the people in the Mission stockade, now reduced in numbers to half their original company, poured out of the great gate of the Mission, which had been barricaded for six months and proceeded painfully to the gates of the city where soon the Cossacks appeared. There the refugees fell upon their faces, weeping, kissing the very hoofs of the horses that had borne their deliverers to them, drenching the boots of the Cossacks with their tears.

A Plea For Russia. At this point in his story, the speaker stopped to utter a plea for the Russians. He assured his hearers that they could do nothing more noble than to help the Russians, and told them with confidence that Russia will eventually prove herself to the world. He asked his audience to help the Russians whenever and wherever they can. Not a word of condemnation did he have for Russia or any of their people, only a whole-hearted appeal for the people who had in the past befriended the Persian Christians in their hour of extremity.

After the rescue by the Russians, the Kurds retreated and many of the Christians desired to go back to their homes, but alas, most of their homes had been burned, nothing was left. Mr. Shahbaz described some of the pitiful scenes enacted when people would go back to start life anew and find nothing to start with, a land of waste and desolation. He told of how those who had not fled were treated by the Kurds when captured, burning alive being the punishment meted out to those who would not renounce the Christian faith and espouse Mohammedanism.

Comes to America. Finally, Mr. Shahbaz decided that he could do nothing more for his people by remaining in Persia, and he decided to come to America. He succeeded in borrowing sufficient funds to get away, crossed Russia, took ship at Archangel, and sailed thru seas filled with mines left by the war years, until after three months he set foot on American soil in a great burst of happiness and relief from long suffering. At present he is employed by those in charge of relief for the Christians, to go about the country and tell his story, getting such help as the people who hear his story feel impelled to give. No collection was taken but voluntary gifts were accepted. The sum of \$33.52 was realized in this way at the Monday evening meeting.

A resolution was also adopted, asking the administration at Washington to make such recommendations to the Persian government as might result in the restoration of the Christian Persians to their homes in peace and safety.

## CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE CHOSEN

The executive committee having charge of the 60th Indian Massacre celebration and home-coming have selected the committee of 100 which is to make necessary arrangements for having charge of the celebration and has tentatively assigned them to various sub-committees. It is now planned to have a meeting of the full committee in the lecture room of Turner Hall next Monday evening for the purpose of completing the organization and getting the work under way.

## PAVING HEARINGS AGAIN POSTPONED

WILL AWAIT RESULT OF CITY ELECTIONS BEFORE TAKING ACTION.

CITY ENTERS INTO CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF ROAD SUPPLIES.

About fifty people were present at the special meeting of the City Council held Monday evening for the purpose of taking action on the matter of paving State Street from 7th North to 7th South. County Attorney W. T. Eckstein who appeared for the petitioners suggested that the meeting be adjourned until April 12th and there being no objection made by any one present such action was taken. Because of the creation of the new ward and the election of additional councilors it was thought best to postpone paving action until the new councilors had been elected, had qualified and could take part in the deliberations.

The proposed improvement is not being made under the charter but is made under a general law passed in 1921 which provides for public hearing whenever at least 25 per cent of the abutting property owners petition for an improvement. The petition asking for the paving of State street is signed by about 40 per cent of the abutting property owners. The question of the advisability and feasibility of the improvement will not be referred to the Board of Public Works as is provided by the charter in case of public improvements but this question will be decided by the council itself at a public hearing which was to have been held Monday evening and which was adjourned until April 12th.

At the adjourned meeting the council will hear the reasons advanced pro and con and if in their opinion the improvement is feasible and should be made, they will direct the city engineer to prepare the necessary plans and specifications and then bids will be invited for the proposed work. At a former meeting the City engineer submitted an estimate of the cost of the improvements. Since then labor and material has been reduced somewhat and at the adjourned meeting new estimates will be presented by the city engineer.

Many Bid on Oil Contract. No less than 17 bids were submitted for supplying New Ulm with the necessary road oil for the streets this year. The Pure Oil Company of Minneapolis was awarded the contract for \$5.85 per 100 gallons, f. o. b. New Ulm. The highest bid was one for 9 cents per gallon but this oil contains considerably more asphalt. The contract to be entered into between the City and the Pure Oil Company will be for 100,000 gallons more or less, and the Pure Oil Company is to furnish a bond in a sufficient amount to protect the City in case they do not carry out their part of the agreement.

Only one bid was received for a scarifier which the City Council has in mind to purchase. This is a piece of road machinery which is used for resurfacing roads. The one bid, that of the Austin-Western Road Machinery Co. of Minneapolis was for the sum of \$600. This was rejected because the City Council apparently is not yet ready to make a purchase.

Water Supply Again Discussed. The water situation was again discussed but nothing further was done in the matter except that an effort will be made to secure the same expert of Layne & Bowler, Memphis, Tenn., who located City Well No. 4 in North German Park.

For the coming city election the following were selected as judges for the various wards and precincts. 1st ward, 1st precinct: Otto F. Oswald, P. J. Soukup, and Hugo Gebser, 2nd precinct, Otto Heymann, John Nagel and John Gratz.

Second ward, 1st precinct: Carl Auferheide, Herman Raabe and Andrew Saffert. 2nd precinct, Theodore Mueller, Julius Krause and William Stjelles.

Third ward, 1st precinct: Athanas Henle, A. J. Meyer and William Durban, 2nd precinct: Charles Kuehlbach, H. F. Schrader and Max Sehal.

Fourth ward, 1st precinct: Ed. J. Berg, Hubert Berg and P. W. Hackbarth, 2nd precinct, L. B. Krook, E. F. Buenger and W. S. Vercoe.

## FUR THIEVES SENTENCED TO REFORMATORY.

Saturday morning John Affolder and John Wurm appeared before Judge I. M. Olsen on information filed at their request, charging them with grand larceny in the first degree. It will be remembered that these young men broke into the Stuebe Brothers Produce House on the night of February 27th and stole muskrat and mink skins valued at the sum of \$375. With the permission of the court they were allowed to plead guilty to grand larceny in the second degree. They were sentenced to the Reformatory at St. Cloud for an indeterminate time. All the property was either recovered or restitution was made by the guilty parties. It appeared from the evidence that young Wurm had sold part of the stolen skins and received therefor the sum of \$135. The Sheriff will take the prisoners to the Reformatory this (Wednesday) morning.

Miss Mabel Johnson returned to her home in Minneapolis Sunday, following a week's visit with her sister Mrs. F. E. Eidsvold of this city.

## SWAN LAKE PLAN AGAIN COMES UP

PROJECT HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS.

SPORTSMEN OBJECT TO THE SPOILING OF THEIR HUNTING GROUNDS.

After a delay of nearly five years the engineer's report on the preliminary survey for the proposed County Ditch No. 67 providing for the lowering of Swan Lake was filed last Thursday with County Auditor W. H. Holz of Nicollet County by Engineer F. D. Minium who is in charge of this work. It was this proposed ditch that aroused the sportsmen of the state and county five years ago and no doubt the same people will still oppose the project and it will be strongly contested when it is brought up on the Viewer's report.

Survey Cost \$6500. The engineer's survey calls for an open ditch with its outlet south of Nicollet village. The estimated cost at this time is \$111,570.93 or more than \$27,000 less than two years ago. It will affect 32,710 acres of land which is the watershed estimate. Of this amount the lake bed of Nicollet County's largest body of water comprises 10,920 acres. The cost of the survey to date is \$6,500.61.

At the present time during flood stages after heavy rains considerable land outside of the meandered line is overflowed, thus making this line un-

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## REPUBS INSTRUCT FOR SEN. KELLOGG

HALLAM FORCES GO DOWN TO DEFEAT AFTER VIGOROUS OPPOSITION.

ALL SET FOR DISTRICT AND STATE CONVENTIONS NEXT WEEK.

Considering the condition of the roads, the Republican County Convention held at Sleepy Eye last Saturday afternoon was very well attended, delegates from all precincts being present. In the forenoon, some of the delegates held Star Chamber sessions and decided upon the conduct of the afternoon's business. Dr. Weiser, County Chairman, called the meeting to order, and in his opening remarks eulogized woman suffrage and complimented Springfield on having sent five women delegates to the county convention.

Temporary Organization. W. W. Smith was elected temporary chairman and H. D. Reed of Comfrey was chosen to act as secretary. This temporary organization was then made permanent and the various committees prepared to report. The credential Committee members were: H. Bendixen, J. F. Bauch, Hans Mo, Fred Prahl. The Nominating Committee: Henry N. Somsen, Albert Hauser, W. B. Brooks, John Schmelz. The Resolutions Committee: L. G. Davis, J. C. Rothenburg, C. Hohn, C. F. Schwieger, Carl Olstad. The old county committee was again continued, with George B. Weiser as chairman.

Delegates Chosen. The chief business to come before the convention was the choice of delegates to the State and Congressional Conventions, the former to be held in St. Paul March 31, and the latter in Mankato, the 30th. There was no scarcity of offers to go among those present and because so many wanted to go, six delegates were chosen from New Ulm altho the city is entitled to but three votes. This gives each delegate half a vote. The same thing was done with the Sleepy Eye, Hanska and Comfrey delegations.

Instruct for Kellogg. There was quite a fight on the matter of endorsing Senator Kellogg, there being strong opposition to instructing the delegation to vote for him. The Hallam forces lost out however, and a resolution was adopted, endorsing the Republican administration and instructing the county delegation to cast the vote of the county for Senator Kellogg. The vote to instruct for Kellogg stood 38 to 16. Those who spoke in opposition to Kellogg were A. H. Hauser, T. O. Streiguth, A. W. Mueller and F. H. Retzlaff. His supporters were L. G. Davis, J. C. Rothenburg and W. B. Mather.

## Delegates To Republican Conventions

State Convention	New Ulm	District Convention.
P. J. Graff		L. G. Vogel
A. W. Mueller		George D. Erickson
F. H. Retzlaff		P. Liesch
Wm. B. Mather		Emil G. Hage
Wm. J. Julius		
W. W. Smith	Sleepy Eye	W. W. Smith
Hans Mo		E. R. Laue
George Foster		W. L. Walters
Albert Hauser		Alb. Hauser
J. C. Rothenburg	Springfield	John Schulz
J. F. Bauch		
Mulligan		
Fred Prahl		
George Chambard	Hanska	Hans Larson
P. J. Blien		
	Comfrey	C. F. Schwieger
		H. D. Reed

## CREAMERY INSTALLS BOILER.

Last week Monday the Sigel Co-operative Creamery found that their boiler had sprung a leak so that it could not be used and on investigation it was found that it could not be repaired. It was therefore decided to invest in a new boiler and Frank Seifert and August Hoffmann were given the commission to go to the Cities and make the purchase. In the meantime the creamery was operated with the assistance of a threshing machine which enabled them to continue their regular work. The new boiler arrived Monday of this week and is being installed. It is a 20-horse, 36 by 10 and will take care of the needs of the creamery for some time. According to the manager of the creamery, business is fine this year with a steadily growing list of customers. At the present time 56 farmers take their cream to the Sigel

institution regularly. Three days of the week are given to churning and they are putting out 25 tubs of butter per week.

Joseph Augustine of Springfield is now languishing in the Brown County jail and will have to remain there for six months unless he is able to secure recognisance in the sum of \$500 to keep the peace for six months. He was arrested on the complaint of his wife who charged him with threatening her and he was found guilty before Justice of the Peace G. F. Peterson and directed to furnish bonds in the sum of \$500 and in default thereof to be committed in the County Jail for six months.

All danger of high water and ice in the Minnesota seem to have passed and the bridge crew anticipate further trouble from that source.