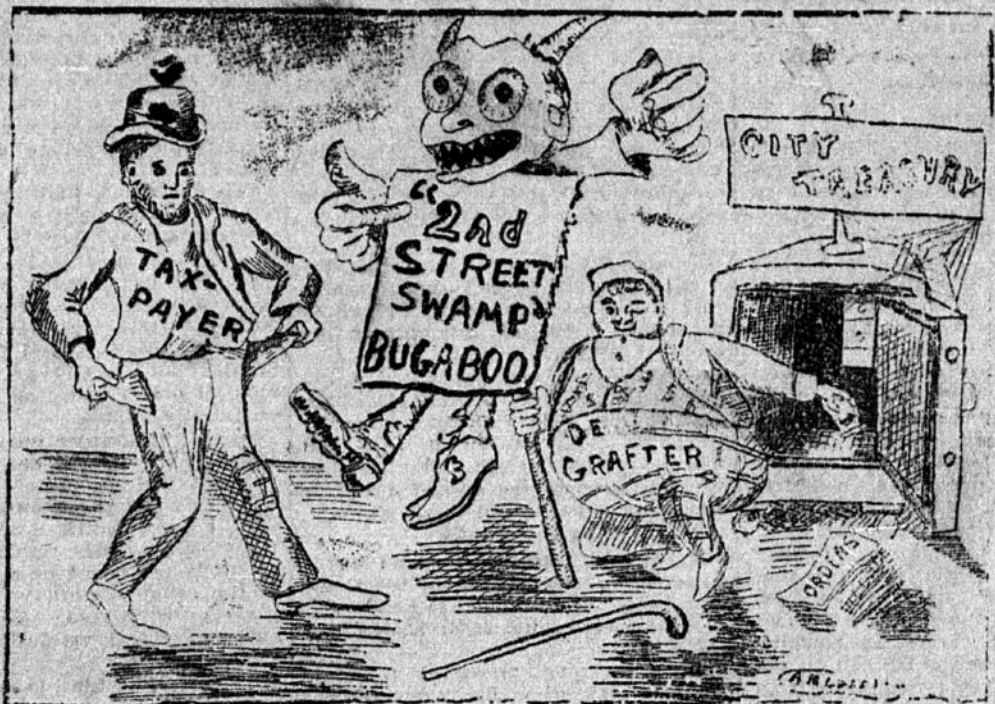


## The "Swamp" Issue too Thin to Hide the Real Issue.



Mr. Empty Pocket Tax-Payer: "Talk about filling swamps! There are things that hunger to be filled worse than a dozen swamps. The grafter must go."

## Electricity In the Air.

The City Hall a Storm Center Friday Night. Lots of Shocks, But Injuries Slight.

The mass meeting at the city hall last Friday night was the best home talent entertainment we have seen for years. It was mirth-provoking and tear-starting. There were pathetic parts for the mournful and bright comedy for the oh-be-joyful. In fact it was a local presentation of a Limerick county fair, a sacred concert, a Whipple murder trial, a continuous variety performance, a backwoods debating society and an Alger-Miles embalmed beef investigation committee all rolled into one. As a caucus it was a dark-eyed failure. No wonder

the electric lights had to be coaxed before they would take a hand in the proceedings.

As chairman and secretary of the last meeting, D. H. Fisk and Rev. Watson took their places, and Chairman Markham of the investigating committee made a report on the condition of the village financially.

AS TO COST OF WATER WORKS.

The following statement was made, but the committee did not sign it. They evidently thought it went beyond their philanthropic mission.

Original plant, including 4,053 feet of mains, tank, lots for tank, plans and specifications, etc. \$10,113.

Additional mains laid by old council, including service pipes, etc. \$5,000.

Total cost of 5,190 feet of mains, 6 inch and 4 inch, \$15,325.

Total cost of 4,160 feet water mains laid by new council, \$15,312.

The iron and hydrant for the main from Third to Second street, on Minnesota avenue is included in the cost of the mains laid by the old council,

and the laying of the same is the cost of the mains by the new council—that being the fact as to that section of mains. The committee understands that the main from 5th to 6th street was a 2 inch one. Total cost of water works system to date, \$29,637.

The report of the committee was accepted and the committee-men honorably discharged.

Then up rose Dr. Foster and submitted a sort of a minority report, showing the outrageous prices paid for certain plumbing work in the city hall by the Ted Smith administration. He was followed by Mr. Street who seconded the motion, but insinuated that such conditions had got no better fast in new hands. Then there were some "Dolly dialogues" by persons in the audience.

Then the long-expected but much-delayed Bailey came manfully to the front and like the invincible Sheridan of Winchester fame, rallied his forces to repel the deadly assault against the administration, past and present. In a few carefully selected words he proved without reasonable doubt that Bemidji never had a downright dishonest official. He contended that if extravagance had ruled at times, it was only because our hustling young town's needs were extravagant. He didn't know anything about water-mains or the cost, but he knew that the needs of the town demanded every foot of such work as had been done. Mr. Bailey held up the olive branch so high that you could hear his suspenders groan.

Next arises the King Lear of the entertainment. In the tone of one who has been deeply wronged, as one who has long kept back the bitter words which suffering patience sometimes gives to woe's relief, Judge Martin amid a whirlwind of applause struck wordy blows. He was not surprised to hear City Attorney Bailey talk as he did because he was familiar with the scriptures which credits the ox with knowing his master's crib. He spoke the kindest words for Mayor Dudley, but Mr. Martin seemed lacking of any budding love for Councilman Jinkinson. He said even his dog was made seasick with the sight of Mr. J. in the president's chair. Mr. Martin called upon the books of the vill-

age to show that during his two months as justice he turned over more money into the treasury than any predecessor or successor.

A motion by one of the victims to place Martin's speech on the table and Martin on the slab, was lost. Attorney Bailey introduced the angel of charity, and called for an adjournment. But he allowed time for a late guest to sample the banquet. It was Joe Markham, the Sage of the Swamp, who arose from the table and responded to his toast: "The Beltrami County News." Holding aloft a copy of that official organ of the Grafters' Union he introduced it as the Bemidji Sewer. He quoted from its columns those dainty paragraphs about himself and commented freely upon them. "Hot air" was his first cue, and he responded: "It will take more than hot air of the Sewer and Bill Irwin to clear this administration of extravagance! Yes I came here and located in the swamp, but I didn't have to take up a collection before getting my goods out of the depot." Mr. Markham denied any political aspirations, but he was willing to go into a joint debate to discuss each other's character with the News publisher. He was no plumber, nor had he learned how to graft \$150 out of a theatre, before allowing them to run, but he was a man who had always insisted that public officials should make their official acts public. As to his public and private life he referred to the people of Aitken county as his critics, and (Continued on Last Page.)

## Making New Year Resolutions

### The Annual Practice of Progressive usiness Men

We Resolved, at the commencement of our business, years ago, to adopt as our maxim: "The very best goods at the lowest market price." We have renewed this resolution at the beginning at each succeeding year, and on this basis have built up the extensive trade we now enjoy.

### Are You Acquainted with Us?

If so-- We want you to incorporate in your resolutions for 1901 in a determination to increase our relations. If not-- We want to make it of interest to you to seek our acquaintance. Call up Phone 1 and we'll answer.

BEMIDJI, MINN.

McCuaig & Ludington.

## Spring Merchandise.

We are receiving daily shipments of goods for Spring and Summer Wear. As usual we will show the Largest Line of Dependable Merchandise in Bemidji, and our prices will be as Low as Any City Store in the Northwest, for goods of like quality.

We are showing extensive patterns, no two of them alike, in

### DRESS GOODS

Tan Covert Suitings, 5-yards length, \$9.00 each  
" " " 4 1/2 yds. " 8.00 "  
Grey " " 6-yards " 8.50 "  
Steel Grey " " 6-yards " 9.00 "  
Solid Suitings 6-yard length in Slate, Black, Navy and Levander, per pattern  
New Waists Patterns at \$1.75 to \$3.00.  
New things in Silk Waist Patterns at \$1.50 per yard.

### DRESS TRIMMING

No use to pay fancy prices for Dress Trimmings. Our Line is Complete, and Prices Right. Two large cases of SATIN, CROSSGRAIN AND COFFETA RIBBON,

At prices that will average about 1 cent per yard less than the prices quoted by the largest catalogue houses in the country, to say nothing of the freight.

APPLIQUE, in one-half yard lengths, just enough for Yoke, front and back, no two alike, price \$2.25 to \$5.00 each.

APPLIQUE, in Black and gold 60 cts. to \$1.25 per yard.

APPLIQUE, in white and gold 65 cents.

GOLD BRAID.

GOLD BUTTONS.

SPIKES.

SPIKE BELTS.

BUCKLES.

### MEN'S WEAR

Men's Suits, New Spring Styles, \$10.00 to \$20.00  
Men's Shirts, " " " 75 cts. to \$1.50  
Men's Hats, " " " \$ 1.00 to \$5.00

O'Leary & Bowser,

Bemidji, Minnesota.

### WOOD WANTED.

For the weakness and prostration following grippe there is nothing so prompt and effective as one Minute Cough Cure. This preparation is highly endorsed as an unfailing remedy for all throat and lung troubles and its early use prevents consumption. It was made to cure quickly. F. A. Mayo.

The Bemidji Independent School District will pay \$1.75 per cord for green jack pine and popple cord wood, in lots above five cords, to be delivered on the school grounds in Bemidji.

R. MCLENNAN,  
Clerk of School Board, No. 7.

### Financial Statement of the Committee.

To the Citizens of Bemidji:

The undersigned, your committee appointed to examine the financial condition of the village at the present time, beg leave to submit the following report:

Your committee met at the office of the village recorder on the afternoon of Thursday and Friday of the present week, that being the only times the committee could obtain use of the books, owing to the same being in use of the Recorder who was making his annual Financial statement, and after a somewhat hurried examination of the said books, found the condition of the village to be as follows:

Debt outstanding February 17, 1900:

Orders.....\$20,999 84  
Erickson Judgment..... 6,887 00  
Bonds..... 7,000 00

\$34,586 84

Orders issued year ending Feb. 15, 1901.....\$35,759 98

Orders paid year ending Feb. 15, 1901..... 17,000 00

Balance outstanding of year's orders.....\$18,759 98

Total debt outstanding Feb. 15, 1901:

Orders.....\$39,758 82  
Judgment..... 6,887 00  
Bonds..... 7,000 00

\$53,646 82

Net increase of debt during year ending Feb. 17, 1901..... 18,759 98

Income for year ending Feb. 13, 1900.....\$14,700 00

Income for year ending Feb. 15, 1901..... 19,201 00

EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1900-1901.

Incidentals.....\$ 6,201 26  
Salaries..... 4,984 45  
Fire apparatus..... 3,029 09  
Poor..... 3,999 06  
Dock..... 684 24  
Street improvements..... 2,449 19  
Water Works..... 14,312 54

\$35,759 83

J. M. MARKHAM,  
R. B. FOSTER,  
W. F. STREET,  
Committee.

## Dudley's Meat Market.

Fresh and Salt  
Meats, Butter,

Eggs, Vegetables  
and Fruits.

Game and Fish in Their Season.

Best Creamery Butter Always On Hand.

BEMIDJI.

---

MINNESOTA.

## GRAND FALLS,

The New Town on

The Big Fork River.

LOTS FOR SALE.

SILVER BROTHERS,

LOCAL AGENTS

80 Tons of Hay  
FOR SALE

Millet and Bottom Hay for sale for cash or to trade for lumber. Call at

Martenson & Petersen Barn,

Near the Village Water Tank-

OLE MARTENSON,

Bemidji, Minn.