

## HE TAKES UP THE CUDGELS

**Blackduck Attorney Gives the U. S. Commissioners a Grilling.**

**HE SAYS MANY OF THEM ARE UNSCRUPULOUS.**

**Sage of Blackduck and Commissioner Noble Have a Set to Saturday Morning.**

If Henry Funkley, the Blackduck attorney, is a man of his word, there will be interesting developments in the U. S. Commissioner business up country. Mr. Funkley ordered U. S. Commissioner Noble out of his office at the end of a stove poker Saturday morning, with the distinct and emphatic promise that his commissioner methods would be brought to light.

Mr. Funkley claims that Noble wanted him to advise a land-seeker that in order to become possessed of a certain homestead he must pay Noble one hundred dollars. This Mr. Funkley refused to do because the land was already taken by another party. Words and action followed with the result that Noble beat a hasty retreat. Mr. Funkley says that it is an open secret that the commissioner business is much abused, as in their capacity as officials of the government these commissioners gain the confidence of the land-seeker whom they victimize with their many clever locating schemes.

"One pet scheme," said Mr. Funkley, "is to take the victim out and show him a good piece of land, tell him it is vacant, get a large locating fee and let him file and go home. When this homesteader returns to build on the land some months later he finds that his papers call for a tract of boggy swamp and not the land he was shown."

"Another scheme that is said to have worked to good advantage is to have the U. S. Commissioner, in addition to the dignity of his office, also pose as a capitalist, in company with a locater. The locater offers to locate the victim on a valuable tract of timber land for, say \$250 locating fee. The U. S. Commissioner-capitalist steps up and says that he has estimates of this particular tract and will pay \$3,000 for the timber as soon as title is obtained from the government. And in order to have the land applied for at once he will pay \$50 earnest money to bind the bargain. This looks like a sure thing and the victim takes the \$50 from the commissioner-capitalist, and together with \$200 of his own money hands it over to the locater so that he may acquire title to this valuable tract. When he goes upon the land that his papers call for he finds it to be a floating bog on some heretofore undiscovered continuation of Red Lake, with no timber on it save an occasional porcupine carefully navigating through the distant terra firma."

"Yes, what does the Commissioner do when his rascality is discovered, and you demand a return of your money? Well, if you are persistent enough run the gauntlet of "side-kickers" and the ordeal of the "knock-out-drops dispensary" you are ad-

mitted into the presence of his majesty, the Commissioner, where you take the thirty second degree. You are there firmly informed that it is to your interest to let the matter drop. You are given to understand that the destiny of all homesteaders is held in the hollow of the hand of the Commissioner, and that you had better "be good" or vengeance will be wreaked upon you and your posterity "forever more," in the shape of contests and protests. And confidentially you may be given the tip that his majesty, the Commissioner, is a "bad man" and that upon provocation he is liable to shoot a hole into your bread basket through which your immortal soul will leak out and take flight to a "better land" if you insist upon being dissatisfied with the homestead you have been assigned.

Chances are that you will choose one of two alternatives, number among the "missing" (like "Sullivan," who has the unusual distinction of being inquired for by an affectionate mother) or let the matter drop, either of which is equally satisfactory to the Commissioner and his gang.

There are U. S. Commissioners who are on the square, but they are few and far between."

Mr. Funkley says that he is going to do all he can to have their rascality put into form of formal charges and submitted to the proper officials for investigation. This is somewhat difficult on account of the reluctance of publicity of many victims.

### Did Thirty Day Stunt.

John Irwin wound up a thirty day stunt with the booze by pleading guilty to a charge of drunkenness in the municipal court this morning. Irwin had spent a large sum of money on the time and was in a terrible condition when arrested yesterday. He was very sick for a time and a physician was summoned to give him relief. Irwin was sent to the county jail for ten days.

### Bar to Meet.

A meeting of the local bar is to be called in the near future to consider the advisability of urging on the charter commission a clause in the charter providing for the creation and maintenance of a municipal court. There is a difference of opinion as to the scope of the commission in the matter and it is deemed advisable to have the opinion of all the local attorneys in the matter.

### Work Resumed.

Work on the school house addition, which was suspended by Contractor Miller several days ago, was resumed this morning by a force of men acting under the instructions from the school board committee appointed to look after the work. It is expected to have the addition completed and ready for occupancy by January 4.

### Buy Blooded Stock.

A stock company of farmers in this vicinity has been formed to purchase the full blood Percheron stallion "Prince of Ballochmyle." The animal is one of the finest on the N. P. Clark stock farm and was brought to the city last Saturday.

### From an Ohio Minister.

Rev. G. W. Hagants, of Clyde Ohio says: "I have used Dr. Warner's White Wine of Tar Syrup for sore throat, weak lungs, cough, cold, and any diseases of the kind it surpasses all other remedies. Many thanks to the doctor for his valuable remedy."

## ACTIVE WORK IS BEGUN

**Charter Commission Holds Second Meeting and Settles Down to Work.**

**FIVE COMMITTEES APPOINTED TO DRAUGHT CHARTER.**

**Much Vigorous Work Is Outlined to be Accomplished by Each.**

The charter commission held its second meeting at the office of Clerk of Court Rhoda Saturday night, the various committees to draught the charter were appointed and the commission will now settle down to active work.

Roberts Rules of order have been adopted to govern the deliberations of the body and the topics have been assigned to committees as follows:

Wards and Election—G. E. Carson, L. H. Bailey, F. M. Malzahn, F. W. Rhoda and M. D. Stoner.

Executive, Legislative and Administrative—L. H. Bailey, A. P. White, C. R. Martin, Porter Nye and Edwin Trask.

Police, Fire and Health—C. R. Martin, E. L. Naylor, Geo. McTaggart, A. Gilmore and Wes Wright.

Public Improvements and Taxation—Porter Nye, Edwin Trask, Matt Thome, G. E. Carson and M. D. Stoner.

Franchises and Ordinances—A. P. White, Edward Kaiser, L. H. Bailey, F. W. Rhoda and M. D. Stoner.

As soon as the various committees have completed their labors a meeting of the commission will be called and the reports of each will be adopted by the commission. The commission must report some time within the first six months after its organization, but it may be allowed longer time to draught a charter in the event that it is found necessary.

There is a general disposition to work together in harmony and to give the city a charter that will be everything desirable. The commission will push the work as fast as possible and the charter will no doubt be ready for submission at the spring election.

### Invincibles Defeated.

The much talked of whist match between the Messrs. Meyer and Wyler and the Messrs. Browne and George came off yesterday afternoon at the whist club before quite a crowd of spectators. The invincibles were given a very bad beating. In sixteen boards they were reversed eight points.

### Big Seat Sale.

The seat sale for "Ben Hur" at Duluth has broken all records and is the largest in the history of the city. Thursday people stood in line for hours to secure seats for the opening performance. The Pioneer has already engaged the seats for its popularity parties. They are among the best in the house.

### Close Christmas Day.

An agreement has been reached by the barber shops of the city by which they will remain open Thursday evening until 10 p. m. and will close Christmas day at noon.

## MISS M'TAGGART STILL LEADS

**Miss Mayer However Is a Good Second---A Three Cornered Fight.**

**THINGS ARE GETTING VERY HOT UP AT BLACKDUCK.**

**Miss Johnson of Turtle River However Takes the Lead Today.**

Bemidji:  
Ethel McTaggart.....2890  
Laura Mayer.....1749  
May Villeman.....1662

While the vote today in Bemidji does not show much change several thousand votes have been issued and all parties are preparing for the final struggle. Miss Brannon drops out of the contest today and it is understood that she will lend her support to one of the other candidates. The fight is a three cornered one and

the friends of each young lady are fully determined that she shall win.

There seems to be an impression abroad that the successful candidate will be limited in the choice of the three persons who are to accompany her. This is not so. The fortunate winner of the contest may choose anyone she pleases, old or young, male or female. The Pioneer has absolutely nothing to do with the matter except to register the vote and pay the expenses of the winner.

All Bemidji candidates who have less than 3000 votes tomorrow will be dropped from the list.

Outside towns:  
Mabel Johnson, Turtle River. 2240  
Mary Bain, Blackduck.....2014  
Miss Cyr, Tenstrike.....1966  
Miss Mead, Blackduck.....1959  
Letha Carleton, Blackduck. 1243  
Mrs. Pacha, Blackduck.....936  
Miss Craig, Kelliher.....936  
Miss Leak, Blackduck.....731  
Ida Gumont, Tenstrike.....712  
Ida Moen, Bagley.....624

Mabel Johnson of Turtle River takes the lead today in the out of town contest. Miss Johnson is showing a great deal of strength, but several contestants are close

after her. Miss Cyr at Tenstrike is making a good canvass, and it is said that she has a big bunch of votes in reserve.

One of the surprising features of the vote today is the way Mrs. Mary Bain of Blackduck has forged to the front. Miss Mead however is but a few votes behind her and the other Blackduck candidates are making a good showing.

The contest up the north line is anybody's contest at present.

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### Seriously Sick.

G. R. Wright, one of the substantial farmers of northern Hubbard county, living near Maltby is seriously ill with pneumonia. He has been sick for several days and was taken worse Saturday. Mr. Wright is seventy-two years of age but it is hoped that his vigorous constitution will enable him to pull through.

<p>We Do All Kinds of Tin and Iron Work Pump Steam and Water Pipe Repairing a Specialty</p>	<p><b>HARDWARE</b> J. A. LUDINGTON — <b>PHONE</b> 250</p>	<p>We Make Everything in Hot and Cold Water Tanks Hot Water Boilers Chimney Jackets Sinks, Etc.</p>
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**Schneider Bros.**  
 THE CLOTHIERS.

This store is the acknowledged center for useful Holiday Gifts.

Regular \$15 and \$16 Suits and Overcoats at \$10.

## CHRISTMAS CLOTHING

**Matchless Men's Suits and Overcoat values that no other store can equal, the productions of Stein-Bloch and B. Kuppenheimer Co.'s Clothing, America's Supreme Clothes Makers**

<b>\$15 and \$16 Suits and Overcoats</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>20 and 22 Suits and Overcoats</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>25 and 28 Suits and Overcoats</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>30 and 32 Suits and Overcoats</b>	<b>20</b>

**Gifts that Men will Appreciate**

Smoking Jackets, Silk Umbrellas, English Brovats, Silk Mufflers, Reefers, Fancy Vests, Pajamas, Silk Night Robes, Silk Suspenders, Fur Lined Mitts, Fur Lined Caps . . . . .

All Exclusive Styles and in keeping with our High Grade Line of Men's Clothes

### CHRISTMAS FOOTWEAR FOR MEN AND BOYS

Men's \$4.50 and \$4 Shoes, several lines of winter weights, double soles, per pair	<b>\$3.50</b>
Men's \$4 and \$3.50 Shoes, broken line in Box Calf, Cordovan, Vici Kid, Patent Calf, in all sizes at	<b>3.00</b>
\$3.50 and \$3 Shoes in Box Calf, Colt Skin, Vici Kid, Kangaroo Calf, special at	<b>2.50</b>

**MILES BLOCK**

Handkerchiefs Ribbons Belts Purses Wrist Bags Kid Gloves Waistings	<h3>Christmas Suggestions</h3> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Yarn Mitts</td> <td>Baby Hoops</td> <td>Corsets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golf Gloves</td> <td>Fasenators</td> <td>Silk Mitts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shell Goods</td> <td>Pillow Tops</td> <td>Dress Goods Patterns</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dolls</td> <td>St</td> <td>Under Skirts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Photo Albums</td> <td>Neck Ties</td> <td>Towels</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toys</td> <td>Bed Spreads</td> <td>Napkins</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Table Linens</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Table Spreads</td> </tr> </table>	Yarn Mitts	Baby Hoops	Corsets	Golf Gloves	Fasenators	Silk Mitts	Shell Goods	Pillow Tops	Dress Goods Patterns	Dolls	St	Under Skirts	Photo Albums	Neck Ties	Towels	Toys	Bed Spreads	Napkins			Table Linens			Table Spreads	All Ladies and Misses Hats at Half Price. The Largest Stock and Best Values in Ladies and Children's Underwear and Hosiery in the city at
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SEVERSON'S

Next Door to First Nat. Bank.