

AGENCY ITEMS.

At a meeting of the Returned Students Club held at Red Lake on the night of February 16th the following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz: Simon P. Needham, President; Mrs. Frank Lariver, Vice President; Paul H. Beaulieu, Secretary; Omar Gravelle, Treasurer; and Louis Caswell, Marshall.

Are you a good guesser? All right, then here is a chance to demonstrate your ability. What prominent friend of the Indians was it who said that: "As the remoter corners of the country fill up the Indian will have to mix with the whites, whether for good or ill, would he be any better fitted for this a hundred years hence than now, if we kept him socially isolated till then?"

Andrew Johnson was up from his Clearwater farm with beef for the schools on the 18th.

Louis Sharette returned from Duck Lake, Sask., Canada, a week ago last Friday, where he had been called on account of the illness of his wife. He reports Mrs. Sharette's condition as very much improved and that according to the newspapers in Canada, England has licked the Germans already.

Simon Fairbanks returned from a business trip to Bemidji on the 18th.

Andrew Johnson was in town again on Washington's birthday. He delivered a load of oats for the Cross Lake school and found the roads very bad for sledding in many places.

Jos. C. Roy of Ponemah was in town February 18th.

Messrs. Breckner and Dupris were over from Ponemah last Tuesday.

Ed. R. Fountain dropped in from Cass Lake on the 24th, after an absence of about six months. He returned to Cass Lake where he will pack up his belongings and move back to Red Lake for keeps.

Amos Bigbird made a visit to Leech Lake Agency last week, returning Thursday evening.

Andrew Wells made a business trip to the Agency on the 26th from his farm on the west side of the reservation. He has the largest flock of sheep on the reservation and reports that they are in excellent condition and that the prospects are good for 30c wool this spring.

The good old black dirt is beginning to show up conspicuously again after hiding underneath the snow banks for several months, and unconfirmed reports are circulating around to the effect that crows, ducks, and other harbingers of spring have been seen. Aside from a blizzard or two yet to arrive in March, winter is a thing of the past.

An early spring payment would be most welcome to all Indians this year. See that you do your part in helping to bring this about by reporting births and deaths for the past six months promptly to the agency office. Don't wait, do it now!

Have you read the Nelson bill? What do you think of it? The discussion of this proposed legislation affecting Red Lake is an absorbing topic among many of the Indians and employees at present.

Now that the Agency Telephone system has come into such general use and there being so many telephones all on one line it is important that certain rules of telephone etiquette should be observed. Always, before calling any one on the line, take down your receiver and first ascertain if the line is already in use before you ring in. You do not like to have your conversation interrupted by some one else ringing in while you are talking and the same applies to other patrons. Never go away from the telephone

and leave the receiver off the hook, it weakens the batteries in your telephone unnecessarily. When some one else is called to your phone, therefore, it is better to hang your receiver up while you call the person wanted to the phone. Neglect to hang up the receiver when through talking may interrupt the use of the entire line by others and it is difficult to remind one of his thoughtlessness in this particular because a telephone either does not ring at all, or if at all, very weakly when the receiver is off the hook. Do not let the children amuse themselves by converting the telephones into playthings. If you do not care about maintaining the efficiency of your own telephone it would be better to disconnect from the line entirely so that others may not be hampered by your carelessness. Be prompt in answering your call on the line if you expect others to answer you promptly. If you make a mistake and answer some other call and find the line in use when you take down your receiver, do not stand and listen to the conversation. While this may be entertaining to you, it is exasperating to the persons talking. Don't think that you can stand and listen to another conversation on the line without the knowledge of other persons. It is almost always noticeable when there are "eavesdroppers" on the line.

Observance of The Golden Rule is just as important in using a party line telephone as it is anywhere else.

Mr. H. R. Leslin and Thief River Falls have scored again. In the last issue of the News mention was made of the fact that twenty subscribers had been procured in Thief River Falls by Mr. Leslin. That alone is quite a boost, but it appears that these good people are determined to do themselves proud, for Mr. Leslin writes us again, under date of the 25th, enclosing check for \$18 and list of twenty-four more new subscribers. Think of that! We quote the following from Mr. Leslin's letter.

"I wish to extend a few words of thanks towards those generous, up-to-date business men of Thief River Falls. They are sure some men and their motto surely must be to 'Live and Let Live' as I was only turned down by one man in the whole city. Of course, this fellow, I had to look over the second time to see if he was really a man. He was a man all right, but he was a stray in Thief River."

The News desires to join Mr. Leslin in his expression of gratitude to the new subscribers and also to thank Mr. Leslin for his labors in its behalf.

BEES AND CATTLE URGED FOR NORTHERN MINNESOTA.

Milk and honey were considered delicacies in the days of Moses. A similar combination has been urged for Northern Minnesota by the Rev. Francis Jager, bee specialist at the Minnesota Agricultural College.

Father Jager has a plan for making farms out of northern cut-over lands. The two things on which success depends, according to his plan, are cows and bees. He suggests that farmers, seeking to subdue the cut-over lands, plant clover and other forage crops among the stumps and put a beehive on every stump. Cows and bees alike will thrive on the inter-stump crops. The bees will also gather honey far and wide from millions of wild flowers.

From the start says Father Jager, the bees will produce and bring a cash return. Two hundred pound of honey to the hive at 10 cents a pound would mean \$20 to the hive. Ten hives would bring a cash return of \$200 and 50 hives a snug return of \$1000. With such returns and the profits from a dairy herd no farmer should fear the northern stump.

Whether one wishes to adopt the entire program or not, the busy bee is worthy of consideration by the settler who is taking up northern lands. At least such is the belief of Father Jager.

THE COUNTRY BOY'S CREED.

I believe that the country which God made is more beautiful than the—City which man made; that life out-of-doors and in touch with the earth is the natural life of man. I believe that work is work where ever we find it, but that work with Nature is more inspiring than work with the most intricate machinery. I believe that the dignity of labor depends not on what you do, but on how you do it; that opportunity comes to a boy on the farm as often as to the boy in the city, that life is larger and freer and happier on the farm than in the town, that my success depends not upon my location but upon myself—not upon my dreams but upon what I actually do, not upon luck, but upon pluck. I believe in working when you work—and in playing when you play and in giving and demanding a square deal in every act of life.

—Edwin Osgood Grover.

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