

DELTA INDEPENDENT

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

Spud Growers Hold Meeting in Delta

One hundred and fifty potato growers of this county and a number from Montrose county assembled in the district court room last Saturday afternoon for the purpose of discussing the shortage of the potato crop in America this year, the present market conditions and to arrange, if possible, for some better means of getting in touch with outside dealers and consumers, which would, of course, assure them full value or at least all the market offers for their product.

This was the second meeting of western slope spud growers, the first being held in the Pea Green school house on California mesa, a few miles south of this city, on the Monday evening preceding, when it was practically decided to form a permanent organization, and at this Saturday meeting the question of such organization met with unanimous approval.

The organization was perfected with a membership of thirty growers, each of whom paid in a fee of \$5 to the treasurer, thus creating a fund which will be used for expenses incurred in sending out representatives to "get wise" on the real conditions of things and to market the Delta and Montrose county crops.

The organization just formed will be known as the Western Slope Potato Growers' association, and the officers for this year are as follows: Charles H. Peterson of Delta, president; A. K. Newby, secretary, and J. H. Meldrum, treasurer. These officers, together with W. B. Pepper and Harry Price, both of Montrose, will constitute the board of directors.

E. C. Shearer, an energetic young business man who is experienced in produce lines, has been secured to make a trip to Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and other market points for the purpose of getting in touch with dealers and to market the crop of this section. Mr. Shearer is already out on his first trip. George Reshaw will superintend the loading and shipping. The association will send other men out in the market territory as occasion demands.

DELTA DOCTOR TREATS SELF CASE OF HEART TROUBLE

Dr. W. S. Cleland, physician of this city, and Miss Cordelia Stein of Denver were united in marriage in the plains metropolis on Wednesday, September 3.

Close friends of Dr. Cleland have a tip that he and his bride will arrive in Delta, their future home, Sunday. They will live on Grand street.

Mrs. Cleland is said to be a charming and accomplished young lady of Denver, and both she and her popular husband will be warmly welcomed.

Delta county produces in round carload lots, estimating 25 tons to the car, about an average of 7,500 carloads. Of this estimate fruit is 2,000 cars, beets 1,500 cars, hay 1,000 cars, coal 2,000 cars and other products 1,000 cars. If all was shipped out this would mean practically a full train load a day for every day of the year.

Rev. Maynard Returns to Delta Pastorate

The Methodist Episcopal conference for Colorado, which convened in Boulder last week, was concluded on Monday after assigning pastors for the various churches of that denomination in this state. Rev. O. K. Maynard, present pastor of the church in this city, has been returned to Delta, much to the satisfaction of his congregation and the citizens of this city in general. The assignments for this part of the state are as follows:

Aspen, C. J. Coulter; Austin, E. W. Day; Cedaredge, G. R. McDowell; Clinton, U. C. Smuthers; Crawford, J. A. Shepherd; DeBeque, to be supplied; Delta, O. K. Maynard; Dolores, T. D. Griffin; Durango, R. F. Fairchild; Eagle and Gypsum, L. C. Brucehold; Fruita, E. Fisher; Glenwood Springs, G. F. Klein; Grand Junction, C. F. Selitto; Grand Valley, J. V. Watson; Hotchkiss, H. R. Morris; Loma and Mack, J. J. Davis; Lazeer, H. R. Morris; Meeker, McKendree De Motte; Mesa, G. W. Weyrauch; Montrose, S. F. Kreuger; Montezuma circuit, C. E. Harris; Olathe, E. P. Gibe; Paonia, E. Burns Martin; Palisade, R. L. Nuchols; Plateau City, C. W. Simons; Rifle, to be supplied; Telluride, to be supplied.

DELTA WATER BONDS ARE DISPOSED OF AT PAR VALUE

Mr. H. Swan, representing the investment firms of J. N. Wright & Co. and E. H. Rollins & Son, came to the city council's terms for the new water bond issue, raising their bid to par, the latter part of last week.

It will be remembered that at the meeting of the commissioners in this city on Tuesday previous the bonds were offered at auction bids, the council reserving the right to reject any or all bids.

At that time there were representatives of a number of investment houses present, but the highest bid was \$74,250, or \$750 short of the total sum of the bonds offered, \$75,000. The bid was rejected by the commissioners, who had previously agreed that no bid would be accepted that was below par.

The meeting was then adjourned, as the bidders refused to make a higher offering until they could confer with their superiors. Mr. Swan's bid was the highest, and, after conferring with the two houses he represented, they decided to buy the bonds on a joint bid at par.

The selling of these bonds closes the matter for water works improvements on behalf of this city for the present, and doubtless contracts will be let for the new work as soon as proper details can be arranged. Let us hope that it will result in a good water system for the city, such as is now and has been heretofore.

"BETHANY."

A Sacred Cantata

Part I, opens with the news brought to Jesus of Lazarus' sickness and death, the sorrow and lamentation at the Bethany home, the coming of Jesus to awake him, the dialogue with Martha concerning the resurrection, the raising of Lazarus, the rejoicing over the miracle, the departure of Jesus again to the hills. His hour drawing nigh, the disciples' forebodings of trouble befalling their Master, and their final rejoicing in the hope that the Kingdom of Love, Truth and Righteousness would soon be established upon the earth.

George C. Wilson Has a Birthday

There was something doing on the evening of the anniversary of the birth of George C. Wilson, chairman of the board of commissioners of this county, last Monday, but it was not the fault of Mr. Wilson by any manner of means. It was Mrs. Wilson and some of George's closest friends who remembered that another year had been added to the term of life of the commissioner, and it is said that this is the sole reason for his recognition of the fact that he was a year older—George was seemingly satisfied to forget the event altogether.

A delegation of the gentleman's friends invaded the Wilson home on South Main street at a seasonable hour Wednesday evening, and after partaking of a sumptuous supper prepared and served in courses by Mrs. Wilson all engaged in pleasant pastimes until a late hour, and then departed for their homes wishing the head of the house many more such events. One of the noteworthy features of the table decorations for the evening was a mammoth birthday cake which was illuminated with candles—presumably a candle for each year—and John Travis says that George had always been a trifle timid about telling his exact age, and that if candles explain anything in this connection George is something over a hundred. The cake was literally covered with them and there were many loose and scattered about the dining hall. In fact there wasn't any more in town.

Sheriff Hanlon and Skeet Lindsey arrived in Delta yesterday forenoon from Gunnison county, chasing horse-thieves. They drove over Black mesa in an auto and were directly in the wake of a man or men who had stolen a team of horses and wagon in Gunnison and driven away with the outfit. The culprit was expected to be apprehended in the vicinity of Delta, to which point he had been traced, and the aid of Sheriff Sampson was enlisted to help in the capture.

DELTA FAIR NOW ON IN FULL BLAST; EXHIBITS EXCEL FOR QUALITY; EVENTS ARE GOOD

The Delta county fair, which began its four day season on Wednesday, was attended that afternoon by at least four hundred people, all of whom were highly pleased with the program of track and field sports presented. This was Children's day. The schools were closed for the occasion and the youngsters were out in full force.

Independent reporter took a look through the mammoth exhibition hall and there saw the usual convincing proof of our soil values. The fruits, grains and vegetables on display are not large, but just as good as ever shown in any county of the union and far better than most of them.

T. J. Harshman, one of the prominent farmers and fruit growers of the Cory district, made the largest display of fruit and was awarded first place and prize. This showing attracted much attention and favorable comment.

Weyrauch brothers of Austin made the second largest and best exhibit of fruit and were given second place and prize. There was a large general display of box fruit which merited and received much favorable comment.

In the vegetable department all exhibits were good, and among the growers taking part in this showing were John Crowley of North Delta, John V. Platz of North Delta, Mrs. John McVeigh of Chipeta Switch and P. Beckett of orth Delta.

Charlie and Sam Fairlamb, the two young sons of Attorney Millard Fairlamb, made an exhibit of their work in vegetable culture which won them much praise.

A. C. Jensen of the Alkali creek district exhibited excellent corn and grains grown without irrigation, and there was a good showing of honey and beeswax by Frank Childs of Ash

mesa, who is a well known bee man.

The second floor of exhibit hall was a perfect marvel of beauty, all leading merchants of the city having arranged booths in which were made displays of goods. Each of these booths was presided over by one or more of the genial clerks from stores exhibiting.

The stock showing was strictly first class, and made by Joe Kistler, James Butler and his son-in-law, Mr. Walker, William Lance, A. H. Willis, T. J. Harshman, Hank Hammond, Emery Deter and a Mr. Hobbs.

At about 1:30 the field sports were inaugurated with an onion race in which were entered a number of boys under 12 years of age. Ray Sidebottom was successful in landing first place and prize, George Leyden, second.

50-yard foot race for boys 16 years and under—Alvin Snyder first, J. Hensler, second.

50-yard race for girls—Blanche Jacobs first, Hazel Mann second.

100-yard foot race, 19 years and under—Charles White first, Luke Meyer second.

Pie eating contest, 16 years and under—F. Wentien first, A. Wallace second.

Tug of war, country schools vs. Delta, was won by the former.

First place in the half mile running race was taken by "Servis" and "Barney Dreyfus," second.

The one-half mile race, 14 hands and under, was won by "Queen," with "Brower" second.

Bronco busting and race for cow horses only, was taken by Utterback with Barton second.

Independent went to press at a little after noon on Thursday and thus could give no report of track events for that day.

Porter Sells Interest in Hardware Company

J. E. Porter, at the head of the well known Porter-Obert Hardware Co. in this city for nine years past, has just sold his interest in the store of that company to K. J. Heater, a resident of the Delta district for a year or more past, and he and his family will leave Delta soon for Turlock, California, where they expect to locate permanently. Mr. Porter and his family are well and favorably known to the residents of this county, and all will greatly regret their decision to locate elsewhere.

Mr. Heater will at once become active in the business management of the store, and being thoroughly experienced it is safe to conjecture that he will continue to merit and hold the present healthy patronage. The old company name is to be retained. The people of the city and county will welcome Mr. Heater and his family to our business and social circles.

TWELVE INNING BALL GAME AT PAONIA SUNDAY—1 TO 0

Several Delta fans attended the diamond contest between Paonia and Grand Junction teams last Sunday afternoon and report one of the best games ever played on western slope grounds. Paulicheck the Paonia twirler, was in excellent form for the contest, as was also the slab artist for Grand Junction, and as a rule the order was one, two, three and out. But few men reached first sack on either side and only one or two got to second. At the close of the eleventh inning a straight line of zero marks told the story, and in the twelfth, after Grand Junction failed to score, Paonia went to bat with renewed hopes of crossing the home plate with but one man, but these hopes quickly weakened when the first two men up fanned the air and they had but one chance more to gain a victory. A scratch hit put the last man on his way around the circle and across home plate. It was the only run made in twelve innings, and Paonia thus grabbed a glorious victory.

Delta Independent is the best equipped newspaper in the county. It spends more money to keep up a standard of excellence and to serve the interests of home than any other paper. It publishes more news, home and general, than any other weekly newspaper in Colorado or the west. It fully merits your support. Why not drop in during Fair time and add your name to its list, or, if already a subscriber, renew? It would be an act in your own as well as the paper's interest.

DECISION ASKED AS TO POWER OF STATE TAX COMMISSION

The exact power of the Colorado tax commission seems to be in considerable doubt throughout the state and there is a pronounced desire on the part of many having the question in mind to become advised in the matter.

Queries recently made to Governor Ammons by C. P. Link, it is said, have formed the basis of a request to the supreme court of this state for the rendition of a decision as to this power, and also the power of the state board of equalization in the raising and lowering of assessment rolls certified to by county assessors.

The question is one of more than average importance to Colorado people in general and the courts decision will be awaited with considerable interest.

According to Commissioner Link, he has discovered a number of discrepancies in the certified tax roll and desires a decision of the court to settle the matter.

It is generally predicted that a ruling on the question will be made at some near future date, though it might possibly be some little time before such action is taken.

Accepts Position in Salt Lake Schools

Prof. P. M. Condit, principal of Delta schools for some years past, and succeeded this year by Prof. Frank of the State Normal faculty at Gunnison, has accepted a place with the public schools of Salt Lake City and departed for that point last Saturday evening. Mrs. Condit will join him in the Mormon capital before the close of the present week, leaving today.

The Condit residence on Garnet mesa has been leased for a year to Rev. and Mrs. Elliott, who came to this city from their home in Hammond, Indiana, last Friday evening to be with their daughter, Mrs. H. E. Minard, and a granddaughter who came to Delta some months ago on account of the latter's health. It is highly probable that Rev. Elliott and his family will eventually decide to locate here permanently.

Prof. Condit at first concluded to retain his residence in this city, since he owns valuable ranch property in the county, but we now learn that he contemplates selling his interests here and locating permanently in the west, either at Salt Lake City or in California.

Lex Wade Acquitted of Murder Charge

Lex Wade, who shot and killed John Gurr at Vernal, Utah, a week ago last Saturday night after himself being slightly injured by bullets from his assailant's gun, was acquitted of the charge of murder and came in with his father from the Mormon town last Friday morning for a brief visit with his parents. It was a plain case of self-defense, as Wade was forced to either take the life of Gurr or meet death himself.

Gurr, according to the testimony of eyewitnesses to the shooting, which took place in front of a motion picture house when crowds were coming from the show, had taken a stand near the theater to await the exit of Wade and his lady companion, the former's divorced wife, and when they stepped upon the sidewalk Gurr's gun was quickly drawn and several shots fired, one of them perforating Wade's hat and another striking him on the arm. One shot from the crazed man's gun entered the foot of a little girl in the crowd and caused a serious wound. Wade returned the fire and killed his assailant.

It developed at the court hearing that Gurr had threatened the life of Wade some three or four days preceding the shooting, and that Wade had been granted the privilege of carrying a revolver for his own protection. Gurr was a paroled convict from the Utah penitentiary. He was sentenced to a term of years for stealing cattle, and the victim of his theft was Sol Teg, a former well known resident of this section whose home was a few miles east of Olathe. Old timers of the western slope will easily recall Teg and his farm operations near Olathe.

Harvest of Good Crops In Delta County

The harvesting of sugar beets is beginning in a small way and will be in more active progress in another week. The fields average good, some excellent and others below the average, as is always the case. The sugar content is expected to be a little above the average this season. The acreage is somewhat increased over former years. The yield from territory adjacent to Delta this fall is estimated at close to 50,000 tons, which will mean more than a quarter million dollars to growers.

Alfalfa has been an enormous yield in the first two cuttings, while the third and last cutting, which is now beginning, will be but slightly lighter than the other two. Weather conditions have been more than favorable and the hay crops have been taken care of in fine shape. The country around is full of hay, but it will all have a market and promises at least average good prices, which will probably mean for the fall land winter feeding not less than seven or eight dollars in the stack. These figures may even go higher because of the drought shortage in nearby states.

The grains raised, which are mainly wheat and oats, are threshing out an average of 40 bushels for wheat and 60 bushels for oats per acre, while there have been several reports of 50 and 60 bushels of wheat per acre to a field and 100 bushels of oats.

Potatoes have been one of the big crops of the season and have brought growers profitable prices, which is the main thing. So far about 250 cars have been shipped from Delta alone during last month and this, and the late potato crop is yet to be harvested. The market outlook is that the prices may go higher.

Vegetables and melons are plentiful in the local markets. A good many cantaloupes are being shipped in crate lots to the hill towns. Both watermelons and cantaloupes of local growth are of fine quality, while the home-grown vegetables are hard to excel.

The fruit crop is more in evidence as the season advances. Peaches are short, of course; still there will be several train loads to ship from Delta country, from the North Fork and Surface Creek. Elberta peaches, prunes and late plums are now being picked and packed, and the ice plant of the D. & R. G. is busy icing refrigerator cars every night. Apples will form the main part of the local fruit crop this year. Some sections will be short, mainly because of the trees overbearing last season, but many orchards show a wealth of apples that is a delight to behold. This is especially true of Surface Creek orchards, and it need not occasion surprise if the apples to ship should reach much nearer 2,000 carloads from this county, than the estimated number of 1,200 cars. The market also promises to be satisfactory.

Stock conditions are favorable and cattle are looking fine. Rains on the hills, though in some sections a little late, are now improving the outlook for winter range.

Poultry raising, which is a very important side branch, has stocked the country well with chickens, turkeys and other fowls, the market for which has been much better than in former seasons, and sales of poultry so far this season from Delta alone have aggregated nearly \$25,000, while the real marketing time is ahead.

Refused Discharge by U. S. District Court

The people of this city are already familiar with the case in bankruptcy of W. J. Howe, former furniture dealer of this city, who is now engaged in business in Salda. Howe appeared in the United States district court, which convened in Montrose last Tuesday, with Judge Robert E. Lewis presiding, asking for his final discharge, but this demand has been denied.

A large number of jurymen are at this term of the United States court from all sections of the western slope, and it is reported that a number of very important cases are to be disposed of.

Many of the peach pickers and packers from this county who took part in harvesting the crop at Palisade have returned to their homes and state that there was almost a full crop in that part of the Grand valley. The harvest in Palisade will be completed, they say, today or tomorrow.