

STATE NEWS

Resume of Important Happenings of Past Few Days.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS AT AUSTIN

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dugan and Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Belsiker Celebrate Event.

Austin.—Two golden weddings have just been observed here. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dugan celebrated their half century of married life, with their eight children present. In the afternoon and evening 275 friends dropped in informally and congratulated the couple. In the evening the Austin Fire department, of which Mr. Dugan was chief for 30 years, presented him with a gold-headed cane and Mrs. Dugan with a gold-headed umbrella.

Thomas Dugan and Elizabeth Robertson were married 50 years ago in Jancsville, Wis., where they lived for about two years. In 1871 they removed to a farm near London, where they lived for about a year and in 1872 came to Austin.

Belsiker Home Decorated.

The C. N. Belsiker home was decorated with thousands of flowers, sunburst roses, snapdragons, golden tulips, narcissi and lilies. The out-of-town guests were Thomas L. Belsiker and wife of Fessenden, N. D.; Jessie Feiseker Shelby and husband and four children of Mitchell, S. D.; Mary Belsiker Yolland and husband and three children of Minneapolis; Elizabeth Belsiker, husband and son of Portal, N. D.; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur N. Belsiker and son of Harvey, N. D.; Loretta Belsiker Roberts and husband of New Rockford, N. D.; Mr. and Mrs. Chester Belsiker and son of Plentywood, Montana.

Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Yelland, Mr. and Mrs. James Harms of Mason City, Iowa; Peter Anderson and daughter of Lime Springs, Iowa; Miss Stacia Reilly of St. Paul.

The stars and stripes were flying from a staff at the Belsiker home all day in honor of the fall of Richmond. Mr. Belsiker served three years and four months in the Civil war while Catherine Reilly waited in Brooklyn the return of her soldier lover.

New Postmaster at Rochester.

Rochester.—J. L. Harwick, newly appointed postmaster in this city, enters upon his duties shortly, succeeding Postmaster John C. Crabb, who was an appointee of Taft. Mr. Harwick is not a stranger to the official duties of the post office, having the distinction of being an appointee of Grover Cleveland in 1893, when he was named postmaster of Monticello. For the past seventeen years he has been with the International Harvester company and has a wide acquaintance through southern Minnesota. The appointment of Mr. Harwick met with general satisfaction here.

Farmers Ship Tobacco; Price Low.

St. Cloud.—Two carloads of tobacco were loaded in St. Cloud and shipped by farmers; 92,000 pounds were loaded at Clear Lake. The price is only 5 cents a pound, just half of what it was before the war, yet it is estimated the majority of farmers engaged in its culture received \$75 an acre. C. B. Smith, a farmer living near the city, is one of the largest growers of the weed.

School Graduates Largest Class.

Crookston.—Before an audience of more than 1,000 persons which packed the big auditorium in the administration building at the Crookston School of Agriculture, the commencement exercises were held. The largest class in the history of the institution, numbering thirty-two, was presented with diplomas by Superintendent Selvig.

Hastings Men Believed Killed.

Minneapolis, April 6.—A man, thought to be Joseph Plinsker of Hastings, was killed by a train on the Dan Patch line.

The body was found by trainmen. The accident occurred near Lakeville, about ten miles south of Savage. The victim was about 40 years old.

Dan Patch line officials said they had no information of this accident.

Lake Superior Free of Ice.

Two Harbors.—The ice has disappeared off Lake Superior as far as the eye can see from this harbor and also is clear in the bay so that ore boats will have no difficulty in coming up to the docks here providing they can pass through the waters at the Sault where the ice is generally slow in clearing.

Train Kills Winona Man.

Winona, Minn.—Having his vision obstructed by a freight on a siding, Albert H. Nelson, 35, a salesman for a Winona medical company, drove in front of a passenger train on the Northwestern road at Onalaska, Wis. His enclosed conveyance was picked up and lifted to the pilot of the locomotive and carried a thousand feet before it was deposited in a heap when the train stopped.

Nelson was killed instantly. The team was torn loose from the rig and ran away.

LAST FIGHT AGAINST LIQUOR

Elder W. H. McChesney Dies After Addressing the Largest Audience of His Career.

Fairmont.—Elder W. H. McChesney, for 45 years a temperance worker in Martin county, has made his last speech in the anti-liquor cause.

Twenty minutes after the 84-year-old minister had arisen in his seat in the Fairmont opera house and answered Congressman-elect Joseph E. Meeker of St. Louis, who had made a vigorous speech in opposition to prohibition, the aged temperance worker was dead at the home of George Murray, his friend. The excitement of the meeting had been too much. The "elder's" heart could not bear the strain.

Congressman-elect Meeker spoke to a crowded house. He attacked temperance agitation and criticized the churches. Placing a \$10 bill in a Bible he offered to give the Bible and the money to anybody in the audience who would point to a passage in the Bible sanctioning prohibition.

"Many of the men church members drink whiskey," he cried. "Many women church members drink patent medicines with whiskey in them."

Defends the Church.

"Elder" McChesney, down near the stage, rose to his feet. Friends tried to restrain him, but he insisted on speaking.

"It isn't true," he cried. "It isn't true of our church people here."

His voice breaking, the aged pastor defended the church, and attacked the liquor traffic. He had been fighting the saloon for 45 years in Martin county, where he has been a minister of the Free Methodist church, and this was his biggest audience. He was applauded when he took his seat.

After the meeting, "Elder" McChesney went to the home of his friend. He was very much excited.

"Maybe it would have been best for you if you hadn't interrupted Mr. Meeker," said a member of the Murray family.

"I am old and maybe I am foolish," said "Elder" McChesney. "But the Good Book says that sometimes the foolish can confound the wise."

The old man closed his eyes. When members of the family tried to arouse him he was dead.

DULUTH TELLER IS SUICIDE

Books Examined After Tragedy Are Accurate—Motive for Act Is Unknown.

Duluth, Minn.—Charles J. Grogan, aged 28, who was paying teller of the Northern National bank, shot himself to death in the washroom under the bank. His engagement to Miss Muriel Brown, well known in society circles, recently was announced. Miss Brown is the daughter of Philip Gordon Brown, well known Duluth business man.

J. W. Lyder, cashier of the bank, who completed checking up Grogan's books several hours after the tragedy, announced that they were accurate. "We are at a loss to find a motive for Grogan's suicide," he said.

After Grogan had finished his work and conversed cheerfully with employees of the bank, he retired to the wash room. Shortly after Lyder and other bank attaches heard a report. Investigation disclosed Grogan's body with a bullet wound behind the left ear. One hand clutched a pistol.

Grogan's marriage to Miss Brown was to have taken place early in June, according to bank officials, who had granted him a two weeks' leave of absence.

To Pay Half Million for Water.

Hibbing.—One expenditure in Hibbing, at least, meets with the approval of mining companies and village officials alike. It is for the new water system, which will cost the village approximately \$480,000.

The system is being constructed by the Layne & Bowler company of Houston, Texas, water developers. The contract calls for a daily capacity of 3,000,000 gallons, with pumps which will pump 5,000,000 gallons a day.

The new system was made necessary because the mines went down below the old system's water level. After a full investigation the engineers of the Oliver Mining company recommended the proposition offered by the Texas company. There was fear the water could not be developed near Hibbing, and not until M. E. Layne offered to develop the necessary supply or receive no pay, was the proposition accepted.

River Breaks Levee at Mankato.

Mankato.—The Minnesota river has begun to fall, but not before it broke through part of the levee protecting North Mankato. Men and teams were unable to repair the break, as the rush of water swept away the material as fast as it was put in, and the water became too deep to work in it. However, no damage was done in the built-up section of the levee. As soon as the water goes down sufficiently the levee will be repaired.

Cat Saves Family From Fire.

Fergus Falls.—The geese that saved Rome have nothing on a cat owned by Nels Bahle, a farmer living just southeast of this city. Bahle was awakened by frantic yowls in his kitchen and going downstairs, opened the door and was met by a gust of flame and smoke. The entire interior was afire, and he had barely time to awaken his wife and son and get them out before the flames were communicated to the bedrooms. They escaped with nothing but their night clothes.

WHEN PEACH TREE SHOULD BE PRUNED



A Peach Tree of the Muir Variety in its First Season's Growth—Fig. 1.

The principal reasons for pruning a peach tree, according to a recent bulletin issued by the United States department of agriculture, may be summed up as follows:

- (1) To modify the vigor of the tree.
- (2) To keep the tree shapely and within bounds.
- (3) To make the tree more stocky.
- (4) To open the tree top to admit air and sunshine.
- (5) To reduce the struggle for existence in the tree top.
- (6) To remove dead or interfering branches.
- (7) To aid in stimulating the development of fruit buds.
- (8) To thin the fruit.
- (9) To make thorough spraying possible.
- (10) To facilitate the harvesting of the fruit.

The most successful fruit growers habitually prune their trees as a general proposition. In doing so they usually follow more or less closely some system, although they may have no clear-cut conception of just what their plan involves. There are, therefore, wide differences of opinion and practice, and trees often produce abundantly under practically all systems or with no pruning whatever.

Obviously the pruning which a tree receives the first two or three years after it is planted has much to do with its future. Mistakes in forming the head or the results of neglect during the early years in the life of a tree are practically irreparable. On the other hand, if the tree is well formed and properly pruned during its first years, the foundation for a good tree is established; subsequent errors in pruning, if they occur, may admit of correction without permanent harm to the tree.

A question frequently asked is, "When is the proper time to prune peach trees?" In general, the answer to this inquiry is, During the dormant period, preferably in late winter or early spring, just before growth starts, except in regions where bleeding from wounds is likely to occur. In such regions it should probably be done in early winter. But conditions and the object of the pruning must be considered in each case. If the pruning operations are very extensive, economic requirements may make it necessary to prune throughout the winter whenever the weather is suitable for men to work in the orchard. If the fruit buds are endangered during the winter by adverse temperatures, it will be advisable to delay pruning as much as economic conditions permit until settled spring weather arrives. This is especially advisable if heavy heading in of the previous season's growth is involved, since the proportion of live buds may determine the extent to which the cutting back should be carried.

A limited amount of summer pruning can usually be done to advantage. The trees should be observed constantly throughout the season of ac-

tive growth. Whenever a branch is seen which is so placed that it obviously will need to be removed at the annual pruning for the shaping up of the tree it is well to take it off at once. Then, too, it frequently happens that a single branch in the top of a tree will grow considerably faster than any of the others, thus making the tree unsymmetrical if its growth is not checked. A slight heading in as soon as such a tendency is apparent will usually keep the top well balanced.

The pruning of a peach tree at the time of planting it has already been discussed. A tree well along in its first season's growth is shown in Fig. 1. It will be observed that the top is formed of four main branches. This tree shows evidence of having received attention during the earlier part of the season. Only those branches which were of importance in forming the top have been allowed to develop. The exact number of branches which may be used in forming the head is not an arbitrary matter. From three to five or six branches are permissible, if they are well placed and properly distributed on the main stem of the tree. The branches that form the head of the tree shown in Fig. 1 start from points on the trunk which are rather too close together. If there was more space between the branches where they join the trunk there would be less danger of the limbs breaking down in later years from the weight of heavy loads of fruit.

During the dormant period between the first and second year, the first year's growth, provided it has been thrifty and vigorous, should be headed back rather heavily; perhaps one-half or two-thirds of the growth should be removed.

The effects of not heading in are shown in Fig. 2. The trees here shown are making their second or third season's growth. They were not well headed in at first, and no heading back has been done since they were planted. Besides, the soil is lumpy and in poor tilth and the trees are making a weak, slender growth. Had they been well headed in, the growth would have been much more stocky, even though the trees were small, and they would be in much better condition to sustain the weight of a crop of fruit than they can possibly be under the system of management that has been followed.

The United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C., will send interested fruit growers, free of charge, its farmers bulletin (No. 632) on "Growing Peaches," which gives in detail much information on the pruning of trees, renewal of tops, thinning, interplanted crops, and special practices.

Can the Boarder Cow.

"Canning the boarder cow" is a pastime growing in favor with farmers.



Young Peach Orchard in Which the Trees Have Not Been Headed Back and Probably Will Break Badly With First Good Crop of Fruit—Fig. 2.

IN FAR NORTHLAND

Important Events in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

BRIEFS FROM OLD COUNTRY

Interesting Items From the Three Great Kingdoms of the North Selected for Scandinavians and Their Descendants.

By MARTIN W. ODLAND.

Sweden.

The Kansas City Star has published an article on Sweden's state-aided homestead system, which has attracted world-wide attention. It seems to be a system which combines the "back-to-the-land" movement with the "get-the-land-back" principle, says the article, which thus continues: "Sweden provides a state-aid fund from which the tenant farmer, or the city worker who wants to farm, can borrow the money at low interest rates to buy a small farm. A system of cheap state insurance makes it safe to lend the price of the farm without taking an advance payment. This aids the class that most needs aid, the really poor. A late bulletin of the United States bureau of labor, which describes this system, tells that another special fund has been provided by the Swedish government, the purpose being to break up large landed estates by purchasing for distribution among small landholders. Societies, approved by the government and forbidden to make profits, conduct the new system. The homesteaders (many of them inexperienced or too poor to provide the beginnings of farming) are not left wholly to their own resources. The bureau of labor says: 'The societies as a whole are reported as doing very practical work. The plans for dividing these lands into small agricultural colonies have been prepared by experts. In many colonies important measures have been taken, depending on the capital at their disposal, such as the construction of roads and drainage systems.'

An unusual tragedy took place at Landskrona recently, which caused much sorrow in that community. A seventeen-year-old girl, Annie Anderson, attended a ball, where she was shown a great deal of attention by a young man who escorted her home when the dancing was over. When they reached her home, the youth became rather ardent in his demonstrations of affection, and the girl fled through the gate into the house. When the young man had gone a few paces, he heard the sound of falling glass, but did not investigate, and did not learn till the next day that the girl, in her haste to get away from him, had run her arm through the glass panel of the hall door and the glass had severed the artery in her wrist. The blood spouted from the wound and before she could arouse anybody to help her she had fallen in a faint. She was rushed to a hospital, but died before reaching it.

An anonymous writer in the Novelle Vremja, the great Russian newspaper, has attracted much attention in Sweden. The writer calls attention to the fear in Sweden that Russia is planning to seize an ice-free harbor in Norway and at the same time a goodly slice of Swedish territory. This fear, says the writer, is utterly groundless. Russia desires an ice-free harbor, to be sure, but a harbor in northern Norway would be of no benefit. Indeed, if Narvik, on which Russia is supposed to have her eye, should be tendered her as a gift, she would scarcely know what to do with it. A harbor in that quarter would be impracticable for commercial purposes, says the writer, and argues this point at some length. Nor would it be of any strategic value in war time, whether Russia was fighting Germany, England or France. The only time it would have strategic value would be in case of a war with Scandinavia and such a thing Russia is absolutely opposed to.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the London Mail reports that the customs authorities at Malmoe have seized 90 wagon loads of lard imported from the United States which was discovered to be consigned to Germany. The exportation of lard from Sweden was forbidden some time ago.

Reliable statistics show that the annual attendance at the motion picture shows of Sweden is 30,000,000, and that the gross receipts exceed \$1,500,000. The shows are managed differently in different localities. Now it is proposed to have the national government draw up certain rules of management for the benefit of the public.

Much enthusiasm was created at Stockholm when 350 soldiers of the Swedish landsturm appeared at the royal palace. King Gustaf, dressed in a general's uniform, and accompanied by prominent officers, was escorted into the presence of the soldiers, while a band played a stirring military march. His majesty addressed the men as "comrades" and told of the interest with which he had followed the training of the volunteers, and he knew that they had now attained sufficient military skill to be able to fight effectively.

Norway.

Norway is far and away ahead of any other nation in merchant marine tonnage in proportion to population. England has a large merchant marine, but does make half the showing that Norway does, taking into consideration the population of the two countries. Per each 1,000 inhabitants the tonnage of the principal commercial nations ranks as follows:

Norway	527
Great Britain and Ireland	242
Greece	163
Denmark	157
Sweden	121
Holland	87
Germany	42
Finland	34
France	29
Spain	26
Italy	25
United States	19

In total tonnage the Norwegian merchant marine ranks fourth in the world.

The Hamar Iron works has just delivered its one hundredth locomotive, being the only factory in Norway that has turned out this number. The company has orders for 11 more.

The food situation in Norway is improving. Large shipments of food stuffs are coming in almost daily and it was estimated that early in April the supply would be sufficient to feed the country until the next harvest is gathered. When the war broke out there was considerable uneasiness and the government, as well as wholesale houses, put forth their best efforts to secure from foreign countries what the people would need.

It is reported that the Tivoli gardens, one of the best-known amusement places in Christiania, has passed under the management of a new director named Jacobson, who was prominently connected with the exposition last summer. A new building, to be known as the Crystal palace, will be erected. It will have a seating capacity of 2,000, and will be used as a moving picture showhouse. It is so designed, however, that it can readily be converted into an ordinary theater, and will then have a seating capacity of 1,500.

Henrik Isben's study is now permanently installed in the Norwegian Folk museum at Bygdø, Norway. The room has been restored to its original condition, with the furnishings as they were when the poet occupied it.

A dispatch from London says that, suspected of carrying food products to Germany, the Norwegian steamer Frogner, from New York to Gothenburg, Sweden, was detained March 15 at Kirkwall, Scotland, where she will be required to discharge her cargo of lard and other products of American packers.

The Tancred, a Norwegian ship from Galveston to Gothenburg; the John Blumer, Norwegian, from Savannah to Gothenburg, and the Sotra, Norwegian, from New Orleans to Gothenburg, were detained at Kirkwall on March 14 for an investigation. The Norwegian ship Rialto was detained at Kirkwall on March 9, and is held still.

Denmark.

Reference has already been made to the preparations being made by Denmark to strengthen her defenses, and now dispatches from Copenhagen give a more or less detailed account of some of the work. The fortification of Copenhagen, says the dispatches, is being extended to the west, in addition to the northern defenses. At a point some nine or ten kilometers (about six miles) along the railway to Korsor, extensive barbed wire entanglements have been laid alongside the tracks and field artillery placed behind recently thrown-up earthworks. Trenches and bomb-proof shelters, too, have been prepared. All the railway stations in Zealand, Fuenen and Jutland are picketed by troops carrying fixed bayonets on their rifles day and night. Civilians are brusquely ordered away from the vicinity of signal boxes and wires. Though on the German side of the frontier an almost continuous line of intrenchments stretches across Jutland from the Baltic to the North Sea, the Danes have made no attempt to fortify their side. An official at Vamdrup, the little frontier town of the train traffic between Germany and Denmark, declared that Danish troops were being kept away from the border line in view of the possibility that the strained relations between the frontier Danes and the German soldiery having dominion over the Danes of Schleswig-Holstein might lead to a fray. Every yard of the German side of the frontier is watched and all carters driving out of Germany wagons in which anyone might find concealment have to unload and let the guards examine the freight. Examination of the passes permitting Danes on the Danish side to visit Danes on the German side is very searching.

Representatives of the shipowners of Denmark, Sweden and Norway held a conference at Copenhagen recently in regard to the maintenance of commerce in the North sea, but adjourned without taking formal action. They will confer with their respective governments and will probably hold another meeting in the near future.

Denmark has entered into a treaty with Russia for the protection of the rights of Danish and Russian artists and authors.