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BY M. H. JEWELL.

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MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE TIMES-RECORD AND THE
SCHOOLS.

The Tribune is altogether disin-
clined to be drawn into any contro-
versy, either with persons inside or
outside of the city, with regard to the
superintendency of the local schools.

It has published the news with re-
gard to the doings of the school
board without any prejudice or bias,
and has conceded to the members of
the board of education intelligence,
public spirit and honesty of purpose
in such steps as they deem best for
the schools, conceding to each mem-
ber of the board the right to his
own opinion and his honesty in hold-
ing it.

It seems to have become necessary
for some of the parties to whatever
controversy there may be, to go to
Valley City to find a vehicle for state-
ments or misstatements, one of
which appeared in that paper a day
or so ago to the effect that the Trib-
une declined to publish a statement
signed by the pupils of the local
schools regarding the superintend-
ent.

This statement is entirely false.
The Tribune published, without com-
ment, that statement and the signa-
tures of the children, omitting only
a statement at the end of the arti-
cle to the effect that the children
should be best able to judge of the
qualifications of a superintendent.

With this statement the Tribune can-
not at all agree, and as this seemed
to be attached to the statement for
the purpose of making it appear that
the Tribune was endorsing the state-
ment, it was omitted.

The Tribune believes that the mem-
bers of the board have the interests
of the schools at heart, and that Mr.
Cochrane, who has three children in
the schools; Mr. Will, who has two
among the graduates; Mr. Wachter,
who has several children in the
schools; Mr. Richolt, who has also
several children in attendance, and
Mr. Falconer, who has one child
among the graduates and one in at-
tendance in the schools, are good citi-
zens and above the imputations of
"gangism" and prejudice that is
sought to be put upon them by the
anonymous informer of the Times-
Record.

The Tribune has already stated
that it has no quarrel with any of the
members of the school board or the
teaching staff, unless the necessity
should arise for the making of an in-
quiry into the reasons for employing
outside columns to circulate misin-
formation with regard to its posi-
tion.

THE TRIBUNE WANTS COLUMNS

Twenty Years of Change.

From the Twenty Years Ago Col-
umn of Saturday's Fargo Forum:

The counties of Bottineau, Burleigh,
Griggs, Emmons, Mercer, McHenry,
Towner and Rolette had reached the
debt limit and could not issue bonds
for seed wheat for the indigent farm-
ers within their boundaries.

Burleigh county is now peopled
with prosperous farmers, its average
of wealth producing is high, and it
has many farmers who went through
that trying period of pioneering who
are wealthy and prosperous. And of
Bottineau county the Courant says:

"To those of us who have come to
North Dakota and more particularly
Bottineau county within the last few
years, it hardly seems possible that
only two decades ago the county
which is now the richest in agricul-
tural resources in the state should
have been bonded to the limit for
seed wheat for the indigent farmers
within its boundaries."

But that was twenty years ago.
What are the conditions today?

From the records in the office of the
auditor of Bottineau county we find
that last year there were approxi-
mately 372,000 acres of wheat grown
in Bottineau county, yielding some

\$5,500,000. But wheat was not the
only crop raised. Forty-one thousand
acres of oats, yielding 2,275,000 bush-
els of a market value of \$910,000.
Barley was sown on 42,000 acres,
yielding 840,000, worth \$420,000 to
the farmers making the Milwaukee
beverage. Then we have the flax
crop. The records show that 84,000
acres, yielding 840,000 bushels, which
sold for over a million dollars. Tot-
talling these figures we ascertain that
the market value of the crops raised
in Bottineau county last year was
nearly eight millions of dollars. And
twenty years ago the county was
bonded to the limit to furnish seed
to those too poor to buy.

The meeting at the armory was one
of the incidents of the prospective
change from the old to the new form
of city government and brought out
some interesting discussion with re-
ference to candidates and policies. A
mass meeting of citizens interested
in the welfare of the city is a good
thing for the exchange of views with
reference to public questions, and
the suggestion of candidates for the
places as members of the commis-
sion will give the voters of the city
the opportunity to measure up men
and establish their qualifications.
The Tribune is interested, first, in
having the system, and second, in
having as good a board of commis-
sioners selected as it is possible to
get considering all of the matters to
be taken into the consideration. It
would like to see the city run as a
business corporation, the injection of
new blood, see public improvements
made intelligently and with care and
economy, and it is more interested
in good results than in who shall or
shall not be commissioners.

NORTH DAKOTA NOTES

A wholesale coal yard is to be es-
tablished at Devils Lake.

Wahpeton has been pestered with
a number of burglaries recently.

The gun club at Fargo contem-
plates constructing a rifle range.

There will be considerable activity
in upper Missouri river traffic this
coming summer.

From all reports North Dakota has
had most of the states beat in the
line of weather the past season.

Taft's inauguration in moving pic-
tures is among the latest scenes
shown in theatres over the state.

When postoffices in some of the
smaller towns change hands it
should be made a point to have it
fall to the local editor.

There is said to be a hotel trust
on at Sentinel Butte. The same par-
ties own both hotels and are mak-
ing good.

The large number of bills vetoed
by the governor proves what a mis-
take it is for the legislature to cre-
ate an overproduction of measures.

Claiming that he was robbed while
he slept, is how the Soo depot agent
at Drake is attempting to account
for a \$1,500 shortage just discovered
in his accounts.

Registration lists are being checked
up preparatory to approaching
spring elections in the various cities
over the state.

The controversy over the lighting
proposition at Fargo has reached the
tabulated stage. Comparative tables
appear in the dailies every day now.

There is considerable comment
anent the scandal at Valley City,
because some of the young girls in-
volved were sent to the reform
school while the young men escaped
punishment.

Practically all of the newspapers
of the state had a kindly mention
for Jud Jordan, formerly of the Far-
go Call, who has retired from active
newspaper work.

Some of the old time North Dako-
tans, who have recently moved west,
are writing to their friends telling
how they wished they were back
here.

Ed Halaas, formerly treasurer of
Foster county and an ex-member of
the house, is slated for postmaster
at Carrington.

There were not very many serious
fires in North Dakota during the past
winter, and some of the papers are
wondering whether it is a sign of
prosperity or whether it is because
some of the towns have acquired bet-
ter fire protection.

USE TRIBUNE WANT COLUMNS

MILITIA COMPANIES TO BE INSPECTED

ADJUTANT GENERAL PEAKE IS-
SUES ORDER FOR INSPEC-
TION OF STATE MILITIA.

Local officers of the North Dakota
national guard have received from
Adjutant General Peake general or-
der No. 4, announcing that, begin-
ning March 19 and ending April 12,
the various commands of the state
will be inspected in their respective
armories. The inspection will be un-
der the supervision of Capt. William
H. Simons, 6th U. S. Infantry, who
will be accompanied on his tour by
the adjutant general and Col. Wil-
liam C. Trueman, commanding the
First Infantry, who will act as sur-
veying officer.

Commanding officers are advised
without delay to put all arms, ac-
countments, equipments and cloth-
ing in the best possible condition
for the inspection. They will fur-
ther hold themselves, books, records
and papers at the disposition of the
inspecting officers until dismissed.

"The inspectors," says general or-
der No. 71 of the war department,
"will determine, (1) the strength of
the various organizations, including
classification of officers and men so
as to show the organization of the
command and the number present
and absent; (2) a return showing all
field pieces, machine guns, rifles, car-
bines, revolvers and other arms of
the United States on hand, together
with all attachments and equipments,
carriages, harness, spare parts, pro-
jectiles and ammunition, or parts
thereof; (3) whether the organiza-
tions are sufficiently armed, uniformed
and equipped for active service in
the field."

Following is the itinerary of the
inspection tour:

Co. K—Dickinson, March 29.
Co. F—Mandan, March 30.
Co. A—Bismarck, March 31.
Co. H—Jamestown, April 1.
Battery A, Lisbon, April 2.
Co. E—Valley City, April 3.
Co. D—Minot, April 5.
Co. E—Williston, April 6.
Co. M—Devils Lake, April 7.
Co. C—Grafton, April 8.
Co. L—Hillsboro, April 9.
Co. B—Fargo, April 10.
Co. I—Wahpeton, April 12.

STUDENTS LEARN TO GROW CORN

EXCELLENT METHOD OF TEACH-
ING CORN CULTURE IN NORTH
DAKOTA.

Superintendent Wanner of Stuts-
man county has taken practical steps
to teach corn growth and culture by
inaugurating a corn growing contest
among the school children, and has
issued the following conditions of
the contest:

Every pupil under the age of nine-
teen, who has attended school in
Stutsman county this year, may take
part in the contest. Everyone who
wishes to take part in the contest
should write to the county superin-
tendent, giving full name, age and
address, name of school district, and
inclose four cents to pay postage on
seed corn. A package of corn con-
taining about 700 grains and a book-
let on instructions will then be sent
on condition that the pupil receiving
the same will plant 400 grains of it
in a square, four or five kernels in
each hill with the balance planted
on the south, west and north sides,
to fertilize and protect the inside
rows; that he will cultivate it and
harvest it, according to instructions
and exhibit not less than ten ears;

the ears to be selected from the
square and nowhere else; that he
will keep a record of cultivation from
the time of preparation until he har-
vests the same, and write a state-
ment or not less than 150 words on
his experiment. It is further agreed
by the pupil receiving this corn that
he will comply with the rules govern-
ing the exhibits of corn, and that he
will attend the exercises connected
with the contest if possible, and that
he will follow as far as he may be
able, the suggestions made in regard
to keeping record of growing corn.
This contest will probably be held in
November in 1909, exact date and
place of meeting to be announced
later. At that time the prizes will
be awarded for the best ten ears of
corn in each district and Mr. Rand-
lett of the agricultural college will
judge the corn, and explain why the
prize corn is entitled to its place.
Besides the prizes given by the
school districts there will be three
county prizes offered—first prize of
ten dollars, second of six dollars, and
the third of four dollars—for the
three best exhibits from the whole
county.

NOTABLE EXPLOITS OF PETROSINO.

New York's Famous Sleuth, Mar-
tyr to the Black Hand.

DARING AND SKILL RECALLED

Cases in Which He Proved Both in
Great Emergencies—An Example of
His Watchfulness—Desperate Fight
With a Thief.

Joseph Petrosino, the detective lieut-
enant who was recently assassinated in
Palermo, Sicily, was the head of
what is known as the Italian squad
of the New York police department
and one of the principal organizers of
it. He was the man most feared by
Italian criminals classed under the
name of Black Hand and was sent to
Italy to carry out a plan which was
suggested to Commissioner Bingham
nearly a year ago by a special agent
whom the commissioner had hired to
propose ways and means of stemming
the tide of Italian and Sicilian crime
in New York city.

In person short and stocky, with
broad shoulders and muscles like
steel cords, Petrosino was physically



JOSEPH PETROSINO.

equipped for the rough work which it
often became necessary for him to do.
He had more than a fighter's body.
He had the mind of a student. In the
hundreds of cases which he han-
dled he had use more frequently for
his trained brain than for his ready
hands.

Joseph Petrosino was born in 1860
in the province of Salerno, in Italy.
He came to the United States when
he was a boy of fifteen years and
started his New York career by sell-
ing newspapers at Broome street and
the Bowery. He was graduated as a
newsboy and became an employee
of the Galo brothers, who then held a
city contract as scavenger trimmers.
Through this channel he drifted into
the street cleaning squad. In those
days the street cleaning was done un-
der the jurisdiction of the police de-
partment, and so it came about that
the young Italian came under the
eagle eye of Inspector Alexander Wil-
lams, the original "czar of the Ten-
derloin" and the right arm of Inspect-
or Thomas Byrnes. Inspector Wil-
lams lifted Petrosino out of the street
cleaning squad and on Oct. 9, 1883,
made him a member of the uniformed
police force. He served in uniform
until he became a regular member of
the central detective bureau, in 1895,
where he scored his most notable
achievements.

It is difficult to select from the long
list of cases Petrosino has handled
those best showing his methods and
instancing his success. The Brogno
murder, at Baxter and Leonard streets,
New York, in July, 1898, will perhaps
serve as a good example. Natalio
Brogno was found, unconscious, suffer-
ing from a stab wound in the back.
Over him stood Angelo Carboni, who
was in the act of kicking Brogno when
the police arrived. It was learned that
Brogno, Carboni and a man named
Ceramello had quarreled in a saloon
on Leonard street a while before, but
Carboni was apparently the murderer.
Indeed, the police, at his trial, testi-
fied that Brogno had identified him as
his assailant, and Carboni was con-
victed and sentenced to death.

Petrosino was not satisfied, and this
is what he did, related in his own
words:

"After the conviction—I hadn't had much
to do with the case—I happened to hear
of a boy and a watchman who had seen
the fight. Some friends told me these two
had admitted this. Their story was that
Brogno had quarreled first with Cera-
mello, who was Carboni's father-in-law,
but that Brogno first came to blows with
Carboni. Brogno knocked Carboni down.
As Brogno bent forward from the force
of the blow Ceramello stole up behind
him and stabbed him in the back. Cera-
mello then ran away. Carboni didn't see
the stabbing, but got up as Brogno fell
and was kicking him when the police
came."

I couldn't get these witnesses to repeat
their story, so I went to the district at-
torney, who said I'd better go into the
case thoroughly. So I started out to get
Ceramello. I got traces of him in Jersey
City, but he got away ahead of me. I
followed him to Philadelphia, then to
Millerton, in Delaware, every time just
too late. Next I heard he was in Mont-
real, so to Canada I went. In Montreal
I heard Ceramello had gone to Nova
Scotia. I missed him there, too, and fol-
lowed his trail back to New York. There
I lost all trace of him.

One day, nearly a month after I first
went after Ceramello, I was standing at
Elizabeth and Mott streets when I saw
his cousin. He knew me, but he didn't
see me. So I trailed him up to Cortlandt
avenue, in the Bronx. I saw the cousin
go into a house, and I watched outside
until 2 o'clock in the morning, then I
made up my mind that he had gone to
bed, and I went to a place near by and

stayed until 5. Then I got back on watch
followed my man back downtown and
saw him buy a ticket for Baltimore. I
telephoned to headquarters I was going
out of town and bought a ticket for Bal-
timore too.

I was afraid I would be recognized.
Then I wore no mustache, and I pulled a
beard out of my pocket and put it on.
That and my best friends wouldn't know
me. In Baltimore my man went to Cor-
coran alley. Let me see, this was about 5
o'clock in the evening. Oh, I should have
said before that Ceramello, I had heard,
was going under the name of Fioni. Well,
his cousin went into the house, and I
stayed outside, so as not to scare them.
The next day I went out at 5 o'clock to
get the chief of police to send a man with
me to arrest Ceramello, for I felt sure
he was there. But no; it was too early.
The chief said I must wait until the de-
tectives came in.

So I went back to the house alone and
knocked at the door.
"Come in," some one said.

I went in. There were three men and a
woman on my left and a man leaning
over a stove on my right. He answered
the description I had of Ceramello.

"Anybody else here?" I asked. "I'm
from the health board, and I hear you've
got smallpox."

Then I turned to the man by the stove.
"What's your name?" "Fioni." "Come
here."

There was an ax standing against the
wall, and as I spoke I kicked it away
with my foot. Then I grabbed the man
by the back of the neck and took him
downstairs. On the way to the police
station he confessed to having killed
Brogno. I brought him back to New
York, and he was tried and sent to pri-
son for life, while Carboni was pardoned.

Four years later occurred the "bar-
rel murder," one of the most important
cases of Petrosino's career. It did not
result in a conviction, but Petrosino
always believed he had the right man.

The body of a man with the head
nearly severed was found in 1902 in a
barrel in a tenement on East Eleventh
street, New York. There was nothing
to show his identity, and it looked at
the outset like an impossible case. But
Petrosino had a rather distinct recol-
lection of the face of the dead man,
and he couldn't get rid of the impres-
sion that he had seen it somewhere.
Finally he fixed the time and place, re-
calling him as having attended a trial
of a counterfeiter, Giuseppe Diprimo,
in the federal court a year or so be-
fore. So Petrosino went to Sing Sing
to interview Diprimo.

As soon as he saw a photograph of
the dead man Diprimo exclaimed,
"That's my brother," adding that he
had seen him at the prison recently
with Tomaso Petto. This man Petto
was arrested because he knew Dipri-
mo, because he lived in Buffalo and
because a pair of gloves found in the
barrel bore the name of a Buffalo
store. Then the counterfeiter told the
detective that his brother had carried
a watch which he recalled bore some
deep scratches "on the neck." There
the clues seemed to end.

Back to New York came Petrosino.
The pawnshops were raked over, and
Diprimo's watch was found, with its
scratches "on the neck." More, it was
learned that Tomaso Petto had pawned
the watch. Then Petto was rear-
rested, and the pawn ticket for the
watch, was found in his possession.
But, though Petto was held in prison
for eight months, the necessary cor-
roborative evidence was lacking. The
police were morally sure of their man,
but had to consent to his discharge.
It is interesting to note that among
the men arrested on suspicion in this
case were three who, it was learned
later, were "wanted" in Italy for murder.

As an example of Petrosino's watch-
fulness when in pursuit of a criminal
the story of Paulo Rondo, who shot
and killed his wife in Little Italy in
New York six years ago, may be cited.

Petrosino tracked the murderer, who
was shelled by his countrymen, to a
little village on the outskirts of Long
Island City and located him in a house
on the ground floor of which was a
grocery store. All attempts to get at
the murderer proved unavailing. The
detective climbed a convenient tree
and, hidden by the foliage, kept a
watchful eye on the house. He spent
a most uncomfortable night, but was
rewarded at daylight by seeing a
wagon drive up to the door. A large
bundle was carried from the house
by several men and carefully deposited
in the wagon.

Petrosino came down from the tree
and as the wagon started away
grabbed the tailboard and, seizing the
bundle, dragged it to the ground. The
covering burst, and up sprang the mur-
derer. A desperate fight ensued. Cap-
tor and captive rolled over and over
on the ground, the friends of the mur-
derer crowding around and cheering
the man they had sought to conceal.
They were about to interfere when
Detective Sergeant Krauch, who had
also been watching, appeared with a
revolver in each hand. Then the
crowd fell back, the subdued murderer
was put into the wagon from which he
had been dragged, and in the vehicle
brought for his flight he was taken to
the nearest police station. He explai-
ned to eleven years in Sing Sing.

Petrosino could fight as well as
"sleuth." This he proved when, on
March 30, 1896, he arrested Giuseppe
Guiliano on a charge of grand larceny.
Guiliano had enticed a homeward
bound fellow countryman, Antonio
Sperduto by name, to a dive and had
given him knockout drops. A week's
search located the guilty man in a
house on Park street, in New York.
The pair wrestled and rolled down the
stairs from the third floor to the street.
Petrosino got his prisoner as far as a
sewer opening, over which they fought
for fully ten minutes. Finally the de-
fective, with a viselike grip on the
man's throat, forced his head into the
sewer opening and swore he would
bury him into the sewer if he did not
at once surrender. Not until the man
became unconscious was he dragged
from the sewer opening, and it was
necessary to call an ambulance. Guil-
iano, who secured only \$102 by giving
knockout drops to his victim, was sen-
tenced to serve eleven years in Sing
Sing.

EARTHQUAKES OF OLD

Strange Ideas of the Ancients as
to Their Causes.

WARNING SIGNS OF SHOCKS.

Pliny Says They Were Shown in the
Air, Clouds and Water and by Ani-
mals—The Two Mountains That
Crashed Together and Then Receded.

If we search history to find to what
causes the ancients attributed earth-
quakes we find that the Babylonians
believed that all occurrences of the
kind were due to the influence of the
stars, especially of the three to which
they ascribed thunder—namely, Sat-
urn, Jupiter and Mars. The seeds of
the day believed that these distur-
bances were caused by the stars mov-
ing with the sun or being in conjunc-
tion with it, more particularly when
the stars were in the quartile aspect.

Pliny chronicles the report concern-
ing one Anaximander, a Milesian, who
warned the Lacedaemonians to be-
ware of their city and houses. And
legend has it that the city was soon
afterward destroyed.

Pliny, who wrote his natural history
in A. D. 77, conceived that earth-
quakes were caused by the winds, as
"the earth never trembles except
when the sea is quite calm and when
the heavens are so tranquil that the
birds cannot maintain their flight, all
the air which should support them be-
ing withdrawn. Nor does it ever hap-
pen until after great winds, the gust
being pent up, as it were, in the fi-
naures and concealed hollows."

Many scientists have observed that
all great convulsions of nature are
likely to be preceded by calms; also
that birds and animals generally ex-
hibit certain presentiments of the
event, facts which the wise men of
ancient days noted and accounted for
in their different ways.

Pliny says: "When an earthquake
occurs there is often sound without
any motion. When there is motion it
is tremulous and vibratory. The clefts
of the earth sometimes remain, dis-
playing what has been swallowed up,
sometimes concealing it, the mouth
being closed and the soil brought over
it, the city being, as it were, engulfed,
devoured. Maritime districts are more
especially subject to shocks. Nor are
mountainous districts exempt. I have
found the Alps and the Apennines fre-
quently shaken by them. The shocks
happen more frequently in the autumn
and the spring. They also happen
more frequently in the night than in
the day. The greatest shocks are in
the morning and the evening, but they
often take place at daybreak. They
also take place during eclipses of the
moon, because at that time storms are
fueled. They are most frequent when
great heat succeeds to showers or
showers succeed to great heat."

Pliny further says: "There is no
doubt that earthquakes are felt by
persons on shipboard. There are many
signs for the mariner beforehand, how-
ever. The timbers of the vessel creak.
The birds that settle on the vessel are
not without their alarms. There is
also a sign in the heavens, for when a
shock is near at hand, either in the
daytime or a little after sunset, a
cloud is stretched out in the clear sky
like a long, thin line. The water in
wells is more turbid than usual, and it
emits a disagreeable odor."

In describing the various kinds of
shocks and expanding on his investi-
gations on the subject Pliny remarks
that "arched buildings are the safest;
also the angles of walls and walls
made of bricks suffer least. The earth
movement that resembles the rolling
of waves is the most dangerous, or
when the motion is impelled in one
direction. The tremors cease when
the vapors have burst forth, but if
there be no escape of vapor of any
kind then the tremors may continue
for forty days. They have been known
to continue for two years."

The historian records the greatest
"prodigy of the earth" as having oc-
curred in the district of Mutina during
the consulship of Lucius Martius and
Sextus Julius, when "two mountains
rushed together, falling upon each
other with a very loud crash and then
receding, while in the daytime smoke
and vapor issued from them." Pliny
says the wonder was witnessed by "a
great crowd of Roman knights and
travelers along the Aemilian way."

The same writer says: "The greatest
earthquake which occurred in our
memory was in the reign of Tiberius,
by which twelve cities of Asia were
laid prostrate in one night. During
the Punic war we had accounts of
fifty-seven earthquakes in one year.
Nor is it an evil merely consisting in
the danger which is produced by the
motion; it is an equal or greater evil
when it is considered as a prodigy.
The city of Rome never experienced a
shock that was not the forerunner of
some great calamity."

Pliny, of course, takes a good many
of his accounts from Aristotle, but his
references to events are confirmed by
other writers. Herodotus describes a
great disturbance in his day, when
"the sea came beyond Memphis, as far
as the mountains of Ethiopia, and also
from the plains of Arabia. The sea
also surrounded Ilum and the whole
of Teuthrania and covered the plain
through which the Meander flows." Pliny
makes actual mention of one of
Pliny's day that Sicily was torn from
Italy by such a disturbance.—New
York World.

He who sows brambles must not go
barefoot.—German Proverb.