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BEMIDJI DAILY PIONEER

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minnesota—Generally fair to night and Saturday; except unsettled in northeast portion to night; colder in southeast tonight.

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BEMIDJI, MINN., FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 7, 1922

55c PER MONTH

LOCAL MAN KILLED IN ATTEMPT TO CUT ELECTRIC LIGHT WIRE WITH KNIFE

KEEN INTEREST EVIDENCED IN DITCH HEARING

Final Hearing Being Held Here Today on Construction of Judicial Ditch No. 37

COUNTY BOARD OPPOSES PLAN AT PRESENT TIME

Board Goes on Record Against Construction on Account of Present Finances

The keenest interest on the part of a large number of citizens of this city, Blackduck and other towns is being shown by their presence at the ditch hearing now on at the court house. The ditch in question is number 37, which is estimated to cost several hundred thousand dollars.

Attorney A. A. Andrews is representing the ditch petitioners, while E. E. McDonald and William Brown of Thief River Falls are appearing for the objectors and county attorney Graham M. Torrance is representing Beltrami county on special request by the county commissioners.

The board at its meeting Thursday passed a resolution outlining the financial situation and making the request that the county be represented at the hearing. The resolution in part follows:

Commissioner Ellis offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

"Whereas, the final hearing for the establishment of Judicial Ditch No. 37 is set for hearing before the board of this county on the 7th day of April, 1922, and

"Whereas, the bonded indebtedness of Beltrami county for drainage purposes, now outstanding and unpaid, amounts to the sum of \$2,654,000 and

Whereas, the total estimated cost of said Judicial Ditch No. 37 amounts to the sum of \$312,788.38.

"Now therefore, be it resolved by the County Board of Beltrami county that said court be urged to not establish said Judicial Ditch No. 37 as now planned, and for the reason that on account of the present bonded indebtedness of this county, the County of Beltrami will be unable to finance such project, and will be unable to raise the money, by the sale of bonds, to carry out such project

"Resolved, further that the County Attorney of this County and the members of the board appear at such hearing and urge that said ditch, as now planned, be not now established, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted by the County Auditor of this County to said Court upon such hearing."

The resolution was seconded by Commissioner Hays, and being put to a vote was adopted. The following members voted Aye: Edward Paulson, H. B. Imsdahl, J. F. Hays, and S. W. Ellis, Absent: Wm. Lennon.

The hearing began before Judge C. W. Stanton this morning and engineer Geo. W. Walker occupied the stand during this morning's session and for the most part of the afternoon.

The attorneys for the objectors desire to secure all the facts in order to establish a foundation for making an appeal to the higher courts it is said, should the ditch be established by the district court.

A hearing on ditch number 45 will also be held after the present hearing on ditch number 37 is completed. This project is not so large, but is rather costly for its length in as much as the ditch would necessarily be deeper and larger if constructed.

TYPHOID FEVER DEATH RATE SHOWS DECREASE

Washington, April 7.—The Department of Commerce through the Bureau of the Census, announces lower mortality rates from typhoid fever in recent years. The amount of typhoid fever in a community is recognized as one of its best indexes of its healthfulness. So also the mortality rate from this cause is a very important sanitary index.

The steadily increasing mortality rate from typhoid fever is therefore most gratifying, a decrease in the registration states of 1916 from 13.3 per 100,000 population in 1916 to 7 in 1920. In 1920 of the states in the registration area Massachusetts and Wisconsin share (2.5) while the highest (22.4) appears for south Carolina. Of the eleven states showing rates by color, the lowest rate for the white population was 4.6 both for New York State, while the highest rate for the white population was 19.1 for Kentucky and that for the colored was 30.2 for the same state.

FARM BUREAU ALLEGES BIG BRIBE WAS OFFERED

Alleged Proposal Was That Farm Bureau Seek Control of Muscle Shoals Plant

(By United Press)

Washington, April 7.—A sensational charge that the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation has been offered a virtual proposal of \$2,500,000 if it would seek to obtain from the government the leasing of the Muscle Shoals nitrate plant No. 2, and thus defeat the efforts of Henry Ford to lease the entire project, was made in documents made public by the American Farm Bureau Federation. In a letter, Roy C. Bishop, secretary and manager of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, alleged he had been approached by General R. E. Steiner, who urged that the Alabama Federation seek to lease the nitrate plant No. 2 to assure a supply of fertilizer for the farmers and promised that the company would purchase the rest of the project and would make a "contribution of \$2,500,000 to the federation."

Bishop charged that Steiner was a representative of the Alabama Power company. Steiner denied any connection with the Alabama Power company, Bishop said. Steiner also promised to guarantee 100,000 horsepower to operate the nitrate plant, Bishop alleged. The whole proposal was promptly rejected, a statement of Gray Silver, Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said.

ONE MAN KILLED AND SEVERAL INJURED IN CYCLONE

Woodward, Ia., April 7.—One man was killed and several persons injured and property damage amounting to \$250,000 was done by a cyclone near here. Farm homes and other buildings were wrecked over an area of several miles.

TAFT'S 'HOBNOBBING' IS CRITICIZED BY NORRIS

(By United Press)

Washington, April 7.—Chief Justice Taft was sharply criticized in the senate today by senator Norris of Nebraska for "hobnobbing" at too many social functions with the idle rich.

"No man," Norris said, "can stick his legs under the table of the idle rich and be fit to sit in judgment the next day on those who toil." Social activities are seriously affecting the public, he asserted.

Park Rapids, April 7.—Thursday morning at 6 o'clock the fire siren sounded and the whole back part of Haight's Furniture store was found to be on fire. A little delay in getting the pressure on the water made it look as though the whole building would be consumed but soon the fire company got better service and it was brought under control without spreading to any other structures. As it was, the whole back part of the building was ruined with a loss of somewhere around \$3,000 to the building besides half of that amount on stock and household goods. Insurance covers the loss.

FIVE KILLED IN NIGHT FIGHTING IN IRELAND

Demonstrations by DeValera Followers in Dublin Call Troops Into Action

(By United Press)

London, April 7.—Five constabularies were shot to death in Ireland last night, according to the Dublin correspondent of the Morning Post. Two were killed in County Kerry and three in County Clare, according to correspondents. The Royal Irish constabulary forces were recently withdrawn from Ireland after their duties were taken over by the Free State police.

Dublin, April 7.—Rebellious demonstrations by DeValera followers in Dublin today caused the Free State government to rush troops to occupy the telephone exchange, which insurgents had planned to seize. Two hundred rebels attacked the customs house and destroyed immense quantities of liquor and wines. A force of loyal troops were sent to occupy the telephone exchange which it was understood, was the first object of the rebel attack.

TWO EXPRESS AIRPLANES COLLIDE IN MID-AIR TODAY

(By United Press)

Paris, April 7.—Two express airplanes on the London-to-Paris air service collided in mid-air over Tilloy today and fell flaming to the earth, carrying two pilots, mechanics and three passengers to their deaths. Planes burst into flames high above the ground and the passengers died without being able to extricate themselves from the burning machines. The accident occurred 70 miles north of Paris.

TERM OF COURT TO RECONVENE NEXT TUESDAY

Several Cases on Calendar for Adjourned Session; Judge Wright to Preside

JURORS TO ASSEMBLE HERE NEXT WEDNESDAY

Hearing Arguments on Change of Venue in Miller Case Listed for Tuesday

District court will be reconvened here next Tuesday, April 11, to complete the February term of court, which was adjourned March 16 after a session of considerable length, in which a large number of liquor cases were heard and sentences passed.

It is expected that the hearing of arguments for and against a change of venue for Robert Miller will be held Tuesday. Miller was convicted a year ago last February on a charge of murder in connection with the death of a man named Fenton, near Baudette, and was sentenced to life imprisonment at Stillwater. Motion for a new trial was denied by Judge C. W. Stanton, and later an appeal was made in Supreme court, asking for a reversal of the decision of Judge Stanton. This was granted and a new trial was ordered. At the present time, Miller is confined to the Beltrami county jail, seeking to have his new trial in another county.

Judge B. F. Wright of Park Rapids, who presided at the first part of this present term of court, will occupy the bench again. His services here are apparently meeting with approval and his decisions are considered fair. For this adjourned term, a new venire of jurors has been called and it is expected that several interesting cases will be heard.

Among these cases is that of the State of Minnesota vs. Henry L. Melius, on a charge of improper conduct toward a 15-year old girl, on which case the jury disagreed before the adjournment was taken. This case will be retried at this session.

The case of the State of Minnesota vs. Tom C. Fenson, charged with conducting a gambling place, and that of the State of Minnesota vs. Peter Blahy, charged with violation of the liquor law at Kellner, will be heard. On the new panel of jurors are a number of women, following the precedent set at the first part of the term when women of Beltrami county did their first jury duty here. The adjourned term is virtually called for April 11 but the jurors are not required to appear until April 12, when the first trial case will be brought up.

Major C. K. Newcome of Winnipeg addressed the assembly at the State Teachers college at 11 o'clock this forenoon on the same subject which he used for his address before the Kiwanis club this noon, as the special speaker for Canadian Day. He is a very able speaker and had a message worth-while.

ASSESSORS OF SOUTHERN END MEET HERE TUESDAY

To Receive Instruction Relative to Their Work; North End Assessors Meet April 26

Township assessors of the southern portion of Beltrami county, the board of county commissioners, will meet in Bemidji next Tuesday, April 11, for the purpose of receiving instruction relative to proper methods of assessing the property in each township. They will also receive their supplies at this session. Instruction will be given by representatives of the state tax commission. A similar meeting will be held at Baudette April 26, at which time the assessors of the townships in the north end of the county will receive instruction. Representatives of the state tax commission are also to be present at this meeting.

Assessors of the western townships of the county met at Thief River Falls April 4, where they received instruction and supplies.

The assessors who attend the meeting in their section of the county are allowed five cents a mile for the distance actually traveled in attending the meeting and \$4 a day for the time necessarily consumed in attending.

All assessors are urged to make it a point to be present at the meeting in their section of the county in order that the assessing this year may be done along the proper lines. These meetings have been held yearly and much interest has been shown, with the result that the job of making the assessment has been carried out more and more to the satisfaction of all concerned.

SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE BY PUBLIC PREDICTED

(By United Press)

Washington, April 7.—(By Herbert Walker)—Public opinion will force settlement of the coal strike after it gets the facts about the coal industry, Representative Bland of Indiana, Republican, who started the investigation through his proposed resolution, providing a federal commission of investigation, declared today to the United Press.

Indianapolis, April 7.—A splendid morale exists among the 600,000 striking coal miners today—the end of the first week of their suspension. The ranks are being augmented daily by thousands of non-union men, it was claimed.

CARELESSNESS CAUSES MOST OF FOREST FIRES

(By United Press)

Duluth, April 7.—Sixty-three per cent of the forest fires in Superior National forest region last year were caused by careless individuals. Only sixteen fires in the forest were large enough to call out forestry crews and of these fires ten were caused through the forestry department's fire to the forestry department's fire by settlers clearing land, six by campers and one by a lumber company clearing land.

Conditions last year were much better than heretofore, however, as formerly about 95 per cent of the fires were caused by carelessness.

COUNTY BOARD MAKING PLANS FOR ROAD WORK

Special Meeting to Be Held Next Tuesday to Consider Several Road Bids

MORE TO BE CONSIDERED AT REGULAR MEET MAY 3

Large Number of Small Jobs Advertised; Taylor Township Has Big Program

To consider bids on a number of road jobs in Beltrami county, the board of county commissioners, which was in session here until Thursday, will meet again in special session next Tuesday, April 11. The commissioners completed their regular session Thursday but remained in Bemidji for the hearing on the construction of Ditch No. 37, which is being held at the court house before Judge C. W. Stanton today.

Roads that have been advertised are a road between Funkley and Shook, a stretch of two miles; a road west to the range line, a distance of about five miles; a road on the south side of Blackduck lake, a distance of about two and one-half miles; a road between Hagali and Blackduck townships for a distance of five miles; a connecting road with state road No. 3 in Grant Valley, a distance of one fourth of a mile; a road in Jones township south of Solway, a distance of one and one-fourth miles; a road in Buzzle township for a distance of one mile; a one-mile road in Roosevelt township; and a nine-mile stretch in Minnie and Stegerson townships.

"Several more road bids are to be considered at the regular meeting of the board on May 3. Included in these is a road in section 19 of Durand township, a distance of one-mile siding, running to the school, a distance of two miles. Bids have also been asked for on a road to be constructed along the railroad north of Neeley siding, a distance of four miles, and south of Puposky, a distance of two miles. A clearing and grubbing job on what is known as the Sanitorium road for a distance of three miles has also been advertised.

Taylor township is making plans for a "good roads" season and the indications are that about \$19,000 will be spent on the roads in that township this year. The township disposed of \$16,000 worth of bonds to the state and, with the \$3,000 which the township receives from the county as its portion, the campaign will be carried out with good results.

The Bemidji Auto Livery has moved its office from the Kemp building on Beltrami avenue to the new office in the Dalton block, just north of the former office. This office has just been completed and an entrance has been cut through from the avenue, giving this livery company a very desirable office.

SCHOOL AGE OF CHILD CAUSE OF DISCUSSION

Washington Educators Do Not Agree With Declaration of Luther Burbank

Washington, April 7 (Capital News Service)—Educators of the Capital City are not at all in sympathy with the recent declaration of Luther Burbank, the plant wizard, who declared his conviction that no child except the city child should be permitted inside the school rooms until ten years of age.

They point out that plants and animals, the former group of living things, those with which Mr. Burbank has had the greatest experience, have only one age, which is that of their physical substance, whereas children are so many years old in body, but have minds which vary largely in "mental age" from that of the body.

Dr. Agnes L. Rogers, of Goucher College, (Baltimore), has recently drawn attention of Capital school authorities to the need of mental rather than physical grading of children. In so doing she related the results of mental tests which revealed that in a group of first grade children their mentality ranged from that of four to nine years of age.

"Children can acquire best things proper to their learning point at a particular age," Dr. Rogers said. She explained the division by the tests of children into three groups; unusually bright children, the large average group, comprising 60 per cent, and the under average children, who are slow to learn. The first and third groups include 20 per cent each of children tested. The new classification prevents retardation, while arbitrarily holding children of physical age of ten years from school increases it.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET AGAIN INTERESTS PUBLIC

New York, April 7.—(By R. L. Barnum) For the first time for more than two years the big outside public is speculating on the New York stock market on the long side. That is the meaning of the million duties now being witnessed, with prices daily making new high records for the year.

From November 1919 until June the price trend of the market was downward, discounting wide-spread trade reaction. Since last August the price trend has been upward, discounting a revival in business.

It was only recently, however, that the public has regained enough confidence in the business outlook again to take the long side of the market.

A. W. Aamodt, formerly county agent at Bemidji and for some time secretary of the Minnesota Potato Producers association, with headquarters in Minneapolis, has resigned. His official connection with the Potato association ended on April 1. He is at present in Chicago and has made no announcement concerning his future plans.

LENINE MAY ATTEND CONFERENCE AT GENOA

His Appearance at Meeting to Be Held Monday Would Not Be a Big Surprise

London, April 7.—(By Ed. L. Keen)—A dramatic appearance at Genoa of Premier Lenine of Russia would not be an entirely unexpected development of the Economic conference, which opens next Monday. The Russian dictator, it was suggested, may be traveling to Italy to witness the enemies who seek his life and to startle the world by appearing to cross swords with Lloyd George in the struggle over the recognition of Russia.

Even without the presence of the Bolshevik premier, the Genoa party will see a clash of interest between Russian delegates and allied statesmen. The former, heralded as giants in the new diplomacy, but untried outside their own country, have arrived at Genoa. The question of relations with Russia is paramount at the Genoa conference for the following reasons:

Rehabilitation of Russia with nearly every country in debt depends more on the obtaining of raw materials and credits than upon limitation of exchanges and balancing of budgets.

With America out of the conference and England feeling the pinch and calling in her loans, the field for credit is virtually exhausted. Europe must obtain raw material. The doctors of war-sick Europe therefore turned to Russia offering to exchange recognition for raw material. Britain's program for recognition of Russia, which will be presented to the Soviet emissaries at Genoa, involves reduction of the Russian armies, guarantees that Russia will not attack her neighbors, payment of old Russian debts and a measure of free trade with freedom for foreign citizens to be guaranteed within the Russian border.

ELECTROCUTED IN ATTEMPT TO CUT LIVE WIRE

J. A. DeLeuil Killed in Attempt to Cut Electric Light Wire With Pocket Knife

WAS ATTENDING FIRE IN NORTH END OF CITY

No Marks or Burns Shown on Body; Wire Believed to Have Carried Low Voltage

Joseph A. DeLeuil, proprietor of the Northwestern Motors, met death by electrocution Thursday night while attending a fire which destroyed the barn on the Fred Hansen property at Twenty-fourth street and Dalton avenue. In what was apparently an attempt to save other persons from being injured by a live electric light wire which had fallen to the ground when the barn collapsed, Mr. DeLeuil endeavored to cut the wire, the live end of which was hanging from a short pole about half-way between the Hansen house and barn. Using his pocket knife for this purpose and reaching up as high as he could, he met instant death as soon as the blade of the knife penetrated through the insulation on the wire.

It is reported that no one was near him at the time, although George Kuba, a fireman, saw from a distance what Mr. DeLeuil was doing. He was the first to reach the dead man's side, but life had departed instantly, without a word being said by Mr. DeLeuil, as far as is known. Prior to the attempt to cut the wire, Mr. DeLeuil had asked for a pair of pliers, but none being had, he went over to the loose wire and used his knife.

The wire was an extension line from the Hansen house, occupied by the P. Shindler family, to the barn, and was supported above half-way between the buildings by a short pole. Climbing on top of the roof cellar, near the pole, Mr. DeLeuil attempted to cut the wire off as high in the air as possible. When the barn collapsed the wire dropped to the ground and apparently Mr. DeLeuil thought that it should be cut off to avoid danger to those attending the fire.

No marks or burns are visible on his body. Consequently, the doubtful just what amount of voltage passed through Mr. DeLeuil's body, although the wire was supposed to be carrying 110 volts. However, Elmer E. Swanson, manager of the Minnesota Electric Light & Power Co., states that there may have been a short circuit in the system, which added considerable more voltage to this line. Such a short circuit would have been caused somewhere in the lighting system on account of the storm, although no indication has yet been found which might bear out this possibility. Crossing of two or more wires carrying the same load would have had no effect on the voltage of the wire which caused Mr. DeLeuil's death. There is a possibility that weak heart action, coupled with the shock, could have caused the death, since it is believed that the charge was not very heavy because no burns were left on the body. Had the wire been short circuited with the high tension line, Mr. DeLeuil would have taken into his body a 2,300 voltage, which in most cases leaves its marks on the victim. The blade of the knife which Mr. DeLeuil used shows only a small nick. This tends to bear out the opinion that the voltage was not very heavy. No doubt due to the fact that Mr. DeLeuil's feet were wet and the

GALLI CURCI LEADING HUNT FOR STOLEN GEMS

(By United Press)

Los Angeles, Calif., April 7.—Madame Amelita Galli Curci, celebrated prima donna of the Metropolitan Grand Opera company, today led the hunt for the girl bandit who stole her jewels, valued at \$45,000, taken from her room in a road house at San Juan Capistrano. Police throughout southern California were participating in the girl hunt.

The girls were described as young and pretty, one a pronounced blonde with bobbed hair. They were fashionably attired. Galli Curci, with her husband, Homer Samuels of Minneapolis, was motoring from San Francisco to San Diego and stopped at San Juan Capistrano—the half-way mark—for lunch. The town is isolated and consists of a few small buildings. Galli Curci was in the wash room and one of the girls was talking to her, when the other snatched the jewel box from the table. Both girls ran out, jumped into an automobile and sped away.

