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MURRAY SUGGESTS QUESTIONS FOR FARMERS TO DEBATE.

Berthold, N. Dak., Dec. 18.

Editor Independent:
There seems to be a general desire on the part of the farmers over this county, to discuss the issue of the proposed State Flour mills. League farmers living in five different townships have recently suggested the advisability of having debates at farm houses or school houses in the country for that purpose.

I desire to give emphasis to such suggestions, and urge that the debates be under the supervision of a committee of three farmers and a chairman who would prohibit all personalities, and words of derision and disrespect, such as calling farmers "socialists" on one side and classifying those on the other side as "Big Biz Associates." Require every speaker to show the same respect to others that he expects for himself.

The following and other questions may be considered, viz.:

Is the League proposition to grind wheat for leaguers only? To grind the wheat belonging to farmers and let farmers find a market for it? To have the state buy the wheat and grind it as the property of the state? If so, will they require the farmers to sell to the state notwithstanding some other concerns outside of the state may offer more for the wheat? If their proposition is to have the state buy the wheat and then set a price on the flour, how shall they determine the price?

It is an accepted proposition of economics that the "cost of an article, plus expense, and a reasonable profit," is the fair way of ascertaining the price of an article. Suppose that we should say that the cost of producing wheat, expense of handling after threshed, and a reasonable profit, would be the price determined by the state for flour. No farmer, scientist, agricultural agent, nor expert of economics, nor the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture was able to answer the question when the price was set on wheat recently for the 1919 crop.

It would be a natural thing for us to suppose that the commissioner of agriculture of our state would figure that proposition out and Mr. Hagen did make some figures on the subject in 1917 and reproduced in Nonpartisan Leader Oct. 21, 1918. The Leader writer pointed out an omission of expense. He left out many things which should be considered. For instance he made no deductions for incidental products such as garden, chickens, eggs, colts, calves, cream, butter, etc.

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Any one wishing to investigate the financial backing of this office can readily see how they are protected by a guarantee of this kind.

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What gift would be more appreciated than a nice
Traveling Bag or Suit Case, Collar Bag, Dressing Case, Toilet Roll, Cigar Case, a fine Khaki Comfort Kit, Trench Mirror or Writing Set?

We have a nice stock of Ladies' Hand Bags, Strap Purses, Music Rolls, Pullman Slippers, Manicure Sets and Leather Novelties.

See our line of Automobile Shawls and Robes, Wardrobe Trunks, etc.

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| NARROW | 8.00 to 7.00 | 6.50 to 5.50 | 5.25 to 4.75 | 4.50 to 4.00 | 4.00 to 2.00 | 1.50 to .75 | |
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| COYOTE | 28.00 to 23.00 | 20.00 to 18.00 | 18.00 to 14.00 | 12.00 to 10.00 | 12.00 to 6.00 | 3.00 to 2.00 | |
| HEAVY FURRED, CASED OPEN AND HEADLESS | 22.00 to 18.00 | 16.00 to 14.00 | 12.00 to 10.00 | 9.00 to 7.00 | 9.00 to 5.00 | 2.00 to 1.50 | |
| MUSKRAT | 2.75 to 2.25 | 2.10 to 1.85 | 1.70 to 1.50 | 1.30 to 1.10 | 1.25 to .90 | .50 to .40 | |
| WINTER | 2.20 to 1.90 | 1.80 to 1.60 | 1.50 to 1.20 | 1.00 to .80 | .85 to .60 | .35 to .25 | |
| FALL | | | | | | | |

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We Want All the North Dakota Furs You Can Ship

SKUNK, COYOTE, MUSKRAT and all other Fur-bearers collected in your section in strong demand. A shipment to "SHUBERT" will bring you "more money" — "quicker."

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THE LARGEST HOUSE IN THE WORLD DEALING EXCLUSIVELY IN
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Nor did he take into consideration the difference in interest rate in different sections in this state. As an example to show this fact, we will suppose that the state is divided into three sections, extending a line north and south from Minot and one thru Carrington north and south. In the eastern section the average rate of interest for short loans is six per cent; in the middle section it is eight per cent; while in the western section it is ten per cent. The cost of a team (five horses), gang plow, harness, and drag, is about \$1,000. The farmer in eastern sections would pay \$60 interest; in the middle section \$80; and in the western section \$100. Again Mr. Hagen used the U. S. Department's average yield per acre which is based upon final results, yet Mr. Hagen charged up "Rotten extermination and loss." His mistakes are too numerous to mention all in detail. (No disrespect to Mr. Hagen).

Again, in order to show how very deficient the records are, I will refer to two reports on Cost of Producing Wheat, in Leader, Sept. 27, 1917, page fourteen. One report by T. B. Babcock, Savage, Mont., is purely guesswork. As proof of this fact he failed to report the twine expense and made no report of cutting his flax, treating of seed nor deductions for incidental products; another report on same page which looked so good to the Leader writer that the headlines stated "A Farm Run Like a Bank Furnishes Accurate Figures," yet while the report or records were too cumulative to exhibit details, still, the records showed deductions for horses and sheep yet failed to show deductions for chickens, eggs, butter, garden, hogs, calves, etc., nor hail insurance.

We should enlist the aid of our county agricultural agent, sharpen our pencils, make out a cost-record of producing wheat and other grains, and submit them to our neighbors for criticism.

Owing to the scarcity of teachers, I have promised to engage in teaching for the winter, hence I may be out of the county, but whenever convenient I will take pleasure in discussing the questions with my neighbor farmers. Yours for the best interest for all classes alike.

GEO. T. MURRAY.

NINE MILLION DOLLARS FOR NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 14.—Under a bill to be introduced by the senate committee increasing the present \$75,000,000 appropriation for federal aid in highway construction to \$600,000,000, to be provided by July 1, 1924, while the present appropriation would run until June 30, 1922, North Dakota's apportionment of federal aid would be increased from \$1,142,000 to approximately \$9,000,000, which with an equal amount of state or county funds would make \$18,000,000 worth of good roads available for North Dakota by July 1, 1924, reports the state highway department.

Mountrail County Sheriff Capitulates.

Forrest Rice, sheriff-elect of Mountrail county, capitulated to Cupid, the God of Love, Saturday night, when he promised to love and obey one of the most charming young women of that county. The bride was Miss Aleda Nelson and the ceremony was performed in this city at the Hunter residence, on Saturday evening, Dec. 14. The Rev. Wm. C. Hunter officiated, using the very beautiful and impressive ring service.



The Toy Shop

The True Christmas Spirit Is the Spirit of Rejoicing--The Giving of Gifts

Christmas giving this year will be more popular than ever. Don't overlook the little folks. Half the pleasure of giving lies in witnessing the joy and happiness your gift inspires. In this regard, the young child's feelings are never concealed. He is outspoken in his admiration of your gift.

While our enormous stock of the practical gifts—gifts that are useful as well as ornamental is most complete. We also have just received a large shipment of TOYS for the little folks.

The list includes IRON DRAY CARTS, AUTO CARS, HOOK AND LADDER TRUCKS, WOODEN MOTOR CARS, DELIVERY WAGONS, MOVING VANS, HORSES AND WAGONS, WOODEN ANIMALS, WAGONS, CLOWNS, ANIMALS ON ROCKERS and what will prove the most popular of all



Hobby Horses

These come in various sizes, ranging in price from

2.50 up to 4.00

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Inspect Our Lines Before Placing Your Orders

Hodgins Transfer Co. New Ehr Block

Plenty of A-1 Lignite Coal At All Times

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PROMPT DELIVERY—We operate 4 teams and can deliver same day order is received. Our coal is hard and dry. NONE BETTER.

Lignite \$5.00 per Ton—Full Weight

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11-21-17

Mr. and Mrs. Rice will occupy the sheriff's residence at Stanley, where Mr. Rice will take charge of the sheriff's office the first of the year.

Mr. Rice is one of the best known residents of Mountrail county. He is

the owner of a large ranch and he has been very successful in the ranching business. His bride has been a resident of that county for years and is a young woman who has the highest respect of all.