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European argument, the party left New York last Thursday, a week ago. The return route took them through Washington where the party viewed the shrines of government and graft, and then started westward again by way of the famous Lincoln Highway. The return took eight days altogether, landing them Saturday night in Mankato. Mr. and Mrs. Metzinger took the night train from Mankato, leaving the car in the care of Arno Weddendorf.

Mr. Metzinger declared that this is by far the most enjoyable way of "seeing America first", and furthermore he claims that America is certainly worth seeing.

"We started out as gullible amateurs", he declared, "but we came back seasoned veterans at the game. Our hard luck was mostly imaginary, and we enjoyed ourselves so much that we had no time to take stock of our worries".

THE OIL INDUSTRY.

"The oil business is not a poor man's game; it is a great gamble where only millionaires with reinforced concrete nerve can afford to take chances", said Dr. G. F. Reineke in recounting one of the most interesting experiments of his trip West this summer.

"This may serve in the way of a warning to local investors who might expect fabulous returns from their investments in oil companies stock. Next to guessing on the outcome of the European war, the oil business is the most uncertain proposition in the world. When a company starts to dig a well in the oil district, even if it is in the immediate vicinity of a well that gushes a stream of dollars faster than the San Francisco mint, it is never certain that oil instead of water will turn up. That is the strange part about the whole thing. There are veins of pure water running within a few feet of the oil veins, and often investors have spent a fortune drilling a well that gave only water. These are the kinds of wells that the gullible eastern investor pays for and then tries to pay the grocery and rent bills on rarified hope. The Honolulu Company, one of the two largest companies operating in the oil district, spent \$500,000 before they struck oil. They now have about a dozen gushers which are making a fortune for them."

The Gasoline Craft.

"Within the territory of the oil wells, which extends in a long strip fifty by seven miles, there are natural gas wells which supply Los Angeles with gas. Gas at Taft, Calif., where it gushes out of the ground is worth eighty cents. Gasoline made in Taft from natural gas, which is made by compressing it, sells for "two cents more than in New Ulm."

Harold Reineke, who accompanied Dr. and Mrs. Reineke on the trip gives an interesting account of their stay in the oil district.

"Our visit to the oil fields was very interesting. Although it was very hot, we enjoyed our stay in Taft very much. Taft is 38 miles west of Bakersfield and is in the center of the greatest oil producing region of the United States.

"The houses are made of rough boards set upright. They are poorly built and unpainted. The streets have not been laid out and the houses are built almost anywhere. There is not a green thing in sight. Sand that reflects the strong rays of the sun is all that can be seen.

"One may look in any direction from Taft and see oil wells. In many places they are very close together. An oil well looks very much like a windmill without a wheel on it. The derricks are left over the well after it has been sunk so

that in case there is any trouble with the well, the tubes can be drawn up. The derricks are from 35 to 50 feet high.

The Buyers' Monopoly.

"There are two companies operating wells there at the present time. The Standard Oil Co. and the Honolulu Co. The latter has its head offices and directors at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. These two companies are the only buyers of oil there and if they don't care to buy the oil of a smaller company or an individual owner, he can not sell his oil anywhere. He must therefore agree to their terms or keep his product.

"The Honolulu Co. has a well there at the present time that we saw, that runs a steady stream of oil about three and one half inches in diameter day and night. They told us that it was worth \$1000 a day to the company.

"Another well is called the "Lakeview No. 1". This well, when sunk, gushed oil to a height of from 500 to 600 feet. It has produced, up to this time, \$5,000,000 worth of oil and today it is being pumped, and yields as much as any ordinary well does. There is also a "Lakeview No. 2." This well acted very much like "No. 1" and is also still flowing.

"The pumping is done with steam. There is a large beam connected to the pumping rods and this is fastened to an eccentric. The steam is carried through pipes from some distance farther away from the well. The fire danger is very great so the boilers are always some distance from the pumps. In this way one man can tend quite a few wells at one time. They do not need to fire the boilers because they burn crude oil in them.

"There are times when an oil pump will "stick". In order to save time they "shoot" them. In other words, they dynamite them. We met a man that does this for a living. It seems to be a very risky sort of business but he does not think so. He told us that sometimes when they shoot a well, it gushes the oil some distance into the air. It is then re-piped and the pumping continues.

The Fire Danger.

"The fire danger is very great. Many thousands of dollars worth of oil has gone up in smoke on account of some careless employee. In case there is a fire, they try to extinguish it by blasting at the base of it. If this cannot be done, it must be let alone until it has burned itself out sufficiently. The smoke from a fire of this nature is very black and stifling.

"From the wells the oil is run into tanks. These tanks have a uniform capacity of 55,000 barrels. The Standard Oil Co. has a group of 20 such tanks there. From these tanks it is sent through pipes to San Francisco. At intervals of 20 miles there are pumping stations that force the oil on. The entire length of the pipe line is something over 200 miles. This method of conveying the oil is much cheaper and more convenient than by rail.

"There is only one railroad running through this district. It runs one passenger and one freight a day. It takes in all the towns in the district and consequently covers some of the same ground twice by backing to the main tracks again. We therefore took an auto stage to Bakersfield and from there we went to southern points.

"A trip like this into the oilfields is an education. It is more interesting to have a guide, who has worked around the wells, as he can furnish accurate information. We were at Taft for about 30 hours and we feel that the trip was well worth while."

Dr. Reineke made several interesting observations on the use of oil in Cal-

ifornia which will be of special interest to whose hands are calloused from holding an automobile wheel while trying to avoid the sierras on our famous Minnesota roads.

"All roads and streets in California are oiled", he said. "This keeps down the dust in wonderful shape and also acts as the best protection against the suction of the rubber automobile tires which will tear up ordinary roads in a short while. Most of the main highways are paved, and the pavement for this and for the city streets is made of a paste of sand and crude oil which looks and wears like asphalt.

"A peculiar thing to be observed in Taft, is the temperature of the city water, which ranges from 110 to 120 degrees at all times, due to the fact that it flows for a hundred and fifty miles mostly in open over ground pipes and aqueducts."

THE SIMMET KUCHEN THAT WOULDN'T STAY PUT.

It was only the usual ten cent simmet kuchen but it certainly did give one of our well known business men a lot of trouble the other evening if the reports of his friends who were with him in his strange adventure can be taken at par value. He had it and he didn't have it and then he had two. But wait a minute, till we get our bearings and see if we can untangle a most intricately tangled tale.

If we have been given the right slant at the story, it happened some thing like this. Said well known business man offered to "buy one" for some of his friends. At the same time he remarked that he had to get a simmet kuchen for his better half. His friends decided to slip one over on their hospitable crony and so one of them stepped in right behind him and bought a second sample of the baker's art. The second cake was dispatched to the home of the well known business man, who, for the sake of saving the typewriter, we will designate hereafter as Herr X and arrived some little time ahead of the master of the house. Quite a bit ahead, in fact.

With the stage set for the comedy, the jovial party lined up before the bar of one of the local thirst parlors and "had one" on Herr X. Some little time was consumed in the careful savoring of the liquid refreshments and in the course of the festivities the simmet kuchen No. 1 disappeared.

When Herr X got ready to depart he looked in vain for his purchase. His friends joined solicitously in the search. No simmet kuchen. The frantic owner accused his friends of disposing of it and hot words soon followed. The controversy grew so heated that a law suit seemed imminent and only great self control kept all the parties concerned from coming to blows. It was useless, the pastry was gone beyond recall. So after unbending his inmost heart upon the perfidy of his former friends, Herr X sallied forth and bought another simmet kuchen. That made No. 3. His friends finally persuaded him to return to the joy dispensary for a "little one" to re-establish the strained relations and lo, the simmet kuchen was found resting under a newspaper at the very table they had vacated but a short time before. His friends gravely shook their heads and intimated that Herr X had better go a little easy in his potions if he expected to reach home in respectable condition. Herr X refused to have anything to do with his first purchase as he was not at all sure that it had not been doctored for

his benefit. Besides, he had another one and he hardly dared to appear at home with two when only one was ordered. So to avoid further trouble, one of his friends took the cake. And another of the party bought a simmet kuchen—No. 4. On the way home a heated argument occurred as to which of the three cakes really belonged to Herr X. The more heated the discussion grew, the less certain of his ground was the unfortunate and befuddled Herr X.

Finally, with his simmet kuchen tightly gripped under his arm he fled for home. Upon reaching his abode, he reported to his sleepy help-meet that he had brought home the simmet kuchen. Imagine his surprise when she insisted that he had sent it home several hours before. And she could produce the goods, too. That was too much for Herr X. It seemed as if all the simmet cakes in New Ulm were dogging his trail. His wife declared that he had been making a night of it with the boys and he was too bewildered to even deny the charge in spite of his record as the steadiest old horse in the crowd. Simmet kuchen isn't gut, aber it is hard to keep track of.

MIDSUMMER MARRIAGES.

Snilsberg-Sommerstad

At the home of the bride in New Richland yesterday Miss Jennie Sommerstad and Mr. Thor. J. Snilsberg were united in marriage, Rev. L. G. Engelstad performing the ceremony in the presence of the immediate relatives and friends of the contracting parties.

The bride was attired in white crepe de chine and was accompanied by Miss Gonia Mitgaden as bridesmaid. The groom was accompanied by Mr. George Sommerstad as best man. At exactly high noon the contracting parties took their places underneath an arch of ferns and sweet peas and spoke the solemn vows. After the ceremony a delightful wedding dinner was served and the young people took the afternoon train for a two weeks wedding trip. They refused to divulge the exact route they expected to take.

The bride is well known in New Ulm having taught in the local schools for several years. The groom is one of New Ulm's most promising young business men and is assistant cashier of the Brown County Bank.

After their honeymoon trip the young people will return to New Ulm and commence house keeping in their fine new residence on South Washington street. Both young people are very popular in New Ulm and will be a welcome addition to the younger married set of the city.

Westlie-Nelson

Miss Ella Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Nelson of Lafayette, and H. H. Westlie of Plaza, N. D. were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents Saturday, August 14th. The young people will be at home to their friends in Plaza after the 15th of September.

Attorney Albert Pfaender stopped at Sleepy Eye between trains Thursday on his way to Redwood Falls in the interest of the wet forces of Redwood County.

Supt. H. C. Hess announces to parents who may wish to see him about applicants who intend to enter the city schools, that he will be in his office at the High School building every day next week in the mornings between the hours of 9 and 11. The prospects are that the attendance this year will be larger than even the normal increase would indicate.

Stanis Sperl has entered the employ of the South Side Auto Company.

Prof. A. F. Reim left for Kenosha, Wis. to visit with his son, Edmund.

Wm. Russel of Marquette, Mich. is visiting with the Ath. Henle family.

Frank Kosek who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis, has recovered.

Fred Dittbenner, a nephew of Herman Fixsen is taking medical treatments at the Union hospital.

Mrs. D. Ankenbrand, of Hibbing Minn visited with the Wellner family on North Broadway last week. Mrs. Ankenbrand was Miss Sophie Wellner before her marriage.

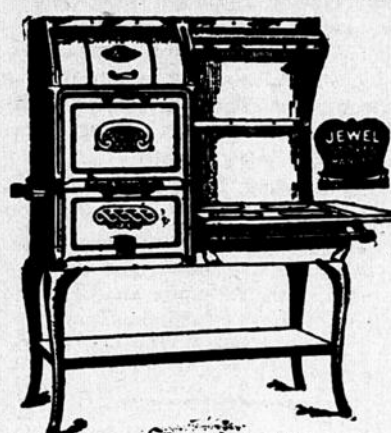
R. J. Schmid of Canby, Minn. who is employed in the hardware business of Louis Ochs, visited with his family last Sunday. He will remove his household goods to Canby in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Penkert spent several days in the twin cities last week. They returned to New Ulm last Tuesday.

Sleepy Eye is commencing to boost for their street fair to be held Sept. 16, 17, 18th. All the auto owners are decorating their cars with signs telling of the "Three Big Days".

Alb. Winkelmann who left for Everett, Wash. last fall with his mother and brother returned to New Ulm Friday and has again accepted a position as plumber with Chas. Emmerich.

Just before going to press yesterday afternoon we were informed that fire threatened the destruction of the residence on the old J. H. Dorn farm in Brighton township, but the flames were subdued before it had gained complete headway. As it was just one room was scorched. Fred Bongaards is the tenant on the Dorn farm.—Nicollet Leader.



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Realty Transfers.

John M. Remiger to Edward F. Berkner, S 1-2 of Sublot 5 of Gov't. L 2, \$200.

Wm. C. Kreugel to Charles Hormann, L 1 and 2 B 5 in Schwarzrock's 2nd. Add. to Springfield, \$2,600.

G. W. Schaffer to P. O. Wollen, L 7 and E 1-2 of L 6 in B 13, Village of Comfrey, \$350.

Max Miklas to Alfred Polta, L 9 B 144 S. City, \$300.

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