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TWENTY-THIRD YEAR. NO. 17

BELDING, MICH., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1911.

WHOLE NO. 1070

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Will Be Big Problem For Congress To Tackle At Next Session

WILL MEET IN DECEMBER

Rejection of Reciprocity by Canada is Blamed for Rise in Food Stuffs Which Hits the Laboring Man Hard

Congress will be confronted anew with the problem of the high cost of living when it meets next December. This is the universal opinion in Washington, based on Canada's rejection of the reciprocity agreement.

In his reciprocity speech in Chicago several months ago, President Taft expressly stated that the passage of the agreement by congress and by the Canadian parliament would have no immediate effect on the cost of living. Members of the house and senate, however, who favored the measure, took an opposite view of the matter, and so declared themselves in debate. Many people were led to entertain the idea that reciprocity would lower the prices principally in the big cities. So the high cost of living is already looming up to plague the politicians.

It has been aggravated by the sensational rise in the price of sugar. It seems more than probable the sugar schedule will be one of the first to receive consideration when congress convenes, while a large number of free meat bills, introduced in the last congress are certain to be dusted off and re-introduced.

Democrats point to the fact that only the Democratic house can initiate tariff legislation and say no time will be lost in selecting schedules which affect the present high prices of the necessities of life.

The laboring men of the country have been hard hit by the unprecedented rise in food stuffs. A Republican who is thought to be familiar with the plans of the standpat Republicans made the prediction today that on the first day of the next session of congress a bill will be introduced repealing the entire reciprocity agreement. Inasmuch as all of the agreement could not become effective until it had been accepted by Canada, such a bill would not be necessary were it not for the fact that some of the standpat Republicans are determined to deprive the

newspapers of the country of the free wood pulp and print paper section of the agreement. As the agreement passed the house and senate that part of it relating to wood pulp and print paper was an independent section and became a law when President Taft signed the reciprocity bill.

The Memory Lingers

Patrons of the Opera House who attended the presentation last evening of Dumas Masterpiece "Camille" will have a memory of something rare to contemplate for days to come. It was a beautiful presentation of a great authors drama and each individual character was assumed by the players, as though they had been to the manner born. Space prevents giving the play but passing notice, but it was certainly great and drew almost a full house.

Vanda Enos, the wizard violinist, captured her hearers with the wonderful technique and sublime touch of soul which accompanied every number. Such an entertainment makes life better and should they again visit Belding a capacity house would surely greet them. Manager Hetherington deserves great praise for enabling the citizens of Belding to dine at such a feast as this, and best of all its memory lingers.

A Birthday Surprise

Mrs. Charles Howard was given a genuine surprise on Sunday evening, September 24th, when about twenty-five of her friends whom her husband had invited walked in and informed her that it was just about the right time to celebrate a birthday and celebrate it right. The evening was spent in merry conversation and about eleven o'clock Charlie served the party with ice cream and cake which he had kept hidden away from his unsuspecting wife.

After the guests had departed, Mrs. Howard was still more surprised to find a number of fine pieces of china which the ladies had left as pleasant reminders of the happy occasion.

Storm Did Damage

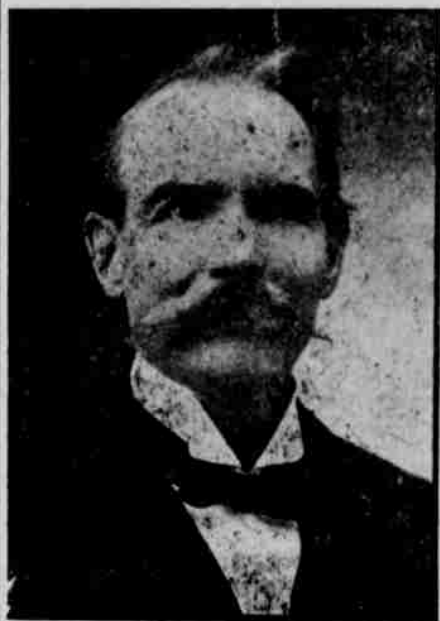
During the heavy storm early Wednesday morning lightning struck the fine residence of Ed. Covert on Bridge street and knocked quite a hole in the North Tower and also damaged the roof on the south side of the house. Mr. and Mrs. Covert were badly scared and found themselves out on the floor in a semi-dazed condition immediately after the report but fortunately no one was hurt.

At Guy Wetters fine home on Hanover street, a portion of the roof had been taken off to make further improvements on the house and the entire east part of the house was flooded in bad shape by the tremendous rain fall. Mr. Weter is unable as yet to tell how much damage resulted but assured our reporter that it was a fierce condition inside.

SOCIALISTS ACTIVE

Local Branch of Political Party Warming up for Spring Campaign

The Socialists of this city do not seem to be dead ducks yet, but are holding meetings every Friday night in the rear room of the barber shop on the North Side, where they have a reading room supplied with copies of the Appeal to Reason their national paper, and other tracts pertaining to socialism.



JOHN SPRIGGS
Who voted the first Socialist ticket in the city fifteen years ago.

An organization has been effected and a charter granted with fourteen charter members, more it is said have been taken in and subscribed to the articles of faith and hope until it now numbers upwards of a hundred. Alexander Kelly was constituted Organizer, Harry G. Evans, Secretary, Sam Vanderbroeck, Treasurer and Robert Burns, Financial Secretary. The dues are twenty-five cents a month. At their meetings they discuss important questions of a political and social nature and endeavor to convert men and make sentiment for the new party which, by the way is an old one. James Hoogerhyde of Grand Rapids, was here recently and spoke on the street, and at their last meeting, J. T. Hurd of Owosso, who was elected a supervisor on the Socialist ticket in that county, was present and gave them a talk on how matters were running and stated that the outlook for victory was in the air.

Mr. Spriggs who is not an officer of the local branch, says he had rather let the younger men hold office and he will work on the outside. John has voted the ticket for a long time, in fact he cast the first socialist vote in the city about fifteen years ago and quotes many passages of scripture and the teachings of Christ to prove that socialism is right, he thinks the socialist party will sweep the country in a very few years. Mr. Spriggs was their candidate for congress four years ago, from the 5th District.

In conversation with John Sayles who is an ardent supporter of the party he is optimistic and thinks that the republicans and democrats have elected their last mayor of this city. Heretofore at each election held in the city the socialists have polled from one to thirteen votes, but it would not be at all surprising the way the talk goes in socialistic circles if they did not make a big showing at the ballot box in the spring and possibly elect the entire ticket.

Bad Runaway Accident

Last Saturday evening as Mrs. Eli Witt was driving into the city from her home, her horse became frightened at an automobile which had stopped to let her go by on account of her waving hand. The horse which belonged to Dr. Pinkham, was never known to be afraid of an auto and it seems funny that it became scared at this time. After passing the auto it jumped and broke a tug which frightened the horse still more and caused it to run away Mrs. Witt was thrown into a fence corner near the Catholic church. Fortunately no serious injury resulted to Mrs. Witt but the buggy was broken up somewhat as the result of the accident. She was able to return home Saturday night and while suffering some from nervous shock is getting along nicely.

Aged Lady Called

Mrs. Margaret Schenden, a long time resident of Keene township, and widow of the late Nicholas Schenden, died at her late home Monday night having reached the ripe old age of seventy-five years. Mrs. Schenden was the mother of fourteen children nine of whom are still living, her last days being spent with her son Peter, who will find it lonely without her.

The funeral was held at the Catholic church in Mirian this morning at 10 o'clock, Rev. Fr. Zindler officiating.

THE CITY IS IMPROVING

Many New Houses Being Built And Expensive Repairs Are Made

A HEALTHY GROWTH

Contractors And Plumbers Are Busy And Thousands Of Dollars Are Paid Out For Labor And Material

The wheels of business in all lines of work are turning rapidly in the city just now and have been for several months, many new houses have been put up and extensive repairs have been made to old ones already built. There is a gradual and healthy growth to our city in every way, and the foundations for greater growth is being laid every day, contractors, carpenters, plumbers, masons, painters, paper hangers and the men of all around work have plenty to do, and thousands of dollars are being paid out this season for labor and material.

The approaching cold weather gives an impetus to the hurry up side of the work and the demands from those who are anxious to get their work and repairs done before cold weather really sets in, are so great that the workman hardly know which way to turn to the next job. Among those who have built new houses are: Jay Cooley, Ralph C. Mason, Roy A. Reynolds, Will Clarke and Mrs. M. J. Demorast. These are all fine dwelling houses. Ale Friedman has ground broken for a new home and Frank O'Bryon has purchased a site and is getting plans in readiness to begin work.

Among the homes to which extensive repairs have been made in the way of new additions, heating and plumbing are: Robert Peebles, F. H. Totten, Guy Weter, W. L. Covert, E. B. Lapham, Asa Dorr, Albert Cusser, E. R. Spencer, Wm. Anderson, F. W. Howard, French Arnold, Ambrose Spencer, Orie Collier, Building & Loan Association and Wm. F. Sandell.

Many rods of new cement walk have been laid and together with the outlay which has been made by the Belding Hall Co., Richardson Silk Co. and Belding Bros. & Co., a total of nearly \$50,000 will be the amount expended in city improvements this year. Wm. F. Sandell is also building a fine barn on his farm east of the city with a large silo, and with milk house and ice house connection, it is to be up-to-date in every particular.

Birthday Surprise

Mrs. Laura Chickering was very much surprised Saturday evening, when she arrived at her farm home in Orleans to find the house taken possession of by about seventy-five neighbors and friends of the community, who had come there to help celebrate her fiftieth birthday.

Mr. Chickering had been let into the secret of the surprise by Mr. and Mrs. John Reeves, who were the moving spirits in the pleasant affair, and he took her to town in the afternoon to get her out of the way. A very pleasant time was spent. "Wid" Howe was one of the guests and entertained with his violin and the Johnson orchestra composed of Leon, Claude and Clyde Johnson with violin, banjo and organ also enlivened the occasion. A twelve o'clock lunch was served, and Mrs. Chickering was presented with a quantity of silver. The event was a pleasant one.

Rev. I. S. Bussing Resigns

Rev. I. S. Bussing, pastor of the Church of Christ, surprised the members of his church recently by tendering his resignation to take effect within three months. Rev. Bussing, while pastor here has made many friends who will hate to see him go, but he has thought the matter over carefully and has decided that it was best for him to seek other fields for his vocation, and while he already has calls from several churches of his denomination still he is as yet undecided as to where he will locate upon severing his connection with the Belding church.

The Banner joins with his many friends in wishing himself and family the best there is in life for all of them.

Mrs. L. E. Trimble transacted business in Grand Rapids, Monday.

JULIUS CAESAR

Shakespeare's Master Piece Of Tragedies In Recital By John F. Howard

There is a rich literary treat in store for the people of Belding and surrounding country next week in the Congregational Church. The entertainment committee have secured John F. Howard of Boston, acknowledged to be one of the greatest dramatic readers of the age to give Shakespeare's master piece, Julius Caesar on Tuesday evening October 5th.

Mr. Howard is a forceful reader giving great attention to details, both in accent and delivery and never fails to bring out in a wonderfully clear manner the hidden beauties of Shakespeare. The entertainment committee are to be congratulated on their success in securing such a high class entertainment for the edification of the people of our city, and especially Mr. Howard who comes with brilliant recommendations from the highest literary sources, and honored with letters from Queen Victoria, King Edward and Lord Tennyson. President Thomas Fell of the St. Johns College, Annapolis, Michigan, says: "It gives me pleasure to say that your recital of the play of Julius Caesar afforded much enjoyment and satisfaction to all those who were so fortunate as to be present. Your rendering of the play showed much dramatic power and appreciative study of the subject. We shall hope to be favored with another such opportunity in the near future and I am glad to commend your work to others who are seeking high grade entertainment."

"To state that Mr. Howard is one of the greatest dramatic readers of the age is simply stating a plain truth. He electrifies his audience with his fire and his artistic climax, but still there is nothing overdone. He unfolded each succeeding action and motion in the great tragedy of Hamlet with dramatic intensity and fascinating power. He seems to be one of the men of genius especially gifted to interpret and to place before the people in their clearest and best light the thoughts of those who stand highest among human beings. Mr. Howard's interpretation of the characters was to our mind equal to the best we have ever heard. It was the finest Shakespearean reading ever given in Eau Claire."—Col. H. M. Atkinson in the Daily Leader, Eau Claire, Wis. No teacher or high school student can afford to let this opportunity pass of seeing and hearing an artist in this line of work, his recitals are distinctly scholarly and he has thoroughly mastered the spirit and the purpose of what he presents.



Letters Letters Everywhere

But there are no letters so attractive or more highly appreciated by one's friends than those written on Crane's Linen Lawn because they always have an air of distinction and refinement and are always in the correct fashion. This beautiful paper is particularly attractive in any of the various edges and borders. Gold beveled

edges or colored and French borders and in the latest Parisian shapes. Our assortment which is complete is now on exhibition and we would be pleased to have you call.

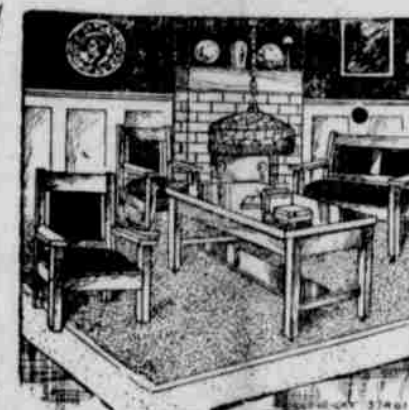
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Is open for your inspection. Come and you'll see the finest array of suites and separate pieces ever shown here. If you have a furniture need, surely you can fill it satisfactorily from our exhibit.

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