

HOME DEFENSE LEAGUE FORMED

Business of Binford and Farmers Organize to Protect Their Property.

Given impetus by the speeches of Edith Stimmel and W. G. Arnold, of the "Patriotic Squadron," on the street here last Saturday evening, a meeting was called immediately after their departure from town, to effect an organization such as they proposed, for the protection of all household stuffs from destruction by German spies, the "Wobblers" or Americans who are German sympathizers. Oscar Greenland was elected temporary chairman and Herman Osen temporary secretary. A mass meeting was called for Monday evening and a large number of both town and country people were present. A permanent organization was effected with F. G. Lewis, chairman, J. A. Knapp, vice chairman, Herman Osen, secretary. The advisory board is composed of the members and A. H. Overby and J. C. Engelstad.

Chairman Lewis made a brief talk explaining the object of organization, and stated some plain facts on the part that we can all take in protecting our property from the paid agents of the enemy. He stated that North Dakota is so remote from the scenes of actual war preparation that we do not realize the seriousness of the situation, and that we should wake up to the fact that it is our duty towards winning the war to safeguard the state's grain

men should be deputized by the sheriff, and these men will act as night watchmen with the regular policeman during the fall months.

This plan will also be carried out in Mose. We understand that the threshing machine owners will make a special effort to guard their rigs during the busy season. Mr. Lewis cautioned the farmers to not build their storage bins too close to straw stacks, so that danger from fire may be avoided.

Another meeting will be held in the near future and it is expected by that time all plans will be perfected.

Fire Marshal Act is Upheld.

The act creating the office of state fire marshal is not an unconstitutional interference with the local government of cities and villages and is therefore not for that reason invalid and the section which empowers the fire marshal subject to appeal to district court to order the removal, destruction or repair of buildings regarded a menace to other property is not unconstitutional, rules the supreme court of North Dakota in affirming the decision of Judge A. G. Burr in the district of Ramsey in favor of A. H. Runge, former state fire marshal, and against I. Glerum.

Where the fire marshal has ordered the destruction of a building, his order will be interfered with upon appeal only where a clear abuse of discretion has been shown, rules the court which holds that it is not necessary as claimed by the defendant and appellant, to the validity of such an order that the building shall have sustained a loss by fire of 50 per cent of its value. Even the local ordinances provide that unless such loss is shown the building may be rebuilt.