

The Cooperstown Courier.

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THE COURIER.

By Percy R. Grubbs

There are now so many after the state fair that to a man up a tree it looks as if Maudan would keep it herself.

How about getting that state fair at Cooperstown? Ever since this town put in a bid for it other towns in the state want it. Fargo and Jamestown want it now. Those towns ought to be satisfied with what they have. They will want the earth summer fallowed next.

The COURIER last Thursday received a copy of the Jamestown Daily Alert of September 28, 1902. We thought it was kind of stale reading—different from what it generally is, until we looked at the date and discovered that the paper was nearly four months old. This is rapid mail service.

C. L. Allen, formerly of the Hope Pioneer, who has been out of the web-footed state of Oregon for the past two years, is again in the state and we are told that he is again going into the newspaper business in North Dakota and rumor has it that he is figuring on locating at Wilton—at which place are the famous lignite coal mines.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature which provides that county officers shall not hold office more than two terms—four years in all. The COURIER does not exactly favor such a bill but there is one thing it does believe in and that is that all should be served alike. It is hardly fair to boost the sheriff and treasurer while the rest of them can hang on indefinitely. Repeal that law or else pass the other.

The Emmons County Record suggests a law making the possession of a corkscrew a misdemeanor. It believes that would strengthen the prohibition law. The law should provide that possession of a corkscrew shall be taken as prima facie evidence of the close proximity of booze—the burden of proof to relieve suspicion being on the possession of the corkscrew. Wouldn't it also be necessary to enlarge the penitentiary should a law like this be enacted? There are several corkscrews in North Dakota.

President Mellen of the Northern Pacific created a slight ripple of excitement among legislators recently by sending them passes good only for the length of the session instead of the annuals as heretofore. In Montana 72 members of that legislature returned the passes and prefer to pay car fare the regular way or walk. The COURIER does not see why any member of the legislature of any state has any kick coming or why they are entitled to a pass any more than anyone else. The state pays their mileage both going and coming, several cents per mile more than the railroads charge, therefore they have no kick coming. President Mellen says these passes have been sent out as a matter of courtesy but in many cases the recipient has abused his privilege by loaning the pass to others or selling it to "ticket scalpers" after they get through with their legislative duties, and the Northern Pacific does not propose to stand for that kind of work and we don't blame the company. Railroads are entitled to fair treatment just as well as the individual.

The Enforcement League promises to be heard from at the present session and a number of measures will be introduced coming directly from that organization. One bill will ask for the repeal of the present druggists' permit law, allowing whiskey for the compounding of drugs and medicines only. Two years ago the state druggists' association passed a resolution asking that the permit system be abolished. No action was ever taken with that end in view, but it is understood that the Enforcement League will father such a measure and that it will be introduced within a few weeks. Another bill that the league will present will be one prohibiting the soliciting of orders for liquors within the confines of the state. A number of traveling men now make North Dakota points for the sale of liquors and beverages, and the new bill will prohibit this traffic.

The Enforcement League better go slow or the first thing it knows the druggists will "trump" the trick and will get a bill through giving them authority to dish up liquors for medical purposes by the quart or gallon. One of our local courts has already decided that to administer a quart or two at a lick is within the meaning of the law and if this new bill is pushed through there will be no limit to the amount administered or compounded as medicine. Of course the druggists favor such a bill. It is a snap compared to the present permit system. Better let that part of the law alone.

Some time prior to the meeting of the legislature two years ago the supreme court decided that the peddlers' license law which was then on the Statute books was unconstitutional. At the last session of the legislature an effort was made to enact another law, but this failed. This year the subject comes up again, and another bill is before the assembly. There is in many quarters a demand for a law of this kind, as there is complaint on the part of merchants who are established in the cities and villages throughout the state that without some protection of this kind the itinerant merchant has an advantage over them, as it is impossible for the authorities to reach him and compel him to pay taxes, while they are obliged to pay the entire cost of schools, roads, and the other things for which taxes are expended. This situation exists in every state, and where there is no law compelling peddlers to pay license fees there is always a demand for such a law.

There were several grounds on which the former law was declared to be in violation of the constitution. One of these was that it was unlawful for a state or any municipality acting under the authority of the state to levy a tax for revenue purposes on an occupation. The federal government may do this as a revenue measure, but it was held that the state has not this power. It was argued that if the state could levy a tax on peddlers it could with equal propriety tax the occupation of a blacksmith or a farmer. The proposed peddlers' tax of course has no reference to the value of the stock which he may carry. It is a tax on an occupation pure and simple. Again, another of the points brought forward in the case for the annulment of the former law was that the only excuse which could be made for

imposing a license fee on a dealer of any kind was in order to provide for necessary police supervision, and that the fees must not exceed the reasonable cost of such inspection. The supreme court seemed to take this view of the case, and the law was declared unconstitutional on these and other grounds.

The law which it is proposed to enact at this session does not appear materially to differ from the former one in its essential features. It does not purport to be a police measure, and makes no provision for inspection. It is on the other hand distinctively a revenue measure, as it provides for the collections of a tax and its application to the general fund of the county in which it is collected.

The peddlers of the state, and there are many of them, say that they are not opposed to a license of some kind, but they want the charges to be reasonable, which they say is not the case with the proposed charges in this bill. They point out that under the provisions of this bill they would be obliged to pay a license fee in every county in which they do business. The charge fixed for a dealer traveling with a two horse team is \$150 in each county. As many of these dealers do business in a dozen counties the proposed tax would amount to a sum the payment of which would drive them out of business. They argue that this is unjust, that their business is a legitimate one, and that it is not right that they should be treated as criminals. Some of the representative men among them say that if a plan can be devised which will provide for the payment of a tax into the state treasury, so that one tax will cover the state and permit them to do business anywhere in the state they will not fight it if the charges are anywhere in the neighborhood of reason.—Grank Forks Herald.

Midland Concert Company.

We take delight in presenting to our patrons, as our very own, the Midland Concert Company. Each member of the Company has been selected to please everybody in addition to the select few able to appreciate all grades of music up to the most technical. Each has been selected for a pleasing personality, both on and off the stage; for pleasing mannerism in their work; for vivaciousness and brilliance; and their program will consist of the sprightliest, happiest number one could well imagine or conjure. Our experience comes to the relief of those wishing to get away from selections the performer alone levels in, to those which please the people who pay to see and hear. Our company is well able to carry out our wishes in this matter and we hope to inaugurate a popular musical program meeting universal approval. It is designed to please all. This means the critics, but it adds hundreds of others who love music and good readings for their harmony and sweetness, but who know but little of technical niceties. To this great class we commend the Midland Concert Company. It is as easy to please as to fall to please. The realm of music is full of gems of classical purity and brilliance which can be thoroughly appreciated and heartily enjoyed by those in no sense critical. The variety we present needs no apology. It ranges from solos and readings to duets and violin obligato numbers and any combination which may be effected between a violin, piano, two voices and a reader.

We heartily commend these four talented young people to your kindly consideration. New as is the Midland Company, the members thereof are experienced performers and people heartily in sympathy with their work. You will like them musically; you will like them personally. Don't fail to hear the Midland Concert Company next Tuesday January 27. We say it is just what you want. We have staked our reputation on its success.

THE BIG STORE.

More Money Wanted And Less Merchandise.

That's why we offer you bargains like these.

Ladies Flannel Shirt Waists.

Assorted colors and sizes. Nothing the matter with any of these Waists. They are all new and stylish, and your pocket book was never touched more gently for waists of this kind.

\$1.25 waist for \$.75	\$1.50 waist for \$1.00
\$2.00 waist for \$1.40	\$3.50 waist for \$2.50
\$2.50 waist for \$1.75	\$4.00 waist for \$2.75

Ladies Jackets and Furs.

Get-up-and-get, that's what you would do, if the house was on fire; And you would be just as quick to act in this matter, if we could only make you realize what a saving there is in it for you.

A \$10.00 Jacket for \$6.00.	A \$7.00 Jacket for \$4.00.
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Ladies Undertwear.

How to keep warm: that's the question. Let us give you a pointer. If your house is well insured, and your nearest neighbor is a mile off, burn flax straw. If you haven't got that to burn, the best thing for you to get next to is our underwear. Heavy fleece lined shirts and pants, worth per suit \$1.50 now only \$1.00. All wool underwear, ribbed, silver gray and white, very soft finish, nothing better, worth \$2.50 a suit now \$1.90.

Fleece Lined Wrappers.

Ahoy there! Everybody, who wants a Wrapper, now is the chance. Come and make your own selection. Your choice of the entire lot for \$1.15.

February Delineator.

JOHN SYVERSON.

Cooperstown, N. D.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

A Y. is to be organized by the young people of Cooperstown in the near future.

A meeting of the local union was held last week the first since the holiday vacation. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. Dr. Kerr, Thursday at 3 p. m., Jan. 29th. Members please take notice. Those who are not members are cordially invited.

It is gratifying to note that the Senior Loyal Temperance Legion work has been resumed, under the leadership of Mrs. A. E. Shue and Mrs. T. E. Warner, assistant. They will hold their meetings on Tuesday evening of each week, at the home of Mrs. Warner. Their work will doubtless be conducted along the line of its former course of study and effort under its former leader Mrs. O. W. Kerr.

The following from Mrs. Margaret Dye Ellis, whom many Cooperstown people will recall with pleasure, having given a most interesting lecture on temperance here last June, records a most notable interview with Hon. Thomas B. Reed a few weeks before his death. Mrs. Ellis says: "It was my privilege to call on Mr. Reed at his office in New York several times during his speakership, and twice since he resigned his position in congress; the last time being but three weeks before his fatal illness."

Nov. 12 Doctor Elliott and I called on him and were shown into his private office. Although writing busily, he arose to greet us: After introductions, I said: "Mr. Reed, it may seem presumptuous on our part to come to you for advice, but I represent the legislative department of the national W. C. T. U. and I am looked to for guidance in these matters by about three hundred thousand women. I therefore realize the need of counsel from the very highest source possible; and so I made bold to come to you. May I ask you a few questions?" Mr. Reed smiled and responding kindly, gave us just the advice sought; sent for books, going over the different amendments

to the constitution with us. I ventured to ask him on other matters of national import, viz: The repeal of the anti-canteen law; and the seeming desire on the part of the war department and others high in army circles for a repeal of the law, and I asked what he would advise.

"Madam," he replied "hold the law."

"But, Mr. Reed, how can we hold the law with such odds against us?"

"How did you get the law?"

"We fought for it."

Then madam, hold it by the same means.

"BUT HOLD IT;" this was declared with great earnestness.

Upon the matter of government permits being issued in prohibition territory, he went over the question patiently and carefully, pointing out the difficulties in the way. There was no hurry, no shoving one off; but kindly, willing, gentlemanly aid.

At the close of the interview, he took my hand in parting, I again thanked him in behalf of our great organization, to which he responded: "I am glad if I have been able to give you the help you wanted, but please do not quote me: I am out of public life now; I have gladly given what you have asked, but this is for your personal guidance."

"Now that he has passed into the life where there can be no misconstruing of words and motives, I feel free to tell what he said: The death of such a man is a national loss."

Such advice from such a source on the canteen law is comforting and reassuring to those who believe it to be a beneficial measure, as opposed to the many conflicting views and substitutes that are presented concerning it. Thomas B. Reed possessed a master mind; he was thoroughly conversant with the social conditions of the army and the whole political situation of our country. His counsel is well worth heeding, when even supposed friends seem to hesitate and waver as to the wisdom of this law and also the Prohibition law.

C. T. Whidden on Monday added a new large safe to his office fixtures and is now in shape to take care of all the money his customers feel like paying him.

LOCALS.

John Berg left last Friday for Texas, to kind of see how everything was running down in that part of the world.

Mrs. A. Garborg left last week for Warren, Minn., called there by the serious illness of her sister. Later reports from Mrs. Garborg are to the effect that her sister is some better. Mr. Garborg and Arne are eating at the hotel now and enjoying three square meals a day now.

Some of our exchanges say that the festive wire fence swindler is again abroad in the land, and our farmer friends had better look out. His game is to sell a bill of fence wire at a ridiculously low price, and offer to throw in a fancy gate if the victim puts up \$10 or \$20 cash—and that is the last seen of him. They say the game usually works. When dealing with strangers you had better be careful. It is always the best policy to buy of your old-established firms. It pays in the long run.

John O. Ole and family expect to leave for Norway the latter part of March and the time of their sojourn in the old country is not known at this time. They may decide to live there permanently or they may want to come back here again. However Mr. Ole has sold his real estate and collection business to Mr. R. S. Lunde who has leased the business property now occupied by Mr. Ole. Mr. Lunde is a careful business man and will undoubtedly be successful. The COURIER regrets to see Mr. Ole and family leave Cooperstown.

The Newell House will change landlords again February 1st, the building having been leased to Messrs. Shue & Parker who will add some new ginger to the institution and will endeavor to run a strictly up-to-date hotel. These gentlemen have been down to the twin cities to get sufficient help to run things right in addition to buying fixings to fix up. They will run a free bus to and from all trains and will touch only the high spots in an endeavor to meet public patronage. The COURIER believes that Messrs. Shue & Parker will make a success of it.