

The Thirteen Towns.

By A. W. FOSS.

The Office of THE THIRTEEN TOWNS is on Stephens Avenue, Opposite Postoffice.

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Candidates for the republican nomination for secretary of state continue to come out. One of the latest aspirants to announce their intention of being "Barkises" is A. F. Nordin, of Willmar, judge of probate for Kandiyohi county.

Israel Bergstrom, who spent several days this week in Fosston, on insurance business, feels quite hopeful of the republican nomination for secretary of state this year. Mr. Bergstrom would undoubtedly fill this responsible office if nominated and elected.

It is rather expensive for a town to let its police force get "shot to pieces." At Moorhead Chief Murphy has presented a bill of \$750 to the council. This represents medical attendance and hospital expenses for himself during the long illness after having been shot by Thomas L. Gray early in the winter when he escaped with his life by a hairsbreadth.

The congressional committee for this, the seventh district, met at Moorhead last Friday and arranged for the convention of delegates to be held in that city on May 15th. A successor to Hon. Frank M. Eddy will then be nominated, but the general feeling throughout the district is in favor of Mr. Eddy succeeding himself and his renomination is almost certain, although two other candidates have announced themselves as aspirants for his shoes. Dr. Cole of Fergus Falls and Ezra G. Valentine of Breckenridge, both good men undoubtedly, but our present representative in congress has proved himself to be an exceptionally careful and capable man for the office to which he was elected to this district. His years of experience in the house have given him many advantages over new men and he should be re-elected by the seventh district.

A democratic daily paper says a glowing tribute to Senator Cushman K. Davis and nominates him for president. In concluding an editorial it says: "Were Mr. Davis president of the United States he would not make up his mind upon a grave subject until he had weighed carefully and judiciously all the arguments for and against a certain treatment of such subjects. Having reached a decision he would hold steadfast thereto though all the capitals twix here and Vienna and all the bosses from New York to San Francisco beat against the wall of his firm purpose."

Mr. Davis holds an exalted position not only in the estimation of his own countrymen but through the whole world. His statesmanship is recognized as of the highest order and there is no one to whom the world listens more attentively when it comes to international affairs. How proud Minnesota would be to see Mr. Davis in the presidential chair, and who knows but the state may some day claim the honor.

The somewhat lengthy article that follows was clipped last fall from the Norman County Herald, of Ada, and is copied at this time in these columns because it is a reasonable time to bring the question of sowing clover this year into prominence. If clover can be successfully raised in Norman county it can be done here, and nothing that can be thought of would add near as much to the value of farms in this county and the profit of conducting them as clover. It is the one thing needed to make farming what it should be in this section of the Northwest. If any living in the Thirteen Towns have already tried it, we would like to hear from them as to the result of their experiments. Here is what the Herald says:

That clover can be successfully raised in Norman county is now beyond dispute. It is a settled fact and it did not take longer to find it out after the first experiments were made than it took in localities far to the south of us where clover now claims its most congenial home. With the knowledge that we can grow clover there dawns a better day for our farmers and the future success of agriculture in the Red River Valley is assured. Clover is the staff of life for the land; it is the subduer of harmful tendencies and the infallible tonic for impoverished fields. It is to the land what nourishing food is to the famished body. It cleans and invigorates and while so doing it puts money into the pockets of the farmers. It may be cut for the hay or turned down as a green manure—it is profitable either way. As a result of scientific research it became known that the growth of clover and its great value as a fertilizing plant depend upon, and is due to,

the presence of myriads of microbes or germs which gather nitrogen, or, in other words, plant food, and store it up in the roots of the clover plant. These microbes are not present, at least not in great numbers, in the wild land and must be inoculated into the soil. This can be done by repeated sowings of clover seed from other localities where they abound. The Crookston experimental farm last year imported from Germany a quantity of the germ to be planted in the soil. White clover seems less dependent upon the presence of these germs than the red variety but it propagates them and thus is a good precursor or advance agent for red clover. From what is said about it, it will easily be seen why the first attempts to grow clover in a new country may be failures. There are other causes which we will mention later.

The tangible result upon which we base our faith in the future of clover on our lands are too plain to be doubted. Rev. Solem has raised clover on the parsonage farm at Halstad for many years, under varying conditions and with as much success as any locality can show. With him it is no longer an experiment. He reaps good crops of clover for hay and seed. To him belongs the honor of being the pioneer of this country in clover culture. Here and there clover has been seeded with varying success. Last year several farmers that we know seeded whole fields and we have not heard of a failure. S. G. Skjole, of Perley, told us recently that he had a splendid stand of clover this year from last year's sowing. We drove past Ed. Solveson's farm in Anthony a short time ago. He had cut a field of clover a couple of weeks before and the ground showed that there had been an excellent stand and a second crop had already made a good start. Louis Plund had this year forty acres of a luxuriant growth of clover as we have seen any where east of the Rockies. He plowed most of his down for the good of the land and the portion he cut is now covered with a fine second crop. The load he brought to the county fair was from the second growth, cut July 31st, scarcely a month after the first crop was taken off.

The writer was born and raised in a latitude thirteen hundred miles further north than Norman county. The cold was fully as intense there as here but clover was grown on every farm. It is true the snow fall was greater than here, affording better protection to the ground. The climatic conditions in the spring, however, were as precarious to the crop as here and this brings us to the closing remarks. A condition for successful clover growing on our level lands is that the meadow be not closely cropped or cut in the fall in order that it may gather the early snow and go into winter quarters with an overcoat on. Supt. Hovestad called attention to this important requirement in his talk to the farmers at our recent county fair and it is no doubt one of the most important points in connection with clover culture here in the Red River Valley.

When Tulips Nearly Overturned Holland.

The ancestral bulbs of the tulips, which gave our flower gardens of to-day such graceful forms and colors of to-day, once came near overturning the little kingdom of Holland. The national fad for tulips reached the stage of madness, and nearly all other business was neglected in consequence. Everybody was frozzed with the fever to speculate in tulips, and as much as three thousand dollars was paid for a single bulb—the equivalent of many times that sum to-day. "The Flower that Set a Nation Mad," reaching the tulip craze in Holland will be one of the features in the May Ladies' Home Journal.

Norway Produces a New Rifle.

It is a rather singular coincidence that a small and peaceful country like Norway should have produced so many of the best types of modern army rifles, says Skandinavia. The first breechloading rifle used by any army was invented by a Norwegian and was adopted by the Norwegian army as early as 1848. The United States army rifle is a Norwegian invention, being the result of the combined efforts of Colonel Krag, superintendent of the government gun factory at Kongsberg, and Mr. Jorgensen, a gunsmith employed in the factory. Since then two new rifles have been invented in Norway, both of which have attracted considerable attention at home and abroad. One of the new weapons, the Fidge rifle, has, it is reported, been submitted to a series of tests in England with a view to its possible adoption by the English army. The other, known as the Bjorgum rifle, has been accepted for trial by the French government.

The experiments with this gun are not concluded, but appear to have been very promising thus far, judging from a recent dispatch from Paris, saying in part: "It was announced in the chamber to-day that the war department was experimenting with a rifle which would be perfected in a month, or two, and would be the best so far produced in any country, and as a consequence a great improvement on the present French army gun. The statement is significant, since the present gun is considered an excellent weapon in warfare."

It is said that the excellency of this rifle is due mainly to the extreme simplicity of its mechanism, which consists of only three or four parts. It is very hard to stand idly by and see our dear ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of a doctor. An Albany N. Y. dairyman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor in, he left word for him to come at once on his return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come, as the child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbors and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the county. For sale by P. M. Mark.

Bright's Kidney Pills.

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No Right to Ugliness.

The woman who is lovely in face, form and temper will always have friends, but one who would be attractive must keep her health. If she is weak, sickly and all run down she will be nervous and irritable. If she has constipation or kidney trouble, her impure blood will cause pimples, blotches, skin eruptions and a wretched complexion. Electric Bitters is the best medicine in the world to regulate stomach, liver and kidneys and to purify the blood. It gives strong nerves, bright eyes, smooth, velvety skin, rich complexion. It will make a good-looking woman of a run-down invalid. Only 50 cents at P. M. Mark's Drug Store.

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Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Crookston, Minnesota.
PUBLIC SALE—ISOLATED TRACT.
Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under authority in him vested by section 2456 U. S. R. S., as amended by the Act of Congress approved February 28, 1895 (28 Stat., 887) we will proceed to offer at public sale, for cash at this office, on the 27th day of April 1900, at ten o'clock a. m., the following tract of land, to-wit:
Lot 1, Sec. 33, T. 147 N., R. 40 W.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are advised to file their claims in this office on or before the day above designated for the commencement of the sale otherwise their rights will be forfeited.
Dated March 19, 1900.
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