

Cavalier Chronicle
January 28, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 6
Page 1 – front and center

County Seat Removal Meeting!

A meeting of the Cavalier Commercial Club will be held in the City Hall TO-NIGHT, Friday, January 28, at 8 o'clock

All persons interested in the removal of the County Seat are requested to be present at this meeting.

By Order of Committee

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Chronicle, Feb. 4, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 7

County Seat Removal

The question of county seat removal will come up in the campaign of 1910. And when we refer to county seat removal, of course we mean the removal of the county seat of Pembina county from Pembina to Cavalier, the most centrally located progressive city of said county.

The citizens of Cavalier have stood ready for the removal of the county seat to this city, but of late years have taken no active steps in the matter, preferring rather to wait until the people of the county themselves should urge the matter from the various sections of the county and give evidence of united action in a willingness to cooperate to effect such removal along legal and legitimate (sic) lines. When such a time arrived Cavalier has said she would furnish the finances needed and lead in the work of preparing conditions for submission of the question of removal to a vote of the people. That day has now arrived and Cavalier has within the past few days "made good" in raising the needed finances to carry on the campaign and she will also proceed to "make good" in the matter of arranging for submission of the question to vote of the people at the coming general election in November next.

There is no division among the people of Cavalier in the matter of desire that the county seat should be transferred to this city, and they are prepared to make personal sacrifices if need be in order to secure the rights of the people and bring the county seat to the most accessible center location within the county.

Cavalier is not only the most centrally located city within the county, geographically, but it is also central from the point of population, thereby showing it to be the rightful location for the county seat. With the county seat located here, both time and money will be saved to the great majority of the people who may have occasion to visit the county officials, and the county will also be relieved of large expense in the matter of mileage awarded to commissioners, sheriffs, county superintendent of schools, witnesses at court, jurors and all officials and individuals

doing business at the behest of the county or responding to summons issued by the district court.

Cavalier is not now taking up county seat removal in order to test the feeling of the people. Their feelings have already been expressed on the question and it is shown that the great majority are willing and anxious that removal should take place at the earliest possible date, and Cavalier is the city where the great majority prefer the new court house should be built. Therefore, in deference to the wishes of the majority of the people of the county and because of the great convenience and benefits that will come to them by locating the county seat here, and, moreover, because there is a united desire on the part of our own townspeople to assist in the work that must be made to give the people a chance to express themselves at the polls on the question of removal, Cavalier enters this contest in the spirit of good will towards all and with the expectancy of being a sure winner.

Same

Enthusiastic Meeting of Cavalier Citizens

An enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Cavalier was held in the City Hall last Friday evening as per call of the Cavalier Commercial Club. The meeting was called to order by Mayor D. J. Laxdal, president of the Club, who stated that the object for which the meeting was called was to report the action that had been taken by the Club in the matter of raising funds to finance the effort to secure the legal petition, necessary to induce the county commissioners to submit the question of county seat removal to the voters of Pembina county at the next general election, and to effect an organization on the part of the citizens to carry on that important work. Magnus Brynjolfson was elected chairman and W. H. Otten secretary of the meeting, after which the report of the Commercial Club was read and accepted. A vote was taken on the question of desire to remove the county seat from Pembina to Cavalier and a willingness to cooperate in the necessary expense and work to bringing about such removal. The vote was a rising one and was carried unanimously, not a citizen in the hall failing to rise to his feet. A resolution was introduced and carried unanimously giving Chairman Brynjolfson power to appoint a committee of fifteen business men and citizens of the community to perfect arrangement thereof and lead in the work of securing the legal petition. Enthusiastic addresses on the subject of county seat removal were made by Mayor Laxdal, Sates Attorney Brynjolfson, C. Kibler, Robt. McBride, Dr. J. J. Walker, Dr. T. G. Thompson, F. E. Hebert, P. E. Halldorson and others.

Editor W. P. Davis of the Grand Forks Herald, who was spending the night with friends in the city and dropped in the meeting, was called upon for remarks. He responded by saying that he could not be expected to take any part in the discussion of the county seat removal question. He said however from the appearance of things there was going to be a big scrap. He spoke about Commercial Clubs and their value in promoting the growth of a city. He said Grand Forks has a very prosperous Commercial Club through whose agency that city was securing large benefit. He invited any of the members of the Cavalier Club to call at their new club rooms when in the city, and they would receive a warm welcome. Editor Davis was in Cavalier after the

news, not to take any part in the discussion of county seat removal or to favor the same either one way or the other.

The attendance at the meeting was very large and great enthusiasm was manifested by both speakers and hearers.

The Cavalier City Bank furnished some excellent music for the occasion.

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February 11, 1910

Reprinted article from Grand Forks Herald – (badly faded and hard to read)

Knocks Stir Up Cavalier

Herald Special Service
Cavalier, N.D. Feb 7 –

Quite a feeling was engendered in Cavalier the past week by editor Hager in the last issue of the St. Thomas Time and the Hamilton Independent, expressing ??? this city and the county seat removal question that recently been inaugurated. The Times scores Cavalier ??? matter of political ?? results of the ancient ??? that misty account ???defeat the whole ??? removal question ??? people from all sections of Pembina county are asking to be brought up this year and are urging Cavalier to take the lead in. The Independent, without any legitimate basis whatever for its action, also scores this ??? and charge selfishness and greed in that Cavalier has failed to measure up in the past in the matter of what it conceives to be its rightful financial support to the annual county fair held at Hamilton and also because the editor takes to himself the presumption that by becoming a candidate for county seat honors, Cavalier will also want to rob Hamilton of the county fair. As Cavalier has always heretofore “toted fair” in political matters and deals in Pembina county commensurate with the popularity of candidates and prevailing political conditions, and moreover, as this city never has been, is not now, and doubtless never expects to be, a candidate for county fair honors within the lifetime of the present generation of its citizens, the animus expressed by the Times and Independent toward this, and the question of county seat removal comes as a surprise to our townspeople and is wholly in conflict with the manifestations and expressions of many citizens of St. Thomas and Hamilton on the matter heretofore made known to the public.

Although Cavalier has raised a fund sufficient to cover, as it believes, every possible expense that may accrue in connection with the work of securing the necessary petition – and only so much per cent of the said fund subscribed was intended to have been asked to be paid by the respective subscribers thereof as would meet the actual legitimate expenses of such work – the writer is authoritatively informed that the executive committee chosen by Cavalier to secure such petition, at a meeting held Saturday evening resolved that they would not proceed with the work until it is ascertained whether the animus and sentiment expressed by the Times and Independent truthfully represents the feeling, wishes and sentiments of the people of St.

Thomas and Hamilton.

The people of Cavalier do not wish to force anything upon the county. They believe that there is immediate need for the building of a suitable county building for the safe keeping of valuable county records. They believe that the people of the entire county are of the same opinion and that they wish to have an opportunity to say whether the county seat shall remain permanently at Pembina, or be transferred to some other place. They are confident that this feeling prevails at St. Thomas and at Hamilton, and at other towns in the county. If, as the canvass proceeds, they find that they are mistaken in this belief, and that the articles in the paper referred to indicate the real sentiment of the people in those localities, the Cavalier committee will be perfectly willing to discontinue its efforts. But, before it does so, it will take steps to ascertain what the real sentiment is, and its members are very confident that the Times and the Independent have misinterpreted the sentiment prevailing in their respective fields. Grand Forks Herald.

Same

Thinks Cavalier Would Win

Cavalier has openly declared intention to make a fight for county seat removal. This has brought rumblings from Neche and no doubt others will drop into the contest, not expecting, of course to win, but to prevent removal. If a few expressions of the individual voters could be had now, there is little doubt about how the vote would go. Cavalier would win easily. This looks like Cavalier's last hope for getting the county seat. With the construction of the Midland railway Pembina will be put into such railway communication with all parts of the county that 90 per cent of the people in the county would be accommodated to the best advantage. – Crystal Call

"If a free expression of the individual voters" would easily give Cavalier or any other place the county seat, surely the least that can be said is that the voters ought to have an opportunity to express themselves. Since the people are entitled to rule there is no sane reason why their right should be denied them. If Cavalier has hopes of becoming the county seat there must be indisputable reasons for hopes – reasons which the best interests of the masses of the people demand shall be recognized, not to pamper and benefit Cavalier but to confer the greatest good to the greatest number of people resident within the county. The completion of the Midland railway will "cut no ice" in the settlement of the county seat question – the county seat would still be left in the northeast corner of the county and enjoy the same wide isolation from the majority of the county's population that it does today. Moreover, the Midland road is an uncertain quantity (sic), and even should it be a "go" it is uncertain when that "go" will take place and in what direction though (sic) the county it will be built. With the county seat left at Pembina it is untrue that 90 per cent of the people in the county would be "accommodated to the best possible advantage" – certainly not to one-half as good advantage as to remove the county seat to Cavalier and then build the said railway across the county. There is no more justice in compelling the masses of the people to go to the extreme northeast corner of the county to reach to count seat than there would be in compelling them to go to the northwest of

southwest corner of the county for the same purpose. With the county seat so near the geographical center of the county as its location at Cavalier would place it, then and only then would "90 per cent of the people in the county be accommodated to the best possible advantage", but "the best possible advantage" would accrue to one hundred per cent of the people as well.

This may and it may not be "Cavalier's last hope for getting the county seat." Pembina county towns may come and may go, but we wish to assure the Call editor that Cavalier goes on forever. There is no spirit of disintegration nor signs of ultimate decomposition prevalent here, and that so called "last hope" may be revived at any time and assert itself effectually through the agency of the dissatisfied tax payers of Pembina county.

However, be assured of one fact, viz: that Cavalier will seek county seat honors at any time only when she is backed by the efforts of the people from the various sections of the county at the beginning and all through the campaign of contest. It is the people's cause as well as that of Cavalier.

Same

The Times Objects

The St. Thomas Times appears to be "agin" the county seat removal question and labors hard in a two column editorial to explain why. The principal reason the Times gives for opposing removal is because Cavalier is a candidate for county seat honors and the editor of the Times doesn't like to favor Cavalier because heretofore his political aspirations have not been fully satisfied by the voting power of this community. He takes for granted that if the question is submitted to vote of the people, Cavalier will win and that will mean a tax on the people of \$100,000 for a new court home. He places the value of the old "plant" which the county owns in Pembina at from \$60,000 to \$75,000, when in fact \$25,000 would more than cover its value. But the principal antagonism to the removal question which the Times entertains is one of a political character – Cavalier has not always supported St. Thomas candidates for office, therefore, the people must be denied opportunity to vote on the removal question, because Cavalier is a candidate for county seat honors and might win.

Proceeding further the Times says that the \$15,000 subscribed by Cavalier to carry on the county seat campaign is not needed to meet legitimate expenses, and therefore intimates that much of it is intended to be used as a corruption fund. The fact of the matter is that a greater fund than even this may be required should the fight go on and Cavalier win out, since it has been the intention of this city to reimburse the county for its buildings at Pembina. There is no corruption money in any part of it, whatever the insinuations of the Times may be along that line in its labored attempt to make a point.

In closing his article, the Times editor says: "We believe the agitation will produce no good result, and will only tend to complicate the political situation without compensation. In order to prevent a fight, in order to prevent expense, turmoil and political confusion the Times believes

it unwise to aid in securing signatures to the petition for removal”.

This would seem to indicate that the Times editor is harboring political aspirations and a county seat fight would possibly upset his “preserves” without bringing to him added “compensation” for the loss. Also that there will be in the field some candidates for county and legislative office in this campaign which he may feel disposed to rise up and kill off, and the county seat fight might frustrate his plans.

Really, laying all joking aside, it looks very much to us as if Editor Hager of the Times, who is now a citizen of Grafton, has been away from St. Thomas and Pembina county so long that he has gotten out of touch with his former city and county on the county seat removal question and has therefore failed to express their sentiments in his Times editorial. He knows that frequently Cavalier has given St. Thomas many a boost for her candidates for office, and he has no kick coming in that score. Editor Hager will do well to turn to and get in line with the spirit of progress and the sentiment of the constituency of his St. Thomas paper. It’s “better to be right than President” even for a country newspaper man.

Same

The Independent, Too

The Hamilton Independent has a grievance against Cavalier, too. Well, no, it really hasn’t any grievance but imagines it has one. Usually Editor Wood is pretty level headed, but last week in lumbering up an editorial on the county seat removal question he “lost his head.” Just like many crazy folk do, and commenced firing shots at random at Cavalier. The Independent charges Cavalier with playing “a policy of selfishness and greed” and not being “content to share at least a portion of the good things of life with its neighbors”. Now, dear reader, what do you think of that statement for a crazy freak? What does Cavalier possess (except perhaps the best high school in the county) that would make applicable to this city any charge on the score of selfishness and greed. Cavalier has never possessed a solitary institution that would help to make good such a charge. Cavalier has never had a county fair not a county seat, and while she would like the county seat, if it is the wish of the people of Pembina county to place it here (and they ought to be allowed the privilege of expressing their wishes at the polls). She has no desire for the county fair, never has had and probably never will have. Because Cavalier is rightly situated to win in a square fight for the county seat, the Independent Editor shouldn’t worry about her wanting the county fair also. That is one thing Cavalier is not a candidate for, and if she has not measured up in financial support to the institution satisfactory to the Independent man and the fair directors, it was because the annual fair did not arouse in its munificent exhibition the interest and patriotism of the people. But say, Bro. Wood, did you ever stop to think that if you take away the attendance that is made at the fair each year by the people from Cavalier city and township, there would have been no possibility of keeping the fair going at all? And yet you say Cavalier is “playing a policy of selfishness and greed, and is not “content to share a portion of the good things of life with her neighbors”—therefore if the county seat question comes up you say you guess you are going to “some pumpkins” against Cavalier in this campaign. After such a break don’t you think you had better “go way back and sit down?”

Then there's that bugabear of a new court house that will have to be built, in case of county seat removal—and it will have to be built soon whether the county seat is removed or not, for the present old shell at Pembina is inadequate to the business demands of the county and is a disgrace, too, to the refinement, intelligence and enterprise of the wealthy county of Pembina. You say, Bro. Wood, that Cavalier is perfectly willing, yes, eager to foist upon the county a \$100,000 tax for the erection of new county buildings.

If you know anything, Bro. Wood, you must know that no matter how eager Cavalier might be to do the "foist" act in the new court house project, she will have no carrying say in the matter. The character and cost of new county buildings would be up to the people to decide, should they vote the county seat here, the same as though it went elsewhere or remained in Pembina—and it not be necessary to raise a \$100,000 dollar tax for such purpose either.

Just trot way back and sit down some more, Bro. Wood. You have lost your head completely on the county seat removal question and need to be still and do a little thinking and discover where you are at.

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Cavalier Chronicle
February 18, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 9

Defends Cavalier

Editor, Crystal Call – the editor of the St. Thomas Times in its issue of Feb. the 4th, undertakes to tell the good people of Pembina county what a bad town Cavalier is. He gives in detail all bad points but forgets the good ones, and credits St. Thomas with nothing but good points. He pretends to show how Cavalier threw the harpoon into their candidates regardless of party, but every good voter of Pembina County knows St. Thomas always was full of that class of goods. No less than two or three at every election. He goes back to 1896 to show how bad they used S. H. Richardson who was a candidate for sheriff by giving him three votes. Richardson sought the nomination for sheriff from the Democratic Party and did not land it. Fred Farrow got the nomination which made S. H. sore and he started out independent. The editor of the Times made the remark that if a person did not get a party nomination, he did not deserve any votes. The editor of the Times tries to show the voters of Pembina county how every one of St. Thomas's candidates were used. Now every voter of Pembina county knows that Cavalier had a candidate for the same office that St. Thomas did and in my 23 years of experience in Pembina county every town in the county gave its candidate a nice majority, and St. Thomas did not fail to do so either. I may say in this respect Cavalier and St. Thomas were very hoggish. One wouldn't do, but they had to have two or three candidates at every election. I would ask the editor of the Times why the people would not move the county seat from Pembina; moved it must be; if not Cavalier say Hamilton. Either one of the two places is good enough. The argument, Grant, that you put in your paper against Cavalier is buncomb, written with a big double B. I don't think it is a square deal to have us people from the southwestern part of the

county travel 50 miles to do our business at the county seat, but I will leave this for the voter of Pembina county to decide, about I hope it will be moved nearer the center of the county. Now I will ask the editor of The Call to allow me a little space in his valuable paper for this little scribbling if he thinks it well.. Crystal Township voter.

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Cavalier Chronicle
February 25, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 10

The Mountaineer Favors a Vote

Through the county press--and some of the daily papers—we learn that there is good prospect for a county seat fight in old Pembina this year, and from men who are prominent Cavalier residents, we learn that such a movement will be made, providing the people of the county are in favor of a vote on the matter.

Some sixteen years or more ago the county was a scene of a county seat fight between Cavalier and Pembina cities, and the former came very close to winning, so close in fact that a law was enacted in the state legislature, which provided that such fights could not occur more frequently than once in ten years and that two-thirds vote must be received by the town or city which was seeking the removal of the seat of government. Other matters—notably the location of the blind institute—took prominence in the battle at that time and must have had a very considerable influence in deciding the issue. This year, being a general election year, will also contribute to the issues involved and will hamper, to a large extent, the actions and the ambitions of a large number of candidates for county offices as well as have an influence on those aspiring for legislative honors.

Naturally, Pembina city will cling to its traditions and make a strong effort to prevent the removal of its “leading industry” and its citizens are right in putting forth every effort to hold the county capital at that place. Also, we can see no honest reason why the people of Cavalier should not aspire to the position of “county town” and secure it, if the people by their vote, say that the move to a central located town is their choice.

The matter of petition will be taken up soon, we are told and an effort made to secure the signature of the required number of voters – three-fifths—to have the county commissioner’s call for such an election at the time of the general election in November. If the people express a desire to vote on the subject, there is no reason why it should be denied them. This country is supposed to be governed by majorities—and it sometimes is—and if the people desire a vote it is their right to have it, and it is proper to sign the petition when presented, so that a vote can be taken and the question definitely decided. If Cavalier wins, we understand they stand ready to indemnify the county to the value of the old buildings now in use. If Pembina wins there is no question but the matter of a new court house will be discussed and proper and adequate county offices provided—so that in either case the records and papers will be well and safely cared for.

While we regret a fight on the question this year, because it will affect the political conditions of the county, nothing that the Mountaineer might say could prevent it, so we say "let the good fight go on" and may the people of the county have the right to say "Pembina" or "Cavalier".
Walhalla Mountaineer.

Same

County Seat Bubbles, Etc.

"We are told that the people of Cavalier who are making themselves prominent in the fight for the county seat removal are advocating the theory that if the question is not submitted to a vote at this time it will be ten years before the question can be submitted again, in the meantime the Pembina people will use their influence to have the court house condemned and a new one put in its place. This is not so, and the people who advocate it know better. The question of county seat removal can come up at any general election when a petition is presented with sufficient signatures. But if the matter comes to a vote then another vote cannot be had for four year.

"For the information of those who have not the opportunity of looking up the law on this subject, which can be found in the Revised Codes Section 2364, "When an election has been held and at least two-thirds of the votes are not cast for some other place than that fixed by law as the former county seat, no second election for the removal therefore must be held within four years thereafter" -- Pembina Pioneer Express.

So that's one of your "County Seat Bubbles," is it. Well, we'll stick a pin in it right here and let the "gas" out.

In the first place, if the people vote on the county seat removal question at the coming election they cannot vote upon that question again for ten years, just as has been said. The Pioneer Express editor is either ignorant of the law or is bent on deceiving the people. If he will look up the law he will discover that section 2364 of the Revised Codes he refers to was amended by the Legislature of 1907. This amendment he will find in Chapter 61 of the 1907 Session Laws, approved March 14, 1907, which reads as follows: "An act amending and reenacting Sections 2361 and 2364 of the Revised Codes of 1905, which reads as follows:

"Section 2364. (Election held only once every ten years) When an election has been held and at least two-thirds of the votes cast at such election are not cast for some other place than that fixed by law as the former county seat, no second election for the removal thereof must be held within ten years thereafter."

Seemingly, as if the above ignorance or deception on the part of the Pioneer Express might not appear sufficient to successfully delude the tax-payers of the county, the said P.E. makes another like "break" to try to turn their affections of the beloved (?) county buildings located in the farthest (sic) northeast corner of the county, as follows: "As a matter of fact the present county buildings are worth to the county at least \$60,000, and are in better shape than they

were when built, on account of improvements, such as complete heating plant, sewerage and water, gas lighted, and a stone and concrete foundation that is good for a hundred years.”

“As a matter of fact”, the present county buildings are not worth any such amount, never was and never will be. The present court house was built when Pembina county was a mere infant and needed only small things to do business with. Herman Webber formerly of this city was awarded the contract for building the structure and would duplicate the same today for less than \$8,000. At the present time and for many years past this building has not been adequate to meet the business demand of the county. For more than twenty years past the register of deeds and county judge have been housed in a couple of old shacks with all the valuable county records under their charge exposed to unsafe environments, and even the county superintendent of schools and deputy have been placed in a small cheap outbuilding to carry on the important education department of our county. This court house and these outbuildings (or shacks) may have answered the purpose of the county in the days of its beginning and poverty, but at the present time they are not only far inferior to those possessed by any county within the state, but are wholly inadequate to the business demands of the county, besides being unsanitary and unsafe. They are not worth to the county one-third of \$60,000. As for the heating plant, nothing but hard coal can be burned therein. The office rooms and vaults are so full of cracks and opening that, where the much less expensive coal fuel used by other county and state institutions (more particularly soft coal) to generate steam hat is satisfactory, it cannot be used here for the reason that the smoke and dust emanating there from despoils the various records of the county. One beautiful accomplishment of the complete ventilation and sewerage system is that it commands the recognition of most visitors at the court house in that it induces them to hold their nose when passing through the spacious (?) corridors of the antiquated structure.

The fact of the whole matter is that the present county buildings are beneath the needs and dignity of the wealthy county of Pembina, the oldest county of the state and yet the one having the poorest, cheapest and most undesirable and unsafe quarters in which to house its officials and carry on its business.

Again the Pioneer Express remarks:

“A new court house that would have to be constructed at this time would coast (sic) at least \$100,000 and probably more. When a petition is presented to you asking to have the matter of county seat removal substituted to a vote ask yourself this question. Am I willing to sign a petition that will make it possible to shoulder a debt that will cost the county at least \$160,000, with interest for the benefit of those promoters?”

Well, now you know better than that. A \$50,000 court house will fully cover the demands of the county. However, it will cost no more to build a new court house in Cavalier than Pembina, and as it is conceded by both county officials and the people generally throughout the county that such must be built in the very near future; and since the people will have to bear the expense, why not move the county seat to the most centrally located city in the county where it can be easily reached from all section of the county, and build the contemplated new court

house there? The total assessment in Pembina county for 1909 is \$6,873, 842.00 Granted that new county buildings would cost \$50,000, that would be less than 10 cents for \$1,000 of valuation, and every man in the county owning property assessed at \$5,000 would have to pay as an additional tax for such new county buildings, not more than 50 cents. And who wouldn't be willing to pay the additional 10 cents per \$1,000 to have a decent new court house, whether it be built in Pembina or Cavalier?

Surely the proposed new court house will be built somewhere and it is very certain to be built in Pembina, or asked to be built in that out of the way place soon after the next election is held, if the people do not vote to remove the county seat to Cavalier.

Same

The County Seat Question

Looking at the county seat situation in Pembina county from an impersonal and unselfish view the follow facts stand out very prominently.

Geographically the present location is as far out of the way for the greatest number of the people as it would be possible to place it in the county.

The county buildings are inadequate. They are unsafe for county records as against fire; they are composed of a lot of small structures scattered over a block of land, requiring an enormous amount for heat, light and maintenance as the record of county expenses will show.

Whether the county seat is removed to a more central location or not, new buildings are necessary and a bond issue will be asked immediately after the election if not before by the county commissioners who are in the best position to know the condition of the county's valuable records as to safety.

The cost of new buildings will not be \$100,000, as has been stated but about \$50,000; and this can be verified by counties in the state that have recently built modern county buildings.

The interest of the bonds would be \$1,000 per annum, most if not all which could be saved out of the heavy cost of maintaining and keeping in repair of the present old, inadequate buildings.

This being the situation, do the people of Pembina county wish to have new buildings erected and the county seat permanently located at Pembina? – Crystal Call, Feb. 17

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Same

A correspondent of the Hamilton Independent presuming to be one of the rural farmer residents in the Glasston district, puts up a cry against Cavalier on the county seat removal question, and wants the people of Cavalier to use the money they have subscribed to finance

county seat removal expenses to help drain the water from that section. Since the article in question is one which calls for and should have the action of the county drain commissioners who are paid to look after such disturbing matters, it is wholly irrelevant to Cavalier and the county seat question. Since the correspondent (?) who wrote the article hadn't courage enough to sign his childish production, it is quite evident that no Glasston farmer ever wrote it, but rather that it emanated from one of the 'hayseeds' that wields the quill in the office of the Hamilton Independent or Pioneer Express. Here is one paragraph in the article:

"No, you good people, we cry hold, enough! If you are of the kindly philanthropic (sic) sort you would have us believe that you are agitating something that will lower our taxes instead of imposing an additional burden. And moreover we, as farmers, will let pou (sic) see that we are strong enough and rough enough to down any such culpable scheme." Does it read as if any Glasston farmer wrote it? Weil (sic), hardly.

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Same

The fluffy editor of the Neche Chronotype has evidently been "seen" by the Pembina financial contingent and he is out against county seat removal. This little rosewater essayist is but a recent emigrant from "Cactus Center", Manitoba the gum-chewing rendezvous of the King's domain. He is making bold dashes to imitate the late lamented Rex Lampman, in his bold strokes of literary invention, with the Jud LaMoure & Co., features left out and their "ad" left in. But on, my, what a mess of it! If our readers should discover that this newly imported editorial product does not possess knowledge enough about Pembina county and the county seat question to dust a cheap fiddle, don't be alarmed. The Pembina contingent will teach him how to order the facial expression of his editorial countenance.

Now just listen to the little senseless vapping from this new arrival from "Cactus Center" and say gee-whiz!

Can the Cavalier Chronicle name anyone outside the immediate vicinity of Cavalier who wishes sincerely to have the county seat changed?

Maybe so, but we doubt it.

We are obsessed with the idea that this county seat business originated in the fertile brain of shoe shrewd limb of the law who lives quite close to Cavalier, and the only wide spread (?) demand for the change was confined to the office force of the Chronicle. In fact, there are evidences of a buxom nigger in the wood pile, and a large majority of the taxpayers will refuse to further the personal ambitions of a few democrats be either signing a petition or voting for any change of county seat."

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Cavalier Chronicle

March 4, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 11

Chronicle Headline: Let Everybody Boost For Progressive Cavalier

St. Thomas Voters Favor Cavalier

In the last issue of the St. Thomas Times we find the following communication: Communication, Editor of the Times,

In an editorial in a recent issue of your paper regarding county removal you made the statement that you voiced the sentiment of the voters of St. Thomas as being opposed to such removal to Cavalier. Since that time I have canvassed the matter and find quite a number who are favorable to such removal if the time has come that our county buildings are inadequate and have to be rebuilt.

The act for the removal of county seats provides for a petition signed by three-fifths or more of the legal voters of the county, each signature acknowledged to before a notary. This petition is submitted to the county commissioners, who order an election. Such a petition (sic) must necessarily be signed by a large majority having no personal interest in the matter more than locating the county seat where it will do the greater good to the greater numbers.

This proposition can only come before the people every ten years and a vote on the removal, if taken this fall, should be considered in a spirit of fairness, not on the past political history of any locality.

Respectfully
J. R. Gibson

Same

Soured Argument

The St. Thomas Times editor floundered around in his sanctum at Grafton in Walsh county last week to produce something further to encourage the Times readers to continue to hold prejudice against Cavalier on the county seat removal question for his sake, because of past political differences, a politically sour idea being the only argument he can advance against Cavalier, Editor Hager has not in a single word of his talk given Cavalier credit for the times this city had given good support to its candidates, nor had he referred to the fact that in most cases where the Cavalier vote for St. Thomas candidates was not up to the Hager standard, that Cavalier itself had candidates for the same office. If this question is argued at all let it be done from the fair logical standard, and not from standpoints that are set for the purpose of appeasing the soured political disposition of the editorial logician. As to the tax question for new court house in case of removal, which Editor Hager presumes to forshadow (sic) for Cavalier, that can cut no ice in the present controversy. The new court house will have to be

built anyway in the very near future, whether the county seat is removed or not, and it will cost no more to build it in Cavalier than in Pembina. But the size of the bond issue, the interest and methods of retirement is a matter which the people of the county must decide in either case. Cavalier can't fix the limit of court house cost for the people, neither can the presumptive editor of the St. Thomas times.

Same

A Fairy Bubble

In its last week's issue the Chronicle, after puncturing a "county seat bubble", sent over this way by the Pioneer Express, gave the amount of the total assessment of Pembina county for 1909, following which we wrapped up a few meaningless figures as to the tax cost for proposed new court house and dropped them into the column as bait for the Pioneer Express Editor. Of course these figures were of the fairy kind, sent out to bring forth something original and possibly sincere from Editor Wardwell on the additional tax per cent question connected with the county seat removal, before any real shots on the subject should be fired from this quarter. We expect this fairy bubble will serve its purpose.

Same

The editor of the St. Thomas Times charges that Fairchild has lost his head on the county seat question because being so hard pressed on the question by county exchanges. Well, if we have lost it we shall doubtless surprise the Times editor by recovering it again in the near future, should, county seat removal discussion continue.

Same

The "me too" adjunct of the Pioneer Express who does the literature on the Neche Chronotype, not having intelligence enough himself to say anything original on the county seat question or being able to give a single intelligent reason why the county seat should not be removed, has set himself to work cussing and discussing Fairchild, no doubt thinking that style of editorial slime will impress his readers as being argument against removal of the county seat. The silly vaporings of this rose water product of Cactus Center are rank enough to darken the blush of a midnight aurora borealis or dislodge the kink in a pig's tail, but they cut no figure in the matter of intelligent county seat discussion.

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Cavalier Chronicle

March 25, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 14

The Mountaineer Jabs Editor Wardwell

1st column fairly unreadable

Walhalla Mountaineer: Bro. Wardwell makes a very farfetched simile in his Express last week in regard to the proposed vote on the county seat removal. It is so very ridiculous indeed, that to comment on it is unworthy and its very "similitude" kills it as an argument. Try to be fair, Frank, use some argument against the people having the right to vote against your argument which would be to vote against Pembina which would be to make Pembina, the home of the Express, a dead town and we will talk the matter over with you. Of course, Pembina is not a "dead town" and would not be if the county seat were removed. The removal would effect (sic) Pembina to the extent of trade in the hotels during four to five weeks of each year during court, and a little during the meetings of the board of county commissioners, but so far as any trade that the county seat draws to Pembina sound like "fairly talk", which we are not using.

Same

The court house buildings are not worth one third of \$60,000. It is safe to say that \$20,000 would cover the value of all the buildings, safes, vaults and fixtures the county owns in Pembina; \$15,000 is nearer the right value – Cavalier Chronicle, March 11.

Trying to evade the truthful estimate worth of the present county buildings and furnishings, the Pioneer Express assumes to show smartness by turning an adverse comment on the above figures by saying the Chronicle treats them as "meaningless" The chicanery and falsity of such comment on the part of the P.E. is apparent on its face. That the Chronicle was correct in its estimate is shown by the report of the county treasurer's and auditor's office made to the State Examiner for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, page 38. The value of the court house, jail and furnishing is there given at \$20,000.

Same

If the Chronicle depends on the intelligent voters of this county to remove the county seat, it should begin to credit them with some sense. If it just wants the vote of the ignorant and thoughtless, as its figures and arguments indicate, it may get some of them, but they will be but a small minority when the vote is counted for the great majority of our farmers in this county are well read and well educated, sensible people. Pioneer Express, March 18.

It is just because the intelligence and sense of the masses of the voters of this county that the county seat will be removed to a central location, where their convenience and interest will be better and less expensively served, if they ever get a chance to vote upon the question but they will never get that chance to vote upon the question; but they will never get that chance through any help or sanction given the project by the Pioneer Express. The disposition of that paper so far all through this county seat removal discussion apparently has been to dupe and deceive intelligent, ignorant and thoughtless voters alike and if possible to erect barriers that will result in denying such voters the legal and moral right and privilege to express themselves by ballot upon the removal proposition.

Same

Wardwell's "\$60,000 Court House"

If any resident of Pembina county who is not prejudiced in favor of Pembina because of some friends or personal interest he may have there, will stop to logically consider the matter of county seat removal, and what it will mean in time, convenience and expense-saving to the county at large as well as to residents having occasion to visit the county seat occasionally, he can scarcely fail to become enthusiastic over the matter of locating the same at Cavalier, where it will meet the convenience of the masses of the people and best serve the county's general purposes.

The mileage saving item alone is a matter worthy of large, intelligent consideration. The Pioneer Express has labored hard to try to make it appear as an insignificant matter, but that style of effort on the part of the P.E. is made merely to blind the eyes of tax payers and delude them into thinking about county seat matters as residents and property owners of Pembina city think about the same who are prejudiced against removal because they like to have the county seat in their city and they are afraid its loss might interfere in some manner with their individual financial prosperity.

In its last issue the Pioneer Express makes the statement that the court expenses of the county were only about \$16,976.44, and that the excess mileage part of those expenses, because of the county seat being located in the northeast corner of the county, could only be about \$100.00 per year. But that is the Pioneer Express' statement about it from prejudiced reasons, and cannot cut much figure in any logical discussion of the county seat removal question so long as the fact remains true, which everybody knows to be true, that there is all the same a large forced expenditure for excess mileage every year sufficient in amount every twenty years to pay for new county buildings equal in value to the present county buildings in Pembina. Any child familiar with the elementariness of Editor Wardwell's arithmetic can figure it out that persons from central and western Pembina county going to Pembina on county business, at the county's expense, each time gets a legal mileage fee about double in amount of what the county would need to pay were the county seat located in Pembina, and there are many officials and men who do business for the county at county expense and draw mileage therefore, besides jurors and witnesses in court cases. Then, as we said in a previous issue, if there is added to this excess mileage which the county now has to pay the excess expenses which every resident of the county must pay who is required to go to the county seat on private business every now and then, with the county seat at Cavalier would be saved thereby to the tax payers of this county during the next twenty years to build one of the finest court houses in North Dakota. Then think of the convenience, too, of central county seat location. There wouldn't be any section in the county from which a resident could not drive to Cavalier and spent (sic) a few hours and drive back home again the same day in daylight. The great majority of the residents of this county do not visit the present county seat simply because of the time and expense made necessary to reach and return from Pembina. Although the Pioneer Express says there is no need for many of the people to visit the county seat, as they can send their taxes by mail and pay them through bank agencies, still a great many would like to so do if they could go there and return home the same day. There is some personal satisfaction in being able to pay one's taxes in a direct first-hand manner to the county treasurer and see immediate receipt therefore.

There is personal satisfaction also in being able to transact business direct with other county officials in their respective offices as well as visiting the county seat at court sessions to take in the proceeding of the district court, even if one is not specially summoned there at county expense. All these privileges which many would like to avail themselves of cost too much in time and money to be enjoyed now by the great majority of account of the present comparatively inaccessible county seat location. The people of Pembina county should think about this county seat question for themselves in a logical way, and not submit to letting the Pioneer Express do their thinking for them. The great majority of the residents of this county have everything to gain and nothing to lose by removal of the county seat to a central location within the county.

The Pioneer Express has been very active in trying to hoodwink taxpayers on the matter of value of present county buildings and the probable cost of new ones. In its issue of February 18 the P.E. reeled off the following statement no doubt thinking the people would swallow it, notwithstanding its untruth:

“As a matter of fact the present county buildings are worth to the county at least \$60,000 and are in better shape than they were when built, on account of improvements, such as complete heating plant, sewerage and water, gas lighted, and a stone and concrete foundation that is good for a hundred years.”

In noticing the above in a previous issue the Chronicle proceeded to say that the county buildings were not worth half of \$60,000 and we gave the figures to show that exclusive of the furnishings, which constitute removal property, the buildings were worth less than \$10,000. The proof of this statement of the Chronicle is clearly verified in the following figures which are taken from the annual report of the State Examiner, which may be found on page 38 of said report for the year ending June 30, 1909. These figures constitute the official report of the treasurer's and auditor's offices on the resources of Pembina county must be correct. Here they are: Pembina County – Assets

Cash in county funds \$57,909.73
Court house, furniture and jail \$20,000
Taxes outstanding (estimated) \$20,000
Miscellaneous accts. Due from drains \$1,200.00
Drain warrants \$1,196.25
County bridges \$170,000

Total \$270,306.97

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the court house, furniture and jail are considered worth \$20,000, and as the furniture and fixtures (which is movable property) are worth more than the buildings themselves, the value of the present court house is less than \$10,000—a mighty long way from an \$60,000 value claimed by the Pioneer Express in its rank hoodwinking effort.

This misstatement of figures on court house value has been one of the Pioneer Express' rankest efforts to deceive the people. Another apparent attempt of deception was contained in the statement that it will cost from \$100,00 to \$160,000 to build a new court house in Cavalier. A third attempt at deception was the glaring statement by the P.E. that a vote on county seat removal can legally be taken every four years, when in fact the amended law says such a vote can be taken only once every ten years.

The efforts of the Pioneer Express to say something against county seat removal seems to be honeycombed with deception in every statement of figures made. Will the people suffer themselves to be denied the right of legal expression by petition and vote on county seat removal because of such editorial chicanery as that? The Chronicle thinks not.

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Cavalier Chronicle
April 1, 1910

Calls Attention to Inconvenience (printed in fold – unable to read)

Wardwell' Flying Machine

The Pionner (sic) Express constructed a table last week to show that Pembina county is only a little more worse off on county seat location than several other counties in the state. While Pembina county seat is the only one located in the northeast corner of the county, others are located on the county boundary line and from 4 to 14 miles from same. The Pioneer Express intimates that the Pembina county seat is only 42 miles from the fartherest corner of the county. Of course this is by flying machine route, but by the roads, which way the people have to travel since the use of flying machines have not yet been resorted to in this county outside of the present county seat town, a distance of 53 to 60 miles has to be made to reach the county seat. If the 42 mile statement of the Pioneer Express were correct, even then the distance would be cut in two in the middle were Cavalier the county seat.

But these figurer (sic) on county seat location of other counties is no argument against the county seat removal question in Pembina county. The people want the county seat in some central location where they can reach it and get back home the same day. Under the present obnoxious law, which necessitates so great effort and expense in securing the needed petition so the people may express themselves on the removal question, which many aspiring towns have not felt able to assume, the people have been left to suffer the injustice thus imposed as the only alternative. But in Pembina county Cavalier is showing a willingness to bear the expense of securing such needed petition that the people may secure the right of expression under the law.

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Cavalier Chronicle
April 8, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 16

One of the weak silly stunts of last week's Pioneer Express was the quoting of a paragraph from the Cavalier Journal of issue of August 1891, commenting upon the question of county seat removal when the matter was being considered at that time. As the Cavalier Journal died and its editor flunked long ago, and moreover as Cavalier did not become a mere collection of houses on the prairie nor become extinct socially and politically but went right on holding its dignity and good standing and maintaining growth and prosperity in the years following that struggle, the attitude of the Pioneer Express to make something of it to bear on the present county seat removal fight, shows that sheet to be like the drowning man, grasping for a straw.

Will someone please pass the resuscitating medicine jug to Editor Wardwell?

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Same

A Tale of Woe

The last issue of the Pioneer Express tips off another tale of woe about justice court business and expresses belief that the county seat does not really exist in Pembina after all. It thinks because the preliminary hearings in some criminal cases have been conducted in Cavalier at the home of States Attorney Brynjolfson, therefore there is a reason to doubt whether Pembina is really the county seat after all. Moreover, the Pioneer Express constructs this tale of woe with the evident intention to create jealousy on the part of other justices within the county, whom it hopes thereby to prejudice against county seat removal and also to leave the impression that the states attorney is collecting for mileage which he is not entitled to under the law. The Pioneer Express further asserts that "Mr. Brynjolfson at this time poses as the head push of the county seat removal committee of Cavalier." Mr. Brynjolfson does not now nor has he at any time passed as the head push on such committee. The Pioneer Express has also sneeringly referred at various times to Brynjolfson and Laxdal's addition to Cavalier, as if the county seat was sought to be removed to Cavalier for the purpose of specially booming that addition to Cavalier in the interests of Messrs. Brynjolfson and Laxdal. This is more bosh and nonsense—another series of delusions which the Pioneer Express, in its hard up condition for argument, is seeking to "work" with the hope that it may tarnish county seat removal sentiment. The fact of the matter is that nearly every lot in the Brynjolfson & Laxdal addition to Cavalier was sold long ago, and these gentlemen have no interest in them—and as for the location of the new court house in that addition in case of county seat removal, which the Pioneer Express has said so much about as being the purpose, that count not possible take place both for lack of room and the unwillingness of property owners to dispose of their holdings there.

On account of its inability to produce argument against county seat removal the Pioneer Express is resorting to sneers, buncombe, and delusive and deceptive statements in order to hoodwink the taxpayers and make them believe that the county is better and more cheaply run with the county seat in Pembina than it could or would be if the county seat were removed to the center of the county. As to the argument side of the question the Pioneer Express is on the hard-up rock to a finish. It certainly has got it badly. As for the taxpayers, they know a thing of

two—they haven't lived in the county all these years without discovering the fact that their pocket books are being drained year after year to bolster up the old county shacks at Pembina so they won't fall to pieces and endanger the lives of their occupants, and that the size of this drain, coupled with the excess mileage of the county, made necessary by the court house being located in the northeast corner of the county, forms an expense which reaches an aggregate every twenty years sufficient to build a new court house.

Same

Letter from a Park Township taxpayer (in answer to a "Tackspayer" letter in the P.E.) not copied

Same

[Pink Paper](#): Some of the papers seems to think that the disturbed conditions of political matters, consequent on the Cavalier-Pembina fight, is an argument against Cavalier's making the struggle now. There is no argument in this any more than there is no reason why the people of a county should not remove the county seat when they see fit. Any argument which will hold good now will hold good at any time a contest might be made and in such a year candidates would have to face just such disturbed political conditions. The candidate who comes out boldly will gain rather than lose in the estimation of the voter.

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Cavalier Chronicle

April 29, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 19

How it Looks at Edinburg

Edinburg Tribune: War has been declared in Cavalier and the fight for the removal of the much coveted county seat from Pembina to Cavalier is now being waged with bulldog tenacity. Petitions are being circulated praying that the question be submitted and it requires two-thirds of the legal voters of the county to place the proposition on the ballot. It will then require 1800 signatures to win for Cavalier in the first heat. To win the fight it takes three-fourths of the votes cast. Cavalier will have to make a hard campaign in order to win out. But it is pretty generally conceded, that the county seat will have to move this time. Those who lead the fight are men who have the confidence of the people and their simple request, viewed from an unprejudiced standpoint, is reasonable and entitled to a just consideration.

Same

It's Up To You, Mr. Taxpayer

Now it is up to you Mr. Taxpayer. To you it is just a question of cost. Will it pay you or your neighbor to give up \$100 to move the courthouse to Cavalier? What Pembina wants or what Cavalier wants is of little concern to you except as a mere sentiment but what it will benefit you compared with the cost is a question for you to settle in your own mind and for your own

pocket.

To sign the Cavalier petition is equivalent to saying it is worth \$50, \$75, \$100 or more to you to have the county seat removed. Is it? – Pioneer Express

To the average taxpayer the removal of the county seat to Cavalier would not mean an additional tax all told of \$5.00 to \$10.00. But to many a taxpayer however, it would be worth \$100 to \$1,000, and he doesn't own property nor live within the corporate limits of Cavalier City either.

Same

The Real Cost of New Court House

From time to time the Pioneer Express has been trying to make figures in an attempt to show that the removal of the county seat and the erection of new buildings would be an awful calamity to the county, and that the county cannot afford to do anything that will result in getting the county officers housed in a more central location in the county. The latest bluff of this kind which the Pioneer Express has attempted to run was couched in a bundle of delusive figures in its last issue with which it attempted to hoodwink the eyes of the people. And this is the way the Pioneer Express moved to do it, in the new court house cost in case of removal:

Bonds for court house - \$100,000
4 per cent int. on bonds 20 years - \$80,000
Loss on old buildings \$30,000
Cost of special election \$1,000
Furniture and fixtures - \$10,000
Total \$221,000.00

Now, wasn't that a nice delusion for the Pioneer Express to attempt to fire at the intelligent taxpayers of this county? Verily, Editor Wardwell is getting desperate in his determination to deceive the people of this county on court house cost.

But, what would be the real true facts of the case in matter of the proposed new court house cost, anyhow. Well, let's see:

Dr (Debit)
Court house, including furnishing - \$50,000
4 per cent int. on bonds for 20 years - \$40,000
Cost special election - \$1,000
\$91,000

CR (Credit)

Sale of old buildings and fixtures \$10,000
Excess mileage saved for 20 years \$20,000
Insurance saved for 20 years - \$20,000

Fuel saved for 20 years - \$1,000
\$53,000

Actual cost of new buildings \$38,000

Now, we haven't included in the foregoing figures all the savings that would result in case of erection of a new court house. There is lighting of the building in case of which there would be saved not less than \$1,000 in 20 years, at low estimate, and a large saving in janitor's fees. All this counts and should be taken into consideration as a real reduction in cost of new court house erection—since a dollar saved is a dollar earned to help lessen first cost—while a dollar expended for excess mileage, extra insurance, more fuel and light, etc., is just that much added to cost of running the county under the disadvantageous court house conditions and county seat location that now exist.

SAME

Favor Submitting Question to Vote

Hamilton Independent: The matter of county seat removal appears to have reached the state of light comedy. A number of our contemporaries, long since run out of argument, pro or con, are so over-zealous in their desire to keep the pot a boilin' that they now resort to either repetition, personalities of to the fact upon which great stress is laid, that certain Cavalier gentlemen happen to be property owners. What all this has to do with county seat removal we will leave to the respective editors who are "boosting" their side of the controversy along these lines in lengthy editorials. To us the only legitimate argument is one of location. Cavalier seems determined to "carry the war into Africa" and such being the case we say let the matter be submitted to the voters at the next general election. New county buildings are badly needed and will be absolutely necessary within a few years, at the most, and it's up to the voters to declare themselves as to such location—Pembina or Cavalier. That probably once, definitely settled, a building commensurate with the needs and wealth of the county should be erected without more adoo, and—but let us love one another while all these things are being incubated. Let us act for the best interests of ourselves, individually, and for the best interests of town and county, and we will have done our duty.

Same

Well, Now What

The Cavalier Chronicle carries several columns weekly of county seat removal matter presumably in the interest of business men of Cavalier, about last week's issue of the Chronicle has just four local ads, one each from the two banks, the druggists and the milling company—about two columns all told. And yet Bro. Fairchild is fighting for the county seat as though he had the business men of Cavalier behind him. It is quite evident that the business men of Cavalier are not in favor of the removal of the county seat. In fact, as everybody knows, if Dan and Magnus both happened to go to heaven soon, the county seat agitation would be

transferred there with them and "Paradise Lost" would have to be re-written—Pioneer Express, April 22.

While it is true that the lean appearance of the advertising columns of the Chronicle is a sad commentary upon the disloyalty to home enterprise and shows lack of right conception of the duty that obtains in business interdependence, still it is a state of affairs that seems to have existed ever since the foundation of the Chronicle, and for which the present publisher is wholly irresponsible. We know of no reason why the business firms of Cavalier should not fill the columns of the Chronicle full to overflowing with live, attractive advertisements. Surely it is the sure sign of a live town where such a condition of support exists. Anybody who picks up a newspaper printed in some other town or city (even though he be the most ultra disbeliever in advertising as a trade drawing power) and finding therein displayed in liberal profusion the ads of the various local business firms, will be impressed with the enterprise and push of that town or city and he will also be enthused with the character and ability of the commercial power of the people to carry forward to successful ending any movement that has for its aim the enlargement of the town and the benefit of its citizens.

The meager advertising patronage accorded the Chronicle from year to year has put it and is putting this city before the world in light of one whose business men have not the life and foresight to take advantage of the home newspaper medium to display their business enterprise, increase their home trade and add magnificently to the prosperity of their home city and its people. It is doing more than this: it is driving the country people to the big city mail order houses to do their trading and robbing the home newspaper of both the moral and financial strength it needs to reach growing influence and power as the city's representative in material progress. There can be no greater influence or power employed for the up building of a city than a liberally patronized home journal. Lean patronage always means lean public enterprise and slow municipal progress. In all history every demonstration of the project has come out that way.

The Cavalier business men will do well to wake up and get from under this stigma. Every mercantile firm, every mechanic and professional man of Cavalier should be represented continuously in the advertising columns of the Chronicle. It would shortly mean more home trade and business and increased dollars for all, and greater general prosperity for our city. Moreover, nobody then would have occasion for even intimating that Cavalier was not up to date in business enterprise and push.

Same

The Pioneer Express has the audacity to say that the Chronicle "intimates that this necessity for a new building will cause the county board to rebuild Pembina just as soon as it is settled that it will not be moved to Cavalier. The Chronicle never intimated or said anything about the county board building a new court house at Pembina or anywhere else. It did say, however, that a new court house would have to be built in the very near future whether the county seat were moved to Cavalier or not—that the people will no longer tolerate the disgrace to the county that exists in the present decaying, inadequate county buildings.

Same

The Pioneer Express feels constrained to say that "if Dan and Magnus should both happen to go to heaven soon, the county seat agitation would be transferred there with them and Paradise Lost would have to be rewritten". In that event it might prove a most unfortunate thing for Pembina since good St. Peter would probably refuse to admit any newspaper man to heaven, and Dan and Magnus would have the county seat matter soon fixed up to the King's taste, and the Pioneer Express editor would find the county seat located in Cavalier without having any more opportunities to interpose an objection.

Same

Silly Twaddle

Scarcely an issue of the Chronicle for the last six weeks but has made the statement that "the saving in the excess mileage alone would build a new court house at Cavalier in twenty years." Now the extreme excess mileage that anybody from anywhere could claim from the county for an official trip to Pembina over Cavalier is twenty-five miles. That is coming and going 50 miles, which at 5 cents a mile, would make \$2.50 excess. But as half the people of the county are about as near Pembina as they are to Cavalier, the extra \$2.50 is confined to the journeying of the other half alone. Pioneer Express, April 22

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Cavalier Chronicle

May 13, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 21

County Records Filed in a Woodshed

The question of reaching the county set in its present location in the northeastern corner of the county has prevented many county taxpayers of this county from visiting the same very frequently, and some of them have never visited it and probably never will so long as it remains in Pembina. The masses therefore are unfamiliar with the state of affairs that exist in connection with the preservation of valuable county records. For a long time the vault room in the decaying county buildings have been wholly inadequate to house all the county records with the result has been that many of them have been lying in the open upon shelves in the various county offices, while the bulk of some of the more valuable ones have been filed away in one end of the courthouse woodshed, a small wood building in rear of the courthouse located near the water closet and stable. A room in one end of said woodshed has been partitioned off and lined up with sheet iron, and here valuable and indispensable records of Pembina Co., are stored awaiting certain destruction by fire which time and accident will doubtless in due course bring. Besides the courthouse and jail there are situated on the court house lots five wood buildings, viz: register of deeds office, superintendent of schools office, a stable, water closet and this favorite woodshed the honored home of many of the valuable records of Pembina county. The close proximity of these buildings create a menace to the insurance expense of the

business quarters of the court house aggregation, making the insurance rate to be paid by the county much higher than it would did not this row of old wooden shacks exist, and also far greater than the rate would be were the officers and business records of the county housed in a decent and safe brick or concrete structure.

Taxpayers of Pembina county, think of the records of the wealthy county of Pembina being stored by the hundreds in the repository of an old wooden out building, the county woodshed, all for the sake of appeasing the selfish and unenterprising ambition of a few people to hold the county seat at Pembina that the valuation of their city property holdings may not be disturbed.

Do you suppose the enterprising city of Cavalier would ever submit to having any part of the valuable records of Pembina county stored away in an old wood outbuilding? Not by a long shot! -- Not if she was to lose the county seat the next minute, and yet the people of old Pembina have stood by and sanctioned, and indeed, aided in thus secretly storing away our county records in such disgraceful and unsafe quarters, simply because they did not dare to demand the construction of more vault room for fear the expense might freshly incite county seat removal agitation.

The records of the wealthy county of Pembina housed in one end of a wooden woodshed at the county seat! Ye gods, ye gods!

Verily, 'tis well that county seat removal agitation should go on and this disgrace to our county records be wiped out at the earliest possible day.

Same

They Are Afraid Cavalier Will Win

Walhalla Mountaineer: There is still a considerable effort being put forth by the friends of Pembina to induce the people to refuse to sign the petition for a vote on county seat removal. We are sorry this is so because it indicates two things, i.e. first that those working for Pembina believe that if the question comes to a vote Cavalier may win; second that because they believe Cavalier will win they are attempting to thwart the will of the people by refusing them a vote on a public question and a question which the people have the greater right to decide.

This is morally wrong and demonstrates more of a spirit of monarchy than is compatible with American institutions which declare that a free people may and should take a part in all questions of public weal. The signing of a petition to bring the question to a vote of the people is aside from any question as to location of the county seat, no matter where you believe it should be located, or not located, neighbor has the right to his say as well as you and it is fair and just, and especially on such a question as this, that every resident of the county should have the chance of expressing his choice in the only manner in which it will be effective—by the ballot.

Same

Editor Wardwell's Dummy Figures

1st paragraph fairly unreadable

The taxpayers of Pembina County certainly do not wish to even smell of the tainted figures that the Pioneer Express is putting up for them, since those figures are but the imaginations of a worried head and heart that has no faculty for just and honest expression during county seat removal agitation. Even if Pembina county was to bond and build and remove the county seat the real cost as we showed two weeks ago would be brought within \$40,000, and there would not be any possibility of getting above that amount if unneeded extravagance were averted. Nobody in Cavalier or Pembina county is clamoring for or indeed wanting a court house that shall cost \$100,000. All that the friends of removal want is that the county seat shall be removed to the most central city of the county and a building put up that will answer the needs of the county and that whole matter can be brought about if need be without bonding the county for a single dollar, if the people so elect. Editor Wardwell may pile up his dummy figures on the subject of cost until he becomes blind himself in his attempt to blind and prejudice others, but that character of clandestine antics cannot longer serve to humiliate and inconvenience the taxpaying people of this county nor give added protection to the diabolical treatment of the unprotected valuable records of the county.

The Pioneer Express figures are no menace to the Chronicle or the county seat removal question since they are only just figures, crooked figures, and a compendium of ultra exaggeration and deceit.

Same

Shaking In His Boots

The Pioneer Express editor is evidently about the most badly frightened man in Pembina over the fair prospects of removal of the county seat to Cavalier. He has not been able to advance one solitary logical reason why the county seat should remain at Pembina, in the north east corner of the county, now that the great majority of the taxpayers of the county reside west of the Great Northern track running through the county from Grafton to Neche. His recurrent harpings on the tax question, which he strains himself to make redolent through the agency of big, bold type, appears to be the only avenue of escape that is left him, and he is quite certain to get himself effectually tangled up in that hedge before he gets through with his unfounded adverse criticism on county seat removal. He started in first by saying removal would cost the county \$100,000, and how he has again put his foot upon the Pembina city calamity thermometer and pressed the mercury of expense up to \$221,000. He might as well make it a hot million dollars while he is at the exaggeration stunt—the statement of a big untruth and the application of a larger delusion couldn't be expected any the more to affect his calloused conscience. Certainly Editor Wardwell must have a most contemptible regard for the

intelligence of the average taxpayer of Pembina county that he would presume to put before them the misleading sawdust to hoodwink them into the belief that it's dollars lost to them to think of disturbing the present county seat location; that Pembina, in the northeast corner of the county, on the opposite side of the Red River of the North from St. Vincent, the licensed beer and whisky rendezvous for northwestern Minnesota, is the rightful location for the county seat, and it should remain there in defiance to the conveniences and wishes of the great majority of the taxpayers and the growing perennial expense to the county.

Editor Wardwell says the total immediate cost of county seat removal will be \$221,000 and that the cost per thousand dollars assessment will be \$32.00. You will notice he says that in the columns of his paper, but he hasn't demonstrated it along logical lines, neither can he so demonstrate it from any positive or unclandestined premises. However, he hopes the poor taxpayer whom he is attempting to delude into erroneous sight and belief will be blind and dull enough not to apprehend the personally selfish motive which promotes the delusion, and not seeing or apprehending he will steel his heart and conscience against removal, notwithstanding the convenience to the majority of the people and the expense saving to the county involved by removal.

All the figures on cost of new court house and county seat removal that have been put forth by Editor Wardwell are not given on account of any regard he has for the convenience or rights of the majority of taxpayers, but because removal may possibly mean some injury to the business interests of Pembina and depreciation to property in that antiquated burg.

The cost of new court houses in this state, of modern construction, have not, only in a few instances, reached over \$50,000, and the cost in Pembina for a new county building that will cover the county's need and wipe out its present disgrace of and poor excuse for county buildings, should not reach above that figure. The fact is Pembina county is quite able to build a decent new court house without even bonding for a dollar, if the people choose to do it in that way. The large cash balance in the county treasury and amount due in uncollected taxes already assessed, above the amounts owing to the different funds, will be found to be quite sufficient to do that. The extra tax alarm which Editor Wardwell is attempting to create need not enter into the expense of new buildings to the extent of a dollar, in case of county seat removal, unless the people want it done that way. Editor Wardwell's figures are mere wind, and a mighty poor quality of wind at that. There is no concrete reality in them, at least not in more than one fourth in the amount which their maker has prodded them to express.

The Pioneer Express editor is certainly much frightened and may be expected to duck his head into any kind of an opening in the air that promises him momentary refuge. But he'll grow thinner and more shakey as the question of removal takes on more certain realistic form.

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Magnifying Fabrication

In partnership with its attempt to run a bluff in pigtail figures on the tax cost of county seat removal, the Pioneer Express has been engaged the past two months or more publishing and attempting to push upon the public a delusion of its own invention through the agency of contemptuous sneer, whereby it has been laboring to make it appear that the matter of the attempted removal of the county seat to Cavalier is a mercenary scheme of Messrs. Brynjolfson and Laxdal to secure thereby pecuniary benefit to themselves through the probable sale at large profit, of their addition to the city of Cavalier for court house purposes, and the Pioneer Express has in no way restrained itself from descending to ironical imputation against Messrs. Brynjolfson & Laxdal in reeling off contemptuous sneers adverse to them and their addition to the city in order to bolster up the lie which it has seat afloat for the evident purpose of inducing the creation of sentiment against removal of the county seat. One would presume that a personage holding the pretended dignity to which the Pioneer Express editor aspires, and indeed claims to possess, would hardly feel like descending to the plain of personal vilification and the indignity of pushing into prominence, from week to week what it and the majority of the people of the county must know to be deliberate fabrication, for the mere effect it may be presumed to have in influencing the minds of some of the readers of the Pioneer Express who are easy marks at believing a lie, and thus secure their prejudice against disturbing the county seat in its present location. In its inability to produce any logical or sane reason why the county seat should be retained in Pembina at perennial inconvenience and expense to the great majority of taxpayers, evidently the Pioneer Express concludes that a lie will count for something if liberally coated over with editorial sneers and half breed sarcasm.

More on Laxdal & Brynjolfson's addition to Cavalier, etc. (mostly repeated from previously)

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Cavalier Chronicle

May 27, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 23

The Pioneer Express Can't Stem the Tide

St. Thomas Times, May 20th: From the information that comes to the Times from different points in the county it is evident that the Cavalier county seat boomers will secure the requisite number of names to their petition to bring the matter of removal to a vote at the general election this fall. No matter how much we deplore this result we must face the inevitable and be prepared for the bitter strife that will follow. A very large number who do not favor the removal of the county seat have signed the petition to precipitate the fight.

Same

Doesn't Favor Throttling the Public

Walhalla Mountaineer: We often hear it said "if you cannot have the county seat in your own town, vote to keep it as far away from you as possible". This may be good logic but it is not that

adopted by some of the Pembina county villages. Take Neche, for instance, and Cavalier is farther from Neche than Pembina, yet Neche is reported to be about three to one in favor of Pembina. As a matter of fact, the location of the county seat, as affecting the business of a town, cuts very little figure but supposing it did, is that any reason the majority of the people should vote against their own interests? Walhalla is three to one or more in favor of a change to Cavalier. It is not afraid of losing any trade if there is a change in the location of the county seat; the great majority are in favor of giving the people a chance to vote and thus show their preference in the matter, under all circumstances. Walhallans have never favored "throttling" the public on any question of public interest.

Same

Put Your Name to the Petition

Crystal Call: When the petition for county seat removal is presented to you bear a few things in mind. First of all, that the matter has not been discussed, and that the few statements and figures are not in any sense reliable, but that the facts will be brought out, both sides, during the progress of the campaign, and that every voter will be in a position to cast an intelligent vote by November Second, that if the petition is not secured the matter will not be discussed and the people will not know anymore about conditions at the county seat then they do now. As a means of securing information about the county's business no better way could be devised than by insuring the success of the petition by signing it. There is no public expense connected with this part of the proceedings. Third, that signing the petition imposes no obligation to vote for the proposition. You can sign the petition and then proceed to learn all you can of the merits of the case. If you think best not to remove the county seat, vote against it in November. If not decided, sign up and decide afterwards which way you will vote.

Same

The Artful Dodger

The Pioneer Express tried to be funny last week by trying the juggling stunt with two items of cheap wit—the whiz of a comet and an attempted apology for the county's woodshed vault, in both of which it skinned its knees in the fall down. It no doubt would be a sense of relief to the dear people whom the Pioneer Express is trying to "hold up" against county seat removal if it would press out of its mental vacuum one intelligent reason why the county seat should be retained at Pembina, instead of standing on guard with a played out old pun shotgun trying to shoo away the swarming county seat removal bees. Of course they are rather annoying to the P.E. editor, but it will keep him right smart busy to hold any considerable number of them under the spell of his magic art.

But about those woodshed files of the county records the P.E. says they are of no use and they are filed away there because there is no law to destroy them. Rather thin argument isn't it. If they are of no use and never will be, what need is there for any law to authorize their destruction? Moreover, if these same county records have no value and never will be needed

why did the county commissioners expend money to enclose a room with sheet iron to insure their protection? Why not let the “mice” eat them and be done with it? Is any other county in the state erecting and maintaining at county expense wooden woodsheds in which to file away county records that are now of no value and never will be? Is it wisdom and good financiering to expend value to maintain something that has no value? If there’s plenty of room in the vaults still unoccupied, why are the county assessment books and tax records piled up on shelves in the auditor’s office and elsewhere? Which is editor Wardwell laboring hardest to cover up, the defects and inadequacy of our present tottering county buildings or the vicious proclivities of the average Pembina city mouse?

Anyhow, give us another comet story, dear boy. May be that’ll help some.

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Cavalier Chronicle

June 8, 1910 Vol. 20 No 24

The Real Cost of New Court House

Printed in left fold, unreadable – nothing else of note

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Cavalier Chronicle

June 10, 1910 Vol. 20 No 25

Wardwell’s Tears Wet the Icelanders

Editor Wardwell shed copious tears last week and for ought to know he may be shedding them still. They were presumed to be tears of sympathy for the Icelandic residents of the county and wet enough to ??? clear through to the average Icelandic heart. Editor Wardwell read the recent Hasket article in the Grand Forks Herald on Pembina county seat and political matters and was so overcome by what was therein said that all the voters of several western county townships signed the petition for county seat removal that he became exasperated and in the extremity of his search for something to calm his quieted spirit he began to ??? over the probable influence of Dan and Magnus or the probability that the Icelandic people do not know their own kind and fully comprehend the results of county seat removal.

Editor Wardwell’s found of ??? wells up so conspicuously because of Dan’s and Magnus’ influence—which he erroneously ??? the “whole thing” in this county seat removal fight, what will that emotion become when he hears how their influence has worked over the French, German, Canadian, Scotch, Irish, English and U.S. born folks of ??, Walhalla, St. Joe, Avon, Cavalier, western Hamilton and Bathgate townships where the petition for removal is being just as readily signed by nearly as large a percentage of the people in the so called Icelandic towns.

The fact of the matter is that the county seat removal project is one of the most popular moves ever put forth in Pembina county. Icelanders no more than any other nationality of people in this county are signing the petition for removal not because of any special influence Dan or

Magnus may have over them in any way, but because they are for freedom, and believe in the right of the people to have opportunity to express themselves in all public questions, more especially upon such of so great importance as that of county seat removal, where the convenience and welfare of the great majority of resident taxpayers is concerned. Editor Wardwell might just as well, first as last, dry his tears, come down off his delusive precaution hobby and "face the music". There is no use being afraid of the cars. The county seat removal petition train is going through, no matter how much the Pioneer Express editor may rave and pitch and attempt to run away. The people of Pembina county are running this train, and while Dan and Magnus are not disobedient to the rightful duties devolving upon them in connection with the running of this train, nevertheless they are not the whole aggregation but only a small part of it.

If Wardwell doubts that the people of central and western Pembina county are not practically unanimous in favor of the removal petition let him come over this way and interview the people and get filled up on solid facts, and not sit upon his office stool making faces under the excruciating pains of unbelief while the will of the people goes forward to express itself.

As for the Icelandic people, they need no assistance from the Pioneer Express editor in order to take care of themselves. Sure it is they are not "dumb, driven sheep" at any man's hands, and will resent the insinuation that there is any possibility of their becoming such. We assure the Pioneer Express editor that he need have no fear that the Icelanders of this county, especially the men, are not the sons of their fathers. It is just because they are such that they are rising up nobly to express their principles of freedom and throttle all such attempts of the Pioneer Express to prevent them from giving voice by ballot on questions which affect the public weal. On the question of County seat removal, the Icelanders believe in giving the people the right to express themselves by ballot, not denying them that right, as the Pioneer Express editor would do. Hence they are signing the petition which will give that right regardless of the influence of Dan, Magnus or anybody else.

Same

St. Vincent Saloons To Help Pembina Fight

Some time since rumor was set afloat that the saloons of St. Vincent, Minn., which have for many years been receiving large profit on account of the Pembina county seat being located in Pembina, would put up the money needed to aid Pembina in making her fight against county seat removal. Not much evidence was given this rumor at the outset, but later developments would seem to indicate that there is probably truth in the same.

In its issue of last Friday (June 3rd) the St. Vincent New Era says: "That excellent daily journal, the Grand Forks Herald, has printed lately some very interesting articles about the county seat fight now on between Cavalier and Pembina which are read and pondered over here".

In another place in the same issue of the New Era, the editor of that paper jumps into the county seat fight in Pembina's interest as follows:

“The county seat battle among our neighbors across the river, is not only interesting, but also something fierce. The Cavalier crowd have let it be known that they are long in finances, having, it is reported, 1,500 dollars subscribed, to be spent where it will do the most good, and have also let it be known that they are ridiculously short in common sense, by committing a blunder which in a county seat scrap as well as in politics, is worse than a crime, by bragging that three towns, settled almost exclusively by Icelanders, they are sure of 96 percent of the votes, and in another township, similarly settled every voter signed their petition except one, an absentee.

In gazing enraptured and abstractly at those four townships, the Cavalier blunderbuss schemers have overlooked a fact, that a majority of the citizens of Pembina county are either of French, German, Canadian, Scotch, Irish, English or U.S. birth, and when the Cavalier bunglers have rubbed it into the people of Pembina county, that they propose to rule that county by the vote of four Icelandic towns they may afterward mortgage their city for what it will bring, add the proceeds to their “reptile fund, blow it all in, and then would not be within a rifle shot distance of beating Pembina, at the show down”.

Now what do you think of that for an exhibition of pure, unadulterated newspaper gall?

But more’s a pity—for in the Pembina Pioneer Express published the same date appears a “screed” against the Icelandic people of this county exactly in tone (though somewhat more lengthy) as the foregoing article from the St. Vincent paper. Doesn’t this show beyond dispute that an alliance “offensive and defensive” has been formed between Pembina and St. Vincent, to make a strenuous fight against the removal of the county seat, and that the newspapers of those two towns are working in “sweet accord” to do their sawdust best to earn some portion of that big contingent fund which the saloons from the town on the opposite side of the Red river have put up as “sinews of war” to aid Pembina in the fight to protect not only her own interests but the liquor interests of St. Vincent as well.

But this is not all: On May 28th the Chronicle editor received the following letter, unsigned dated at Pembina May 27 and bearing the R. P. O. postmark dated May 28th:

Pembina, May 27-10

Special to the Chronicle

Keep up the county seat removal agitation. Janitor Johnson and his helpers are busy cleaning up and Muggins is papering. All the empty beer bottles have been removed from the basement and the janitors are working night and day to have everything speck and span by court time. The officials owe you thanks. Even Wardwell swept out his office.

But there is nothing strange that the saloons of St. Vincent should put up large sums of money to carry on the fight against removal. The loss of the county seat from Pembina would be a big personal financial loss to them. Pembina however, which poses as a temperance town in a prohibition county and state, may justly be censured for descending into the depths of such an offensive alliance in order to try to keep its head above water. Certainly there would be more

true virtues and heroism expressed by going down to defeat in a single handed clean struggle to prevent removal that to win in the fight under the power of any such corrupt alliance.

That the tocin (sic) sounded by the alliance of Pembina with the saloon power of St. Vincent—if such it be is a call for the temperance forces of all Pembina county to arise in all their majestic power and fight for the removal of the county seat away from such debasing influences, we think will now be generally admitted, more especially as there is an indication that the fight against removal is to be dominated by the forces of intemperance of Minnesota's north east corner city. Moreover, the conversion of the present county court house into a veritable blind pig, as the foregoing letter would seem to indicate, gives double reason for removal of the county seat at the earliest possible date. Certainly in its present location, it is a menace to temperance and sobriety, nor may we expect true temperance principles to exist and hold sway in connection with the various official county departments of business, so long as the licensed venders of intoxicating liquors from a nearby Minnesota city have our court house under their very eaves. This new invasion of the St. Vincent saloon power into the county seat removal fight, and the fact that the same has for years held sway in attempted debauchment of men whom we have sent down to Pembina to conduct the county's department business, produces another of the most logical and intelligent reasons for change in county seat location. Living in a prohibition state under strict temperance laws, the people of Pembina county, morally speaking, are in duty bound to safeguard their officials from the contaminating influences of intemperance, more especially when such an act will, as by county seat removal, bring protection and blessing to the great number of the county's inhabitants as well.

Same

An Outside View on County Seat Removal

The Cavalier County Republican ran under date of May 26th touching upon the county seat proposition has the following to say:

"The county seat fight in Pembina county doesn't seem to have lost any of its interest judging from the papers over there and it seems to be a question just what will happen at the election this fall when the people will vote on it. Located as it is, practically in the center of the county, it would seem as though Cavalier had the best of the argument, but as it will take a two thirds vote to move the county seat, it may be possible that Pembina will hang on to it for awhile longer, even though it is located in the extreme corner of the county and difficult for the majority of the people to reach. The question of a new court house is probably not entering into the fight to any great extent, because Pembina county is worse off than we are when it comes to a court house and like us, it is only a question of a short time before a new building will have to be erected to keep up with the growth of the county. There is no question but that a county seat located about the center of the county is a distinct advantage, as, take for instance Langdon, which is practically in the center of this county. Except where the railroad facilities are exceptionally favorable there is no more sense to a county seat being located off to one side than there is to locate a school house in the corner of a district."

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Cavalier Chronicle

June 17, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 26

Editor Wardwell's New Court House Ghost Knocked Silly

Various letters from other counties explaining the cost of court houses built in their areas

Same

Icelanders Resent Wardwell's Allegation

Mountain News, June 10: It is safe to say that most of our people resent Editor Wardwell's article entitled: "Who Owns the Icelanders?", printed in last week's Pioneer Express. The Herald states nothing to the effect that Messrs. Laxdal and Brynjolfson are vaunting their personal ability to swing the Icelandic vote. Such trumped up insinuations will, therefore, in our opinion be branded as a cheap campaign fabrication and will do the Pembina cause no good.

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Cavalier Chronicle

June 24, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 27

Editor Wardwell Gets a Swat from the Grand Forks Herald

The Daily Herald Won't Stand For It

In a letter in last week's Pembina Pioneer Express, D. J. Laxdal of Cavalier seriously scares the editor of that paper for his gross misstatements and base insinuations regarding the attempted control of the Icelandic people of the county in political and county seat removal matters by Magnus Brynjolfson and himself. In commenting upon said paper the Pioneer Express editor tries to justify his statement and ??? his odious insinuations by the remark that the Grand Forks Herald gave expression to the sentiment of the Laxdal-Brynjolfson control in its recent Haskett article, and that the same must be true, under the presumption that the Herald correspondent got the information from Laxdal himself. The Daily Herald of June 21 goes back on the Pioneer Express for the misstatement of the matter and other misrepresentations, as follows:

The Herald has not taken sides in the controversy over the relocation of the county seat of Pembina county. It believes that local people can generally settle local problems better without the interference of outsiders can with it, and it aims to act in accordance with that belief. It desires to file a protest however, against the use which has been made of certain of its articles by the Pembina Pioneer Express.

A member of the Herald staff visited Pembina county a short time ago, visited some of the important towns, talked with people from many places which it was not possible to visit, learned that subjects were interesting the people of the county, and wrote about them for the

paper, letters which were almost universally recognized as fair, impartial, friendly and non-controversial. The Pioneer Express, however, in its enthusiasm for his side of the county seat controversy has used certain matter which appeared in one of those letters as a basis for charges against some of the men active in the removal project. The gravest and most specific charge is that Messrs. Laxdal and Brynolfson claim to own the Iceland vote in the western townships of the county, and will use it in the promotion of the removal plan, and for the reward or punishment of candidates who act with or against them as the case may be. This charge, the Pioneer Express asserts, is contained in one of the Herald's letters from Pembina county, and that the information on which the statements are based was given to the correspondent by Mr. Laxdal.

The Herald is perfectly willing that Wardwell and Laxdal shall fight as long and as strenuously as they please over any matter on which they disagree, but it prefers not to have its own articles distorted in order to furnish ammunition. The Herald article does not contain any such statement as that above outlined and a fair reading of it does not warrant any such conclusion as that drawn. The Pioneer Express, by the use of italics, capitals and several columns of explanatory comment, together with a careful selection of isolated sentences and clauses from the Herald letter, is able to distort some passages of the article into a remote likeness to the meaning which it attempts to read into them, but that is not a fair way to deal with an article.

The correspondent in discussing the intense interest taken in removal all over the county, told how that issue overshadowed all others, and how everything, party and factional politics, local candidates and all the rest was being subordinated to it. He pointed out how it had brought together in the same harness men who had heretofore been opposed to each other, and how it had separated old time allies. And he told of the advantage to the Cavalier movement of the dense settlement of the western townships, whose population happens to be largely Icelandic and whose vote is expected by everyone to be cast almost as a whole for the location of the county seat at Cavalier because of the greater convenience to them of the Cavalier location. This and much more like tenor was given by the correspondent, partly as the expression of the people whom he interviewed and partly as the result of his own observation. But in no case was there made or implied anything in the nature of the forced conclusions constructed the Pioneer Express.

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Cavalier Chronicle

July 1, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 28

The County Seat Removal Petition Is An Assured Fact

Same

The effort of the Pioneer Express in its last issue to discredit the statement of Robert McBride on cost of new court house fell very flat – yes, exceedingly flat. Editor Wardwell was cornered to a finish by the McBride figures and he has been looking in vain for some way to break out of the corral. But he hasn't gotten out yet. Then too, what a mess of it the Pioneer Express made

trying to defend itself against the charges of misrepresentation made by the Grand Forks Herald on the Laxdal-Brynjolfson Icelandic episode, which the P. E. Express itself invented.

Editor Wardwell should take new lessons how to draft figures to fit a blue-print design for a new state capitol building at Cavalier, to be erected in case of county seat removal. By the way, Editor Wardwell, do you think the petition for county seat removal will be shy on signers?

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Cavalier Chronicle

July 8, 1910 Vol. 20 No29

The petition for county seat removal vote has the requisite legal signers and will be presented to the board of county commissioners at their meeting in Pembina this week or later. Those who have circulated this petition have been much gratified at the readiness with which taxpayers have signed the same. Some people living in the eastern part of the county, especially in the vicinity of Pembina felt quite sure that the matter of securing the petition would be attained with great difficulty, indeed that it would have a decidedly rocky road, but we are happy to say that nothing of the kind has been experienced. The movement for change of county seat is popular throughout nearly all parts of the county. The time for removal seems fully ripe.

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Cavalier Chronicle

July 15, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 30

The Removal Petition Goes Through

At their meeting held Wednesday night the board of county commissioners granted the petition for county seat removal and ordered a vote to be taken upon the question at the November, 1910 general election.

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Cavalier Chronicle

July 22, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 31

MAGNUS BRYNOLFSON CLAIMED BY DEATH

PEMBINA COUNTY LOSES ONE OF HER MOST DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS
(full page obituary)

Wardwell's Plans Take A Tumble

The petition asking for a vote to be taken on the question of county seat removal was received and accepted by the board of county commissioners on Wednesday of last week and the board ordered that the question be submitted to vote in due and legal form at the coming November election.

Of course Editor Wardwell was immediately displeased at this action of the board, as no doubt he would be displeased at any action of the board at any time giving right to the people to express themselves by ballot upon the question.

For the past three or four months editor Wardwell has labored assiduously, even if selfishly and unwisely, by misstatement, by delusive arguments and by overdrawn and padded figures to turn the heads of the people away from the injustice to the majority of them that lurks in the present county seat location, and with this end in view he has set to work the ingenuity of himself and his bosom friends to put forth a series of unwholesome trap-nest literary tuti-fluti that should come against signing of any petition for county seat removal and thus prevent the question from coming to a vote. But all his fuss and foam has come to naught, for the people were more willing to sign the petition than no doubt they would have been had the Pioneer Express not carried on with such a high hand its delusive and personal abuse campaign. When it is remembered that the petition contained over 300 more names than the legal requirement, it is easily understood how insignificant a swath the Pioneer Express cut with its scare figures and its pop-gun articles.

Editor Wardwell had a well-set-plan to defeat the petition, but it didn't work. His scheme was, that when it should be presented to the commissioners, N. C. Young, Pembina's paid attorney, would step in and ask a delay of a month or six weeks – time enough for them to get a remonstrance and try to work enough names off the petition by that and other clandestine methods, to reduce it below the law requirement, but as the county seat removal statute did not embrace any such delayed procedure, and the commissioners were disposed to follow the statute in their dealing with the petition, the Pembina boom scheme took a disastrous tumble, and of course sent Editor Wardwell "up in the air", hence his tirade of abuse against the commissioners and the Cavalier faction of the petition "bodyguard", so called.

Having relieved himself of about eighty Brevier lines of gush on the acceptance of the petition by the board of county commissioners, the Pembina editor closes his "yop" for the week with the following thrust wholly uncalled for:

"As usual, Dan and Magnus overdid the thing. They always do. In about four weeks the county board must meet to decide upon the Drayton petition. It would have been easy to have deferred final action until that time on the county seat question. By their arbitrary acts they have themselves branded their own petition as not being of legal value because they dare not allow investigation as to its merits."

Dan and Magnus or anybody else interested in the success of the petition did not overdo any anything in connection with the same, more than to get attached thereto over 300 more legal voters' names than the law required. Every name upon the same is that of a legal voter, for every name was acknowledged before a notary public, and no signer would subscribe his name to the petition under oath unless he was legally entitled to. The petition is a thoroughly legal document and editor Wardwell is hereby challenged to prove the contrary.

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Cavalier Chronicle

July 29, 1910 Vol. 20 No.32

The Wailings of the Pioneer Express

Wardwell questions the influence of the Cavalier committee

"The Times regrets that the Cavalier People have precipitated the county seat fight at this time, it regrets that the people in such large numbers signed the petition that brings the matter to a vote and it views with decided regret the bitterness that the fight will engender in the campaign that is about to be waged, but it can see no legal or valid reason why the commissioners should seek through technical quibbles and unnecessary delay to take definite action on the petition of 1,917 voters, who ask certain rights guaranteed to them under the statute.

The Times regrets that the Pioneer Express has seen fit to criticize the commissioners in the manner it has and believes that such acts can only result in prejudicing the position of Pembina in the eyes of fir minded men."

Same

LAXDAL APPOINTED STATES ATTORNEY (replacing the late Magnus Brynjolfson)

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Cavalier Chronicle

August 5, 1910 Vol. 20 No. 33

Front page – New Court House and Jail, a Few Facts Submitted Bearing on Actual Cost of Same

It Looks Like Cavalier vs. Pembina

This spring the city of Cavalier presented its name again as a candidate for the location of the county seat, and in support thereof there was presented to the board of county commissioners at Pembina a petition signed by 1,917 of the legally qualified voters of the county. Judge Young, a former resident of Pembina county, and now of Fargo, appeared to protest against the granting of the petition and to ask for time on behalf of the city of Pembina. In view of the very large number of names attached to the petition the county commissioners felt that their duty required them to give it immediate attention. The commissioners divided themselves into two sub-committees as it were, and taking the books containing the petitions from the various districts, identified the names and signatures thereon and continued their work until ten o'clock Wednesday night at which time it was found that the petition contained considerably more than two thirds of the qualified electors of the county and that it was properly verified and thereupon the commissioners made their order submitting the question of the county seat at Cavalier at the next general election.

Geo. A. Bangs of this city represented the interests of Cavalier associated with D. J. Laxdal of Cavalier.

The Pembina county court house has long since grown too small to handle the business of a county which is so old, populous and wealthy, and today the county officers are scattered in no less than four different buildings. The county judge has his office in his own residence, the superintendent of schools is in a small separate frame building, as is also the register of deeds. The main building was constructed in 1881 under a special act of the legislature, and they are thus probably the oldest county buildings in the state, being almost 30 years old.

Fourteen years ago conditions seemed to warrant the submission of the relocation of the county seat in a more central part of the county and the question was submitted to the electors. At that time Cavalier, also was a candidate but there were other towns in the race and while Cavalier received a large majority it failed to receive the necessary two thirds and the county seat remained at Pembina.

Same

Let Pembina Show It
(too badly faded to read)

● * * * * *

Cavalier Chronicle
August 1, 1910 Vol. 20

New Court House and Jail

A Few Facts Submitted Bearing on Actual Cost of Same

The cost of a new, fire-proof court house and jail for Pembina county need not and should not be about \$60,000. One was recently completed at Carrington in Foster County, ND for \$59,235, a handsome, substantial fire-proof structure in every particular-good enough for any county, and if Pembina county builds one as good as this, it will certainly meet all requirements for a hundred years. A full description of the Foster county court house and jail, as furnished by Beuchner & Orth, the well known St Paul architects, will be mailed by the Chronicle to any taxpayer of Pembina County wishing the same.

Refer to any interest table and you will find that twenty dollars paid in installments of one dollar a year, with interest at the rate of five per cent, per annum, compounded once a year, will at the end of twenty years, amount to \$34.71. Applying this to a sinking fund as it accumulates, we get the following results. \$60,000 dived by \$34.72 gives a result of a little over \$1,728. For this argument we will call the result \$1,800. This amount would be paid into the sinking found each year for twenty years to pay off the contemplated bonded indebtedness of \$60,000. We can sell our twenty-year bonds to the state at four per cent, making the yearly payment of interest \$2,400. Our annual payment then on account of such building bonds would be:

Sinking fund \$1,800
Interest of Bonds \$2,400.

Total \$4,200.

The assessed valuation of property in the county is approximately \$7,000,000. A yearly tax on this amount of six-tenths of a mill on the dollar or 60 cents, per \$1,000 will provide the required \$4,200 a year.

To illustrate what this is going to cost the average taxpayer, we will, for an example take the assessment of Mr. P. of Hamilton Township, as follows. 240 acres of land assessed at \$2,004, personal property assessed at \$365, making a total assessment of \$2,369. The tax on this for \$60,000 court house and jail bonds would be \$1.42 per year for twenty years. Many quarter section farms in the county would contribute less than 25 cents annually for this purpose, and the quarter-section carrying the highest valuation in Cavalier township would contribute only 89 cents a year. Surely this is not going to impose a burden on the taxpayers.

The above figures are based on the theory that we invest our sinking fund at five per cent, which is the rate that the county is now receiving on the sinking funds, belongs to the various county drains. It is safe to figure on this basis, as an reduction in the rate earned is sure to be offset by property increase in the total assessed valuation.

Chronicle
Same date

Editorial Twaddle

The Pioneer Express editor is a great juggler of figures. He prides himself upon his ability to delude the people through the figure system. Taking up the correct statement of Robert McBride of this city on cost of court house and how payment therefore may be simplified by the help of a legally created sinking fund, the Pioneer Express editor labors hard to show his own smartness through the agency of a mess of silly twaddle.

This is one of his specimens: "But the banks of the county (one of which is controlled by Mr. McBride) would be holding this money at five per cent and loaning it to some of the same taxpayers at ten per cent, and perhaps that may be one reason that he is so earnest in his desire to have the court house moved to Cavalier for the benefit of the people".

The fact of the matter is Mr. McBride does not control the Cavalier bank of which he is president. The bank is controlled by a board of directors and he is only one of their salaried officers and servants. If the bank of which Mr. McBride is president is loaning money at 10 percent it is taking no more than the legal rate, (indeed two percent less), and is doing this does not exceed the percent requirements of the Pembina bank nor do any act that could receive censure from the people any more than the act of the Pioneer Express in requiring the payment of statue rates for publishing legal notices.

Listen to this from the P.E. "The money borrowed from the state at four percent to build the court house is not the money that goes into the sinking fund. The money borrowed goes into brick, mortar, wages, etc. The money which goes to make up a sinking fund comes from the pocket of the farmer. The farmer's money as a producer or investment is forever dead. When placed in the building as an investment it stands for a yearly loss of interest of \$2,400 even at Mr. McB's very low estimate of cost. Not only for twenty years but for all future time".

The delusive theory couched in the foregoing paragraph is that money invested in houses, lands is lost forever with no value returned on the investment. Great logic, isn't it! We had supposed that the use of such buildings and lands and the good purpose they had served through succeeding years to the owner and occupant could be reckoned as worth the investment and the interest thereon. If the annual loss is really so great at the Pioneer Express editor theorizes, it, then the county has been pouring its money into those old rattle-trap county buildings at Pembina all these years for naught, and may keep on pouring money into them with such results so long as the county retains its business headquarters at Pembina.

Beautiful (?) allegory of the white-headed editor of the Pioneer Express.

"Mr. McBride figures that for a \$60,000 court house at Cavalier the taxpayers would only have to pay \$4,200 a year for twenty years. Allowing this to be true what is the value of \$4,200 per year for twenty years? If you went to Mr. McBrides bank at Cavalier to borrow this money he would ask you 10 per cent per year. Taking this as the value of the money to the borrower or lender, and therefore to the taxpayer, then \$4,200 yearly payments for twenty years at ten per cent simple interest alone is \$88,200 and adding the twenty payments of \$4,300 the total would be \$172,000. As an offset the taxpayers would have a \$50,000 court house in the City of Cavalier –Pioneer Express"

The above is editorial rot, pure and simple, and shows to what depths of crookedness and deceit the Pioneer Express is willing to descent in its efforts to prejudice the people against county seat removal. No comment is necessary in order to bring out the rot in the Pioneer Express' statement that lurks in the above. It is apparent on its very face. The P.E. editor is certainly hard up for argument.

Chronicle
Sept 2, 1910

Front page letter to the editor from F. H. Gunderson

Crystal Call editorial calling down Wardwell of the P.E.

Chronicle Sept 16, 1910

First article repeated again

Editorial

Beaten and humiliated at every turn so far in the matter of county seat removal, and seeing the beginning of the end of her fruitless fight to prevent the county seat from going to Cavalier, Pembina now in a last desperate struggle pleads the baby act and has petitioned the Supreme Court to take a hand against removal. Using A. E. Thacker, Thos. Connell and O.H. Johnson as cats' paws with which to extract the coveted chestnut from the fire, so to speak, Pembina has caused a temporary injunction to be served on the county commissioners to show cause why they should not refrain from calling an election on the county seat removal question on the ground that the provisions of the removal petition Hamilton is prevented from becoming a candidate for county seat honors. Arguments will be heard by the Supreme Court Sept. 27.

This last grand stand play of the Pembina contingent shows that they realize their cause is utterly doomed, for a thorough canvas of the matter has convinced them that the great majority of the taxpayers in the county are heartily in favor of removing the county seat to Cavalier where it will be central and where the financial and material interest of the county will be best served.

In noticing this appeal to the supreme court the Grand Forks Herald says "the petitioners make various allegations as to the illegality of the petitions, contending that the form does not conform to the statutes in that a large number of the names were not signed by the persons whose names appear; that a large number of the names were not verified by the electors; that a large number of the signers are not qualified electors. It is understood, however, that the petitions contained several hundred more names than the required number and there seems to be little doubt as to the sufficiency of the petitions on that score. Attorney G. A. Bangs, of this city, appears with State's Attorney D. J. Laxdal for the county commissioners, while, Ball, Watson, Young and Hardy of Fargo, represent the interests of Pembina in the suit."

What the outcome of his appeal to the supreme court will be of course no one can certainly foretell but the grounds of the petitioners have no foundation in fact that will be sufficient to upset the legality of the appeal, in the minds of many of the best attorneys of the state.

The nature of the appeal would indicate that Pembina is bent on depriving the people of this county from expressing themselves by vote on the question of county seat removal. Bull will the people stands such subversion of their rights?

Front page letter repeated

The Very Artful Pembina Committee

First sentences virtually unreadable

....To illustrate ... suggested that Walhalla, with its beautiful location, natural advantages and unsurpassed scenery would be as good as any place if the court house must move from Pembina. The (unreadable) being that if it is a free for all fight and that the town getting the

largest number of votes can walk off with the county seat. This is only a part of the old game that was played fourteen years ago, and in the contest there was enough votes given to Neche, Bathgate and Hamilton to have placed the county seat in Cavalier if they have been cast for that town. It takes two thirds of all votes cast to remove the court house from Pembina. If you believe that a new court house is needed and that the court house should be where it would be of the greatest good to all of the people, then there is but one town to vote for: Cavalier. Any other town that comes out for the location now is acting as a tool of the Pembina committee and in the interests of Pembina City. Neche was talked of as the town to use for this purpose, at first, but the generals in charge have changed base and now they will advocate Hamilton. There is no more chance of Hamilton's being the county seat, this time, than it has had in the past, nor will it ever have in the future. O.H. Johnson and his friends are purely and simply working in the interest of Pembina. Walhalla Mountaineer

● * * * * *

Same

Times Change: So Will the County Seat

Of late years Pembina, as the county seat, has caused unnecessary expense to the tax payer, due to its remote location from the center of population. Thirty years ago such a statement would have been absurd on its face. A generation ago the central and western portions of the county were sparsely settled with no railroad facilities. The population at that time centered around Pembina and Pembina was the logical place for the county seat. But time brings changes. Three railway lines are now operated in the central and western portions of and population is here. Furthermore, the geographical center of the county is at or very near Cavalier. But this alone is a poor argument for removal unless substantiated by facts and figures as to what benefit will accrue to the people who contribute towards the support of the county's administrative affairs, what saving in taxes a change in the seat of government would bring about. The matter of expense in keeping the old buildings in repair and the extra cost in heating and lighting of four separate buildings has been set forth by the county press, also the great convenience to the officials and general public a modern building with sufficient vault room would afford. The saving in jurors' mileage has also been alluded to. Bare statements are not necessarily true, however, and on the subject of juror's mileage we have procured from the clerk of court's office the names of those who served at the January 1909 term, and the distance necessary to be traveled in going to and returning from Pembina. The figures are startling and prove conclusively the needless waste of county funds in this particular. The total number of miles traveled by these 58 jurors was 7,542. If Cavalier had been the county seat the total mileage would have been but 3,756, a difference in Cavalier's favor of 3,786 miles! The average mileage to and from Pembina was 130 and to and from Cavalier would have been 65. The jurors fees in mileage for each term of court has and will continue to average up with the January 1909 term, just so long as the county seat is allowed to remain where it is. But here are the figures, which are easily verifiable in support of our position

List too long to reprint

(Late) September (date unreadable)

(Banner headline) The Supreme Court Decides in Favor of Cavalier

Vote on County Seat must be Taken

Hamilton Not a Candidate

Facts article from first paper still being repeated

Commissioners during the fight: Adam Norton, John K. Olafson, Wm. Bigwood, Joseph Morin and F. C. Myrick

Same

Hamilton Independent: One of the three signers to the petition to be presented to the supreme court alleging that if the question of county seat removal was allowed to be voted on at the November election, Hamilton is a candidate, justified his action upon the ground of free thought and free speech, that is all very well and no one can or does enter objection upon that ground. This is a free country. But the people of Hamilton do strenuously and uncompromisingly register a protest at the presumption displayed by this party in so flagrantly misrepresenting them, individually and collectively, upon any matter, without the proper credentials. Had the three "patriots" been satisfied with representing themselves and not Hamilton village there could have been some legitimate cause for adverse comment, but they made the grave mistake of pronouncing their wishes and desires to be the wishes and desires of others, without authorization. Hence the "protest" which is couched in terms too emphatic and scathing to be misunderstood.

Same

Crystal Call: Now honestly, Mr. Pioneer Express, do you think that indebtedness for local improvements such as building school houses, drains, etc., can be counted as county indebtedness? In the item of drains is it not with the distinct end in view to increase the yields of grain from the land drained that such drains are constructed and will not the increased yield in nearly every case pay the cost of the drain by the time the debt is payable? Schools are a part of the expense of educating our families and we can have just as much or just as little of it as we please. The same may be said of all forms of debt outside of that of the county – it doesn't apply, Pembina county has no debts, but a large balance of cash in the treasury.

Same

Hamilton Independent: Thirty-four of the forty legal voters of the village of Hamilton register their protest against the false and malicious attitude Hamilton has been made to temporarily assume through the egotism and presumptiveness of would be dictators of her policy. Such a

stinging rebuke is seldom administered, but the punishment fits the crime, and the recipients would do well to hereafter make at least a "bluff" at ascertaining public sentiment before displaying in so public a manner their gross ignorance of it. Of the four legal voters whose names do not appear on the protest, one is of the "triumvirate", one absent threshing and another said that he would sign no paper but that he should most certainly not vote for Hamilton as the county seat even if a candidate, and gave as his reason that he didn't "care to throw his vote away."

Same

(partial story from page 1, continued later and readable)

Now, therefore we, the undersigned citizens of voters of Hamilton, hereby disaffirm, repudiate and protest against said statement and representation in so far as the same purports to have been made in our interest or upon our behalf. This we do from the plain dictates of common sense. First, because such a candidacy on the part of Hamilton would be obviously futile; second, because such a project could only benefit the interest of Pembina, might thwart the real desire of the people of our county as a whole and perpetuate, indefinitely, a condition which has long since become a stigma upon their public spirit, intelligence and civic pride:

J F Kippen,
D A Kippen
F A Argue
Dan McIntosh
H E Kellar
John Olafson
H L Sveinson
Laurie Johnson
J B Tyler
Reuben Blackmore
A R Marquardt
D R Beggs
John Rock
A Moen
Ed Collins
J H Vandewater
J W Canfield
Jas McQuarters
E J Willson
Oscar Simunds
H P Wood
W B Clements
D D Warner
P H McMillan
Geo L Paxman

Fred Zeffler
C Bluhm
Geo Hess
Maurice Rowe
S Newlove
J D McDermid
D Sinclair
Robt. Morton
John Argue
Hamilton Independent

Same

Continued from page 2 (page 1 unreadable)

The much talked of judicial proceedings that were started some days ago by O. H. Johnson, of Illinois, and some of the citizens of Pembina to stop the commissioners of this county from submitting to a vote of the people the question of whether they should have the right to express their choice this fall on the relocation and removal of the county seat, was decided Saturday by the supreme court at Bismarck, a full bench sitting.

The decision is short, terse and decisive. Writ denied and order to show cause quashed. The court did not even dignify by the usual custom of having it signed by one of the judges. It did not take but a few moments for the chief court of the state to settle this underhanded manner adopted by these people of Pembina to deny 1,917 citizens of electors of Pembina county (a large number more than three-fifths of the voting population) the right to express themselves on this important question peacefully and orderly according to the laws of the state.

The people of Pembina, or rather those who have had in charge the management of the campaign relative to the removal of the county seat to a more central point, have, from the first, attempted to throw obstacles in the road of all who wished to secure an honest expression of the voters of the county on this most important question. The Pioneer Express, the organ of the Pembina committee, has attempted to arouse the prejudice of the people and cause them to refuse to sign the petition for a vote, but this failed. Then expensive counsel was secured to appear before the county commissioners in an attempt to cause that body to reject the petition of 1,917 voters of the county praying for the rights of American freedom, the right to decide by a legal election a question of great moment. This too failed, and then this same paper, the Pioneer Express opened the vials of its wrath and poured them on the heads of the men who refused to nullify the effect of the Great Charter signed by King John, to nullify the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights of the federal and state constitutions – the right of petition.

Finding that bulldozing tactic would not work, and that in spite of their every effort the people of the county would secure their legal rights unless they could get the supreme court of the state to assume original jurisdiction of this matter and stop the commissioners from obeying the

laws of the state and will of the citizens of Pembina county as expressed in the petition presented to them, these men invoke the aid of the of the highest court of the state, and now have their answer: That the election must be held, as ordered by the commissioners.

That the people of Pembina have a right to fight to retain the county seat no one will deny or attempt to abrogate, but what of the tactics? The spreading of false and malicious statements tending to prejudice the minds of the voters of the county against the petition to call an election, the attempt to bulldoze the commissioners into denying a legal petition signed by almost 75 percent of the legal voters of the county, the unjustifiable attacks on the commissioners because of their refusal to become the partisans of Pembina and violate their official oaths, and finally in rushing to the capital of the state and attempting to get the supreme court to assume original jurisdiction of a matter that belongs entirely to the district courts of the state.

What do you think of these tactics, Mr. Voter? Do you consider them fair and decent? Do you think you have treated right by the Pembina people no matter whether you are for or against them in their fight when they assume you don't know how to vote on such an important matter and endeavor in every way to stop you from exercising your rights as a citizen of this county?

Think it over carefully, and then when you vote in November place your seal of disapproval on such methods and such men by voting to remove the county seat to Cavalier.

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Chronicle
October 7, 1910

Cost of court house ad repeated

Headline: Every Friend of County Seat Removal Boosts for Cavalier

Resolution of October county commissioners meeting:

"Whereas, there has been accumulated in the county general fund the sum of \$20,000 for which there appears to be no immediate use, upon motion duly adopted it was resolved that the county auditor advertise for sealed proposal for one year time deposit of said sum as provide by chapter 70, Law of 1909. Proposals to be opened at 2 o'clock p.m. Nov 4, 1910

It is well to note in this connection that the State Examiner had informed the county authorities that the surplus in the general fund of the county had become too large -- \$65,000, on June 30th and must be disposed of in some manner very soon. Of course, another transfer, perhaps equally large, will be made very soon. What will be done with the money?

Mr. Citizen, the question before you is now as clear as a day in June. Pembina knows that a court house, fire proof and commodious, must soon be built to house the valuable records now

scattered throughout four firetraps at Pembina. Pembina knows that the money is now being made available, and much of it is NOW available, without the vote of the people on bonds or on the impositions of a special tax. Pembina's scheme is to get a majority on the board of county commissioners; the board will then create a building fund, transfer to that fund the amounts necessary and erect new county buildings at Pembina and thus fix the county seat in the corner of the county forever, and all this without submitting the matter to popular vote. The location of the county seat cannot be voted upon again within ten years, but Pembina intends that a court house will be built before that time and intends that no vote on the question of location shall ever again be taken.

Same

Challenge Accepted

A copy of the statute relating to the building of courthouses, wherein it states plainly that no such buildings can be erected without a vote of the people, can be had by dropping a postal card in the office addressed to the Pioneer Express, Pembina. To those who have access to the Political Code of North Dakota, look up sections 2419, 2406 and 2565. When the Cavalier committee tells you that a new court house can be built without a vote of the people ask them to show you the law authorizing such act – make them furnish you a copy of the laws and the Sections in the Code. If they can't do it treat their argument as falsehood... Pioneer Express

Your challenge is accepted by the Chronicle, Mr. Wardwell, so you better hump yourself and order pencils and coffee for two. Yes, most certainly a new court house can be built without a vote of the people and is authorized by law – the state law of North Dakota, in which state we live, move and have our being. You will find it in the Laws of 1903, Chapter 73. We published the act in full in the last issue of the Chronicle, but lest your "specs" had become so clouded you did not see it we republish it herein. We don't ask anybody to "send us a postal card" requesting a copy of the law. They can cut it right out of this issue of the Chronicle and compare it with the original to see that we have copied it correctly, It is as follows: (text not copied).....There, now, you boaster, that ought to "settle your hash". What's more, was any vote of the people ever taken or bonds issued in order to secure the erection of the register of deeds' building, the county judge's office building or the county superintendent's office building? No, most certainly not. The county commissioners did that work out of the county funds on hand. These buildings are presumed to be part of the old antiquated Pembina county court house, too. You have put them out before the people as such in the pictures which grace your little red pamphlet, "The Court House Question". If these buildings could be erected without the vote of the people, so can a new court house whether it be built at Cavalier or Pembina. In fact the law above quoted says it can be done, and that settles it.

Now bring on the coffee, neighbor Wardwell.

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Conspiracy Ten Years Old Exposed

For ten years conspiracy to fix the county seat at Pembina forever has been in the making. Some of the steps are as follows and are well known.

1. To expend lavishly of the people's money in order to keep the present county buildings standing and in fresh paper and paint until the last step in the scheme could be taken.
2. To prevent a vote on county seat removal until the conspiracy should have been perfected. To accomplish this the friends of Pembina put a law through the legislature at Bismarck increasing the period of time that must pass before the question of county seat removal could be voted upon again from four to ten years. You can't vote on this again until 1920, and then the conspiracy will have been carried out.
3. To gradually increase the balance in the general fund by levying more taxes than the county needed, and thus pile up a large surplus "for which there is no use" according to the state examiner. To accomplish this, Myrick of Pembina, has made the motion fixing the levy. That surplus reached the enormous sum of \$65,000 June 30, 1910. (see treasurer's report).
4. To create a building fund according to law and erect some buildings at Pembina when the surplus has become large enough so that the question of moving the county seat to a more central point could not come up again.

These are the leading steps in this far-reaching scheme to defeat the will of the majority of the people of the county. The chain of evidence on this point is complete and unbreakable. We defy Pembina to break it by the presentation of facts and by logical argument. The partisans of Pembina may pick it into oakum but they cannot break it. They stand convicted before the highest court of this county, the tribunal of the common people.

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False Statement of Pembina Lawyer

On June 30, 1902, there was the sum of \$12,000 as a balance in the county general fund. That amount was sufficient for all purposes and no money was borrowed. Now take notice. On the 30th of June, 1910, a balance of \$65,000 appeared in the general fund, or an increase of \$53,000 since 1902. Why this increase? Why pile up money in the county treasury "for which there is no use", that should be in the pockets of the tax-payers? Bear this always in mind, Mr. Voter, that the Pembina people and the Pioneer Express have up to a late date denied that this surplus may be transferred from the general fund. The Pembina paper, laws week, said that this surplus could be used for the payment of bridge warrants. This is the law and the Pioneer Express states it correctly. Therefore do not allow yourselves to be misled by statements, privately made by a Pembina gentleman, who has been said to be a lawyer to the effect that this surplus could be used to meet the bridge warrants. The law is as clear as daylight. The only purpose for which it could be used is for the creation of a building fund.

The Pembina man who makes the false statements knows the law is otherwise. If the law allowed that, or had ever allowed that, the county board would have paid some of these warrants in this manner before. The board has acquired three buildings without your vote and that was perfectly legal, and the board may, and Pembina is now scheming that it, do so again.

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Chronicle

November 4, 1910

You Will Vote Next Tuesday

And at that time you should cast your vote to remove the county seat to Cavalier. The convenience of eight-tenths of the taxpayers, as well as the money-saving interests of the county, demand that the county seat should be removed to a more central location and Cavalier is the most centrally located town in Pembina county. A new court house must be built right away, and if Cavalier does not win this fight it will be built in Pembina, and the county seat ever remain there.

Vote for Removal of the County Seat to Cavalier

(Front page drawings of the buildings in use in Pembina-photo of Carrington court house with the caption "This Looks More Like it!")

Frame buildings – separate frame buildings had be provided for the Superintendent of Schools, the Register of Deeds and the Judge of the Probate Court. These officers now do their work and house important and valuable records in ordinary frame buildings, gradually decaying and every year becoming more and more liable to fire from within and from without. This is a condition without a parallel in this or any other state. Records, deeds and documents, which, if destroyed, would throw the rights of title to property into utter confusion, as housed in frame buildings that would burn like straw.

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Letter from Auditor W.W. Felson to Sveinbjorn Johnson, Cavalier – documenting county general fund balances as of July 1st of each year from 1900 thru 1910.

1900 - \$32,361.69
1901 - \$21,427.48
1902 – \$11,917.79
1903 - \$14,767.31
1904 – \$17,983.65
1905- \$13,455.59
1906 – \$17,713.91
1907 – \$30,257.02
1908 – \$47,684.08

1909 – \$53,689.72

1910 – \$63,931.34

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Some time ago Editor Wardwell in a frenzy of excitement exclaimed “Who owns the Icelanders?” The big land slide in favor of county seat removal should answer his question quite satisfactory—they own themselves and are political tools of no man or set of men. They know what they want, when they want it and how to go to work to get it.

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Chronicle

November 18, 1910

Cavalier Won

Neché Chronotype

Things were quiet in Neche on Election Day. The voting was quiet and orderly, and not until the shades of night were falling could any be seen walking with uncertain stop and slow.

On the day following the election there was a noticeable absence of hard feelings. Those who had fought for the lost cause were good losers and took their defeat gamely.

The people have spoken. The large majority shows beyond a doubt that a majority are in favor of county seat removal. No fair-minded man will dispute that.

The Chronotype believed that new buildings were unnecessary and we have no apologies to our readers for the stand we took.

However, now that the question is settled and the people have decided to put up buildings, it is the part of wisdom to erect good ones. We have the finest county in the state, and when we build, we ought to build well. Not a building that will be inadequate in a few years, but a substantial and imposing edifice that will last for decades and be a credit to Pembina County.

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County Seat Aftermath

Tuesday was a cold day in the northeast corner of the county – Pioneer Express

A “yellow dog” is far better managed by kicks than kindness – Pioneer Express

There are some very mean men in the county of Pembina but the meanest of these live in the southeast corner – Pioneer Express

(Don't call names – you may want to walk across that new bridge at Drayton some day)

That the citizens of Pembina will go ahead and go on, as well, if not better than before, we who have lived with them so many years are certain – Pioneer Express

If the vote on Tuesday had also carried with it the privilege of separation from the rest of the county, the most of the voters of the first commissioner district would have been willing to let the court house go in the bargain – Pioneer Express

Towns like Hamilton, Bathgate and Walhalla will in the future have a hard time dodging the debris of the ruined court house at Pembina. They like Sampson may have been strong enough to dislodge the pillars of the temple and massacre many of the Pembina Philistines. But it will be remembered that Sampson also died. – Pioneer Express

Pembina paid its political promises on Tuesday in good shape. They also incurred some debts to both certain candidates and communities, which they will endeavor to pay at future elections when the opportunity occurs. Pembina knows and remembers its friends – and enemies. Particularly ingrates – Pioneer Express

The total vote on the county seat question as tabulated was 2,992. Necessary to Cavalier, 1,995. This makes Cavalier 190 votes ahead. That is, if that many voters had voted for Pembina instead of Cavalier the former would have won out. The following will show just where that many voters lived who voted for Cavalier instead of Pembina – Drayton 94, Lincoln 37, Carlisle 45, Joliette 15; total 198. Just enough and eight to spare you see. Thanks neighbors. If Cavalier's neighbors had been equally kind to Pembina we would have won. But it is observable that it was different over west on the neighbor business however. On the other hand Pembina had some mighty good friends in all the above towns to whom we are especially grateful. Joliette particularly did splendidly for Pembina under the temptation offered. Pioneer Express

Perhaps you "tempted" Joliette and some other of your neighbors, too much so with the wrong stuff. Red river bridges and St. Vincent beer couldn't stop the court house from coming to Cavalier under such circumstances. – Chronicle

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The county seat, according to law, will be removed to Cavalier if all goes smoothly in just ninety days. We are wondering where those precious county records will be stored when they arrive there. The date of the dedication of the new \$60,000 court house over there has not yet been made. There are some red tape matters that will likely interfere with the finishing of the building in time to receive the documents. Such as a bond election, or perhaps two or three of them, as the actual amount of bonds necessary has been a matter of argument and it may still be some time before that matter is settled – and then it takes some time to build too – Pioneer Express

Fargo Forum – Editor Fairchild of Cavalier is to be congratulated on landing the county seat of Pembina. He made some fight.

Walter Welford and Attorney Spiller, of Pembina, were here Monday in the interests of Pembina for the “hub” – Walhalla Mountaineer

Cavalier must feel complimented by the splendid vote that town got for the county seat – Walhalla Mountaineer

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Chronicle – Nov 25, 1910

The Pembina “fellers” who claim they lost nothing by county seat removal, all the same seem exasperatingly willing to spend their money to try to thwart the will of the people so as to retain the county seat in Pembina. Application to the district court to restrain the county commissions from declaring Cavalier the county seat, on account of claimed illegal technicalities in the petition and ballet was made some days ago and the matter will be argued before Judge Pollock in Fargo tomorrow (Saturday).

And after all this fuss Editor Wardwell makes the surprising admission that the removal of the court house is “no loss to Pembina” – Edinburg Tribune

The Pembina commissioner as a “ball sheep” went rantankerous on the board last week and upset the Drayton bridge appropriation which he had previously voted into existence—and then the Pembina push looked wise at Drayton and triumphantly shouted: “There goes yer bridge, you mean things, you!” But Drayton will get her new steel bridge all the same.

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Chronicle
Dec 2, 1910

Cavalier Wins in District Court

Cavalier has won out over Pembina again on the county seat removal question. The fight waged in the district court on the part of Pembina to prohibit the county commissioners from declaring the result of vote upon the county seat and ordering the county seat removed to Cavalier in compliance therewith, resulted in an order from Judge Pollock, before whom the case was argued, throwing out the writ of prohibition.

Pembina immediately took an appeal from the decision of Judge Pollock and the matter will now have to be settled by the Supreme Court, and a delay in the removal of the county seat to Cavalier will be occasioned until that august judicial body passed upon the case.

This makes the fourth time Cavalier has won out over Pembina on the county seat removal matter, viz. First, in the removal petition; second in the Supreme court prior to the election; third in the election itself, and fourth in the district court.

Pembina seems determined to resort to any and all kinds of vain tricks and schemes to try to thwart the will of the people. Apparently they have no idea of recognizing the voice of the people of Pembina County until actually compelled to do so.

Cavalier has overwhelmingly, logically, legally, fairly and gloriously won the county seat, by the votes of the people, and she can afford to wait a little while for Pembina to spend her effort butting her brains out against a legal stonewall.

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December 23, 1910

County commissioners report of aid to Drayton bridge project – details

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January 6, 1911

The new board of county commissioners was organized this week. The new members of board comprise A. B. Purdy of the first district, Norman Matheson of the third district and Jos. Morrison of the 5th district. The new board has its record yet to make and we cannot forecast exactly how bright and satisfactory that record will be. However, from the ability of reputation of the several new members and what the county has been realizing in good, practical service from the old members who are to remain upon the board, we believe the people of Pembina county may expect efficient service at the hand of the new board—a service that shall be based upon wise, economical and practical administration of county affairs.

The retiring members of the board are F. C. Myrick, Wm. Bigwood and Adam Norton. It might perhaps be expected by some that the Chronicle should take occasion at this time to pay its respects to the first two of this retiring commissioners for their displayed animosity to county seat removal. But the Chronicle will do no such thing. We give credit to Mr. Myrick for acting in harmony with the prevailing sentiment of his own city and a large part of his district. Mr. Bigwood may have thought he also was representing prevailing sentiment in his district, but if so he was far from being in that close touch with his constituency which is a representative's privilege and duty to be, and his shyness cost him the loss of his official job. As for Mr. Norton, his services have been satisfactory not only to the people of his own district but to those of nearly the entire county as well, and he retires from office with the plaudits of the great majority. Mr. Myrick had been longest in service on the board of any man in the county elected to the position, and he had shown much ability and shrewdness in the discharge of his official duties. He made a good business record in the office.

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The spectacle of poor old Pembina rising up in her might to try to throttle the expressed will of four fifths of the voters of this county regarding the removal of the county seat to a more central and accessible location, is indeed a sad commentary on the wisdom, intelligence and conscience of that antiquated city. The spirit that refuses to obey majority rule expressed in legitimate and logical way, in any rightful cause, is a dangerous force in the elements of American citizenship. In defying the will of the great majority, Pembina cannot possibly figure in

the light and conscience of having set up defense for any legitimate rights that belong to her. She has no existing rights that would justify any attempt of her part to hold the county seat now that the people by so large a majority vote have declared for its removal to Cavalier. Her attempted hold-up of the county seat removal vote is therefore little short of a spiteful onslaught upon the rights and justice of the people and which can work out for that city only eventual disappointment and humiliation.

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Chronicle

January 13, 1911

Pembina'S Supporters Disgusted

Walhalla Mountaineer: The county seat farce being played in this great county of Pembina may be pleasing to the Pembina people but it is not being watched by the people at large – those who are paying for the Pembina committee fun—with any degree of pleasure or patience. The people are not satisfied to have this wish thwarted by a few dissatisfied ones in the north east corner and some of the staunchest supporters of Pembina for the county seat are disgusted at the trivial charges and underhand methods of delay and excuse. With the new county board now seated and with the new states attorney taking up his duties, we trust trial cases will be pushed along and delays of the Pembina committee attorneys frustrated. Attorney Laxdal was in the peculiar position of being an “interested party” and professional courtesy forced him to make concessions to the opposition when asked. This is not the case with Mr. McMurchie in the district attorney’s office. It is his duty to expedite the county business. And by the way, we wish to correct an error in public opinion that these contests are brought by the “people of Pembina”. We have it on the word of a Pembina city resident that “only eight people of Pembina city are in favor of the contest and only half of them are in hopes of a favorable verdict”. It is easy to pick out the residents who are causing the unnecessary trouble.

Crystal Call: Before election Pembina people were very anxious to save expenses to the county, but since then they seem doubly anxious to add to the burden of taxation. Strange, isn't it?

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Chronicle

January 27, 1911

Walhalla Mountaineer: Editor Wardwell remarks in his Pioneer Express about the county seat question, that “the courts are just and the proper place to settle this matter.” As a matter of fact, the matter was settled by the people most emphatically, Nov. 8th. In honesty and justice the people decided in favor of Cavalier. In all truth the matter has no business in a court room if the wishes of the majority of the people and a large majority are to count for anything. There is no question of the honesty of the people or of their desired.

But owing to a quibble about words a Court was forced to take cognizance of a small handful of citizens who are fighting hard to retain their “pull” with the powers that be, and now, as the

Express says, “the courts are the proper place to settle this matter” when they get around to it. The people of the county are patient and long suffering as well as law abiding, but the delay in a decision is making them annoyed and restless. It might help some if the cases pending were called and more quickly decided. The trouble with the prosecution is that they really are afraid of the decision and are working for delay.

Pembina’s Shame

It is too bad Pembina does not take her defeat in the county seat contest more philosophically, and that there appears to be lacking in her citizenship men with foresight enough to have forecasted the sorry spectacle that now confronts her as a result of the childish methods adopted since election. It is to be deplored that a city with which so much early history of the state is connected should, in her declining years, throw overboard all that stands for justice and fair play as (rest missing)

Putting the matter in its true light it may be summed up like this: a half dozen disgruntled citizens of Pembina have set out to defy the expressed will of the people of Pembina County on county seat removal and to plunge the county into deep expense to defend and maintain the said will of the people as thus expressed.

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- Chronicle
- February 3, 1911

Cut it Out

We understand Pembina has cut out its county seat removal election contest suit against the county in the main, reserving only some of the legal points therein which are also contained in the injunction case against the county commissioners now before the supreme court. We presume, if this is not practically a virtual withdrawal of the whole contest case, that it is the intention of the Pembina anti-removal contingent to have something to fall back upon to cause further delay in the removal of the county seat to Cavalier in case the supreme court goes against them in the present appeal case now before it, in which event they would expect to get their flimsy contest case before the district court and if they meet with defeat there secure another appeal to the supreme judicial body—all just for the purpose of delay and to in some measure appease their disgruntled feelings. If there are any other thoughts in their mind which would seem to indicate that they are willing to abide by the overwhelmingly expressed will of the people as good American citizens, then the Chronicle has misinterpreted the “graces” of the Pembina contingent, and is willing to be forgiven.

Hamilton Independent:

Judge Kneeshaw and the County Seat Case

There appears to be a disposition upon the part of some to place the blame for the delay in bringing the county seat case to trial upon the shoulders of Judge Kneeshaw, alleging that he

has shown a disposition to favor Pembina in the continuation of the case from time to time. We can hardly agree with the critics. It should be remembered that as a wearer of the judicial ermine and a resident of Pembina, Judge Kneeshaw is placed in a delicate and embarrassing position. The Independent gives the court credit for wanting to do the right thing by the parties involved, and yet it is possible that his rulings may have leaned toward the unexpressed desires of his Pembina friends and neighbors with whom he has comingled for so many years. Judge Kneeshaw's reputation for rectitude of purpose has never been questioned, nor is it now, but – to err is human.

The question that arises in our mind is, did not Judge Kneeshaw make a mistake in allowing the action to be brought when he knew of his disqualification? He gave his consent to the action and then refused to hear it, notwithstanding the fact that no affidavit of prejudice has been filed. The county commissioners, representing 2,249 of the legal voters of the county, felt that the importance of the case was of sufficient moment to demand a speedy trial and were, therefore, not adverse to having the Pembina jurist sit on the case, knowing full well that with the law and evidence before him any personal feeling that might exist would vanish as dew before the morning sun in rendering of a decision.

The question of a county seat election should not be allowed to drag under any circumstances, for the quicker a matter of this kind is definitely settled the quicker will reign "Peace on earth, good will to men" in the community in which a contest is instituted.

Chronicle
February 10, 1911

It is up to Editor Wardwell now to make apologies on behalf of the Pembina fighting contingent for having withdrawn the charges of bribery, fraud and bargain alleged in the complaint of their county seat election contest suit. Those Pembina "fellers" are great on the bluff-- but bluffs have ceased to go on the county seat removal question. The people of Pembina county will no longer stand for them.

(Chronicle Editorial) – Wardwell took two columns to claim "minority rights" . Mr. Wardwell is quite sure that the newspaper and other forces which have been contending for county seat removal are hired help of the Cavalier county seat committee" and he calls 'em "Yelping Helpers"

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Chronicle
March 3 1911

Hearing Had on Contest Case

Arguments in the county seat contest case from Pembina county were heard by Judge Templeton in the chambers last Friday at Grand Forks. Attorney W. J. Burke of Bathgate

presented the case of Pembina while the Cavalier side was defended by Attorney George A. Bangs of Grand Forks and Attorney D. J. Laxdal of this city.

The plaintiff in the action contended that the ballots were not prepared in accordance with the law, from the fact that no provision was made on the ballots for removal to any other place than Cavalier, thus precluding any other possible contestant from entering in to the race.

Judge Templeton is taking the case under advisement and will render a decision in the near future.

If the supreme court holds that it has no power to act under the writ of prohibition now before it, Judge Templeton will decide the case upon the merits of the arguments presented to him. Should the supreme court, however, hold that it has jurisdiction to act, it will decide the case, which would relieve Judge Templeton of rendering any decision.

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Poor Old Pioneer Express

Just for the purpose of trying to make the people think it is even bigger than “some pumpkins” on the newspaper map of Pembina county, the poor old Pioneer Express in its last week’s issue loudly criticized the Chronicle because it made a “starred” mention of the date on which it had been announced that the supreme court would take up the Pembina county seat case. The Chronicle only naturally recorded what had authoritatively been stated from Bismarck, and if N. C. Young, the important figurehead in the Pembina array of eminent counsel, should presume to absent himself from “facing the music” on the date set for hearing the Pembina county case, that was no fault of the Chronicle, but an exhibited weakness on the part of the head of the legal push of the Pembina side of such case. The supreme court is not obliged to delay in order to give N. C. Young time and opportunity to renew his moral courage and legal vim, so he can make more attractive appearance.

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Chronicle

July 21, 1911

Supreme Court Decides in Favor of Cavalier for County Seat (headline – no story!)

July 28, 1911

Syllabus of Court Hearing (not copied)

Cavalier Will Have Celebration

Cavalier is preparing to have a grand county celebration in honor of the relocation of the county seat. We are not able at this writing to state in detail just what the program for the day will be,

but some of its features will consist of a barbeque, base ball tournament and general picnic with grand display of fireworks in the evening. It will be strictly a county celebration and all people of the county will be cordially invited to participate in the same

In our next issue more details will be given. In the mean time let everybody in Pembina county prepare to come to Cavalier Aug. 8th.

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Commissioners Here Monday

All the county commissioners paid an unofficial visit to Cavalier Monday to see the future county seat city and look over the several desirable sites for the new court house which the city had to offer the county. The choice decided upon by the board will be donated to the county by the city.

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Judge Templeton With Us, Too

What will probably be the last act in the Pembina county seat fight was taken when Judge Templeton handed down a decision Saturday holding for Cavalier in the contest action which was started by Pembina adherents after the first suit had been decided in favor of Cavalier.

The decision of Judge Templeton has been held up awaiting the recent supreme court decision. The two suits involved the same questions and the latest decision merely follows the one handed down by the supreme court.

There has been considerable celebrating at Cavalier since that city was assured of its victory in the court. Cavalier has been fighting for the county seat for fifteen years and naturally feels jubilant of its final success – Grand Fords Evening Times, July 24

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The County Seat (editorial)

Elsewhere in the Chronicle we give in full the syllabus of the supreme court in settlement of the Pembina county seat matter in favor of Cavalier. By the decision of the court every charge of illegality in the petition, the ballot, the election and against every other phase of county seat removal, is subverted and the proceedings are shown to be legal and valid from start to finish. This decision will certainly be very gratifying not only to the people of Cavalier who took the initiative in the county seat removal matter and maintained a vigorous fight all through the campaign, to all the people who stood by us and to any others who may have been doubtful as to the legal proceeding of the contest from the Cavalier side.

This has been a great fight for a good purpose – a purpose attendant with the blessing from the oncoming generations – waged not by the minority but by the great majority of the legal voters

of the county, and it seemed bound to succeed from the very beginning. While the stubborn effort on the part of the Pembina people to subvert the will of the people by some "hook or crook" has resulted in delaying the settlement of the county seat removal election to such a late date that it will be quite impossible to erect a new county court house this season, still the final outcome is sufficiently covered with glory to make the delay gratifyingly tolerable.

To make Cavalier the county seat de facto nothing now remains to be done but for the county commissioners to declare Cavalier the county seat as shown by the election of the people, and that doubtless will be done at their next regular meeting which opens August 10th. Shortly thereafter, within the legal time, the county officers and the county records will remove to this city and occupy the temporary quarters that will be provided for them until the new county court house is completed and in readiness to receive them.

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Chronicle

August 4, 1911

Grand Free Barbecue and Picnic at Cavalier AUGUST 8TH

The Great Big Time A-Coming

If the weather permits, next Tuesday, August 8th will witness a big time in Cavalier, thegrand barbecue and picnic which our citizens have been (anticipating) for some time. All the people of Pembina countywill be a day of amusements and feasting for them. Many people from outside will also attend the festivities, as the doors of our city swing wide open to everybody on that day. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a baseball game between the teams of Neche and Crystal which will be followed at 3:30 by an address from Hon. George A. Banks of Grand Forks in the City Park. At 4:30 the barbecue will take place in the park.

There will be another ball game at 6:30 sharp between Walhalla and St. Thomas and in the evening a grand display of fireworks will be given above the park. Music day and evening by the Cavalier City Band.

All these amusement and festivities will be free, and the people generally are cordially invited to come and enjoy them and help our city to make merry on that day.

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Donates Steer for Barbeque

Fred Radke, living near Crystal, has donated to the Cavalier Commercial Club a large, fat steer for the barbeque to take place in this city August 8th. Mr. Radke has a bunch of fifteen fine steers and he gives the Club the pick of the lot. Mr. Radke's heart is evidently in the right place, and the donation having come unsolicited it is certainly greatly appreciated by the Club and citizens generally.

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Want Rehearing – (editor’s comments)

The Pioneer Express tells us that the attorneys for the City of Pembina have asked for a new hearing before the supreme court on the county seat relocation matter. This is no doubt purely for the purpose of securing delay in the official removal of the county seat to Cavalier. Certainly the people of Pembina will be acting foolishly and vainly by such an attempt to further override the expressed will of the people of the county which has been so overwhelmingly given. After having been ruled against twice in the district court and also twice in the supreme court, their prejudiced sight of the Pembina people ought to have become sufficiently opened to wisdom and common sense by this time to see how ridiculous and offensive they are making themselves in hopelessly trying to subvert the verdict of the people and the legal mandates of the courts. With all that has occurred through the efforts of Pembina to secure favor of the courts on sham technicalities, it would seem that no further legal grounds is left them on which to push their machinations, and intelligent and rightful conception of the matter would say that the supreme court should not longer permit them to “play horse” with the people of this county and add to the already large expense and annoyance to the county which they have been guilty of perpetuating.

While the removal of the county seat to Cavalier will mean a considerable loss to Pembina, still justice to the majority has demanded that it should be moved to a more central location and the overwhelming vote of the people has placed it in Cavalier the most central city in the county. Therefore the matter should be left to rest in peace as the people and the court have decreed, and Pembina will do well to respect these decrees, take its medicine and look pleasant.

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Editor Wardwell finds fault with the decision of the supreme court on county seat removal. The syllabus is not browned sufficiently nor properly seasoned to suit the cultivated taste of the Pioneer Express editor and the average Pembinaite. But the supreme court it should be remembered has not yet descended to the position of giving legal verdicts merely to please the palates of men and cities. The court is still engaged in rendering its decisions according to the law and the facts, regardless of the prejudiced opinions of the few or notions of the many.

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Hamilton Independent: H. B. Spiller and his two sons and Ray Chisholm of Pembina passed through town Tuesday bound for Grand Forks and the fair, and then on to Hillsboro. In conversation with the Independent man Mr. Spiller stated that there was talk in Pembina of applying for a rehearing of the county seat case, but that he had advised against such a procedure as it could accomplish nothing save delay.

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Chronicle

August 11, 1911 (Photo Mayor D. J. Laxdal)

5,000 People Attend Cavalier’s Great Jubilee Celebration

Tremendous Demonstration In Honor Of County Seat Removal

The Barbecue Was a Magnificent Success

The City of Grafton Pays High Compliment to Cavalier

Crystal Sends Largest Delegation From County Towns

Tuesday, August 8th, was the biggest day in the history of Cavalier and probably in the history of Pembina County. It was a tremendous jubilee demonstration in honor of the location of the Pembina county seat in this city. It was one of the greatest festival occasions ever held in northeastern North Dakota and one in which fully, 5,000 people participated. While the great mass of the people were largely from Pembina county, still many outside towns were literally represented. In this connection we desire to specially mention Grafton. About 500 came up from that city, comprising the leading business men and their ladies and residents of the city. About half of the party came up on the noon train and the others came on the evening special that was run for the occasion, which also brought additional people from Hoople, Crystal and Hensel. Cavalier certainly appreciates the earnest, hearty and enthusiastic manner in which Grafton honored the occasion, not alone by coming in such large numbers but by bringing their splendid band with them. The members of the party from that city also wore beautiful souvenir congratulatory badges bearing the following inscription: From Grafton, Congratulations, Cavalier, N.D., Aug. 8, 1911"

The word "Congratulations" being in large type running lengthwise of the silk ribbon, with the other parts of the inscription being crosswise at top and bottom of same. It was a fine tribute of good will to Cavalier from the splendid people of the county seat of Walsh.

There was also a goodly number of people present from Grand Forks, among whom we noticed W. P. Davis, managing editor and H. L. Wilson, business manager of the Daily Herald. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Sinclair, Mr. Davis was accompanied by his daughter Mabel. Several hundred people had planned to come to Cavalier in autos to enjoy the day, but the heavy rains of two days previous had spoiled the roads and made autoing for the distance quite impracticable. Numbers of people from Langdon, Milton, Edinburg, Park River, Bottineau and other points outside of the county, who had telephoned and written a few days previously that they would be here, were prevented from coming on account of the bad condition of the roads for autoing. Among these we might mention Mr. and Mrs. Andy Johnson and seven of their friends from Bottineau.

About every town in the county was represented in the gathering, some in an exceedingly liberal way. Perhaps the largest representation was from Crystal which sent about 300 of its people. Hensel sent almost half of many more, and there were good sized representation from Walhalla, Hamilton, Neche, Bathgate, St. Thomas, Glasston, Drayton, Bowesmont, Backoo and Leyden. Very large delegations were present from Mountain, Concrete, Hallson, Akra and Svold. Many of the people living in the eastern and southwestern portions of the county, who

intended coming, were prevented on account of the muddy condition of the roads caused by the excessive late rains. Had the roads been dry it is safe to say that there would have been fully 7,000 people present in our city on this great jubilee day.

Cavalier was complimented on every hand during the day for the able and satisfactory manner in which the city handled so large a crowd. There was no rupture of feelings during the entire proceedings of the day. All the committees worked harmoniously and untiringly to serve the people to the best of their ability and general good feeling and a spirit of happiness prevailed among the thousands of minds and hearts in all the feasting and amusement features of the day. The city was in full holiday attire, with unfurled flags and banners, the bands moved up and down the streets and to and from and in the base ball and city parks discoursing fine music, while the surging masses of the people moved higher and thither, combining to make a stupendous as well as delightful demonstration. It was a most beautiful and impressive sight.

The first feature of special amusement was a ball game at 1:30 p.m. between Neche and Crystal. It was a warmly contested game and inspired large interest and enthusiasm among the three thousand and more people who witnessed the same. It resulted in a shutout for Crystal, Neche winning with three scores.

At 3:30 came the address of Hon. Geo. A. Bangs of Grand Forks, "the gentleman" as Mayor Laxdal said in introducing him, "who had furnished more brains in all the legal battle for county seat removal than all the other lawyers put together". Mr. Bangs being somewhat deterred in making his way to the platform, Mayor Laxdal introduced Fred Radke of Crystal, the famer who "donated the ox for the sacrifice", and Col. Paul Johnson of Gov. Burke's staff, both of whom made short responses. The address of Mr. Bangs was not lengthy nor one of prepared order. He spoke as he felt from the inspiration of the occasion and that also received from his connection with the county seat removal case from commencement. He said he had been connected with nearly every county seat removal case held in the state, and the campaign in connection with the Pembina county seat removal was the most able and completely planned as well as most successfully carried out campaign of the kind ever waged in the history of the state. He paid high compliment to Mayor Laxdal who had been chief engineer in the great fight and classed Cavalier as one of the most beautiful and most progressive little cities in the state. He was loudly applauded.

As 4:30 p.m. the hour of the great Barbecue drew near, the people were invited to gather around on each side of the 600 running feet of tables that had been adjacent to the roasting oven and partake of the well cooked steer roasted whole (minus hide, horns and innards) and palatable appurtenances thereunto belonging. It is estimated that 5,000 different persons surrounded these tables in succession and ate more or less of this and the other two and a half steers and three large hogs roasted in the large brick oven together with the relishable accompaniments mentioned aforesaid. It was a great ox feast served in ye old time manner, and everybody seemed to enjoy it. Some conception of the magnitute of the feast will be gained when it is understood that there were consumed: 2 ½ large fat steers, 3 large hogs, 1,259 loaves of bread, 200 pounds of butter, 70 pounds of coffee, sugar mustard and pickles galore, besides salt and pepper.

The engineer of the ox roast was Mr. Con Hankey of Grafton, a master of the barbecue art. He gave full personal attention to the roasting and carving of the victims of the feast and his work was highly complimented. The meats were deliciously roasted.

The size of the brick oven built in the city park for the purpose is 5x10 feet, 6 feet high to center of arch. The meats were placed into an iron pan 4x8 feet slid (sic) into and out of the oven on iron truck run on track. The large brick and iron door was raised and lowered by means of tackle. The oven is finely built throughout and perfect in its working qualities. Messrs. Andrew Robbie, Valentine Fisher and William Walper were the principle architects and builders thereof. It will probably remain as one of the permanent fixtures of the park for future use on important picnic occasions.

The ball game between Walhalla and St. Thomas took place at 6:30 p.m. It was a lively interesting game and was won by Walhalla in a score of 7 to 0. Both of the games were umpired by M. Kibler and E. T. McIntosh.

Following the evening ball game came the magnificent display of fireworks and then the great jubilee was ended by a grand ball at the opera house in which hundreds participated.

It was a grand and glorious day in the history of Cavalier, and our city most sincerely says to the hundreds of people from all section of the county and adjoining towns which helped to make the occasion so magnificent a success, "we appreciate your good will, your good fellowship and neighborly kindness. We thank you.

(A large list of people from other communities was then noted) – including

Geo. Peterson was bound that Pembina should have one representative at the big doings – "funeral" or "no funeral". His smile, which was started up at the beginning, wouldn't come off at any stage of the proceedings.

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Chronicle
August 18, 1911

Headline" - Pembina's Motion for New Hearing Anent County Seat To Be Argued Saturday
(no further story – comments on page 1 from other paper's about Cavalier celebration)

Editorial "Rights of the Minority" from the Pioneer Express

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Chronicle
August 25, 1911

Saturday Pembina presented their petition to the supreme court for rehearing anent the county seat removal case. We understand it was not delivered to the court until about five o'clock p.m. and as it contained over a hundred pages of type written matter, it was too bulky for the court to presume to read and consider that day, especially after the day have become so far spent. It is quite evident upon the face of their efforts that Pembina people are not seeking so much for fair play or a deserved rehearing for themselves as they are to create genuine delay in proceedings and annoyance to the people of Pembina county.

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Chronicle
September 1, 1911

No Decision Yet

Up to time of going to press this week no decision has been handed down by the supreme court on the matter of the petition for the rehearing on the matter on the Pembina county seat removal case presented to that August judicial body by Pembina city's lawyers in a box of over 100 pages. It hardly looks intelligible that the supreme court did not know what it was about and what was legally right when it decided the county seat removal case in favor of Cavalier in harmony with the expressed wish of the people shown in the petition and overwhelmingly backed up by them with their votes in the November election.

The contest in the case as expressed in the petition was over removal of the county seat from Pembina to Cavalier. This issue was therefore strictly defined and the voter could not go amiss in the expression of his desire by ballot in the matter of removal. According to the wording of the petition there was no other issue nor indeed could there be thereby any issue other than the remove of the county seat to Cavalier. If the voter was opposed to removal he could say so by casting his ballot for Pembina. That the people had the legal right to restrict their petition for removal solely between Cavalier and Pembina, seems logical and reasonable, and it seems hardly possible that the supreme court will be so overwhelmingly anxious to reverse itself on some mere, unsupported legal technicality that it will presume to turn down the people in their legal right simply to please the Pembina schemers who are playing for delay and subversion of the expressed will of the people rather than for any existing legal right for themselves.

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Chronicle
September 25, 1911

Rehearing Granted

The supreme court has granted Pembina a rehearing in the county seat removal question on a mere technicality which it took over one hundred pages in a printed book for the Pembina lawyers to bring out and explain. The tone of the petition for such rehearing is very elaborately tintured with sarcastic innuendoes, and through the same the supreme judges get a slap here

and there for not listening to the superior legal wisdom (?) of Pembina's manipulators of law and rendering their decision in accordance therewith. Just what these Pembina lawyers hope to accomplish by these slurs and slaps and through the indulgence granted them by the court to re-argue the case, is past finding out at the present writing. It is quite certain however that it can in no wise (sic) effect the validity of the county seat removal election already had, nor benefit Pembina outside of giving that city another chance to spend its money to try to delay for a few weeks longer actual removal of the county's records and officials to Cavalier. Both the district and supreme courts having passed upon the validity of the relocation petition and election, which it is not presumed was given without due legal consideration and according to the law and the facts, we see no chance for the re-hearing to cut any ice in the deal.

The argument for rehearing is set for the October term of the supreme court which opens on the 3rd,, and the removal matters will be delayed until the court hears the argument and passes judgment upon the same.

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Chronicle

November 3, 1911

Cavalier Still County Seat

What is presumed to be the final round in the Pembina county seat removal case was won by Cavalier Tuesday, when the supreme court handed down its decision on the re-hearing granted Pembina a few weeks ago. By this decision the court affirms its previous decision in Cavalier's favor and by it the last legal obstacle against removal of the county seat is taken back. It lacks now only a few days of a year since the people of the county at the polls expressed themselves on this matter and overwhelmingly decided that Cavalier should be the county seat as Pembina was unwilling to abide by the decision of the majority and instituted legal proceedings on mere technicalities that had no fundamental basis, doubtless for the purpose of delaying removal and in the mean time hoping that some technicality would develop by which they could eventually upset either the petition or the election and still continue to hold county seat honors. But the die having been cast by vote of the people on a proceeding for removal that was established on a thorough legal basis from the beginning, all Pembina has so far accomplished in the effort against change of the county seat has proven to be like bucking one's head against a stone wall. Possibly, however, in this fight for minority rights, good has come to both sides. The Pembina people will now feel that they have done their "biggest best" to try to prevent removal and failed only because the winning side was legally right. As for Cavalier and the people who have stood with her in the fight through "thick and thin" there is given them the consolation that their efforts for removal were based on moral and legal consistency all the way through, and that the highest as well as lowest legal tribunals in the land have backed up their good work in phase where illegality was charged by the opposition. Thus giving opportunity for the dusty air of ??? to clarify itself as the days and years go by and for the opposing faces in the fight to once more approach near enough to look and smile at each other as they used to do in the days of peace when Pembina had the county seat and no other town ever thought to wrest it from her.

The necessary legal steps to be taken before the county officers and records can be transferred to Cavalier it is safe to say will be accomplished early enough to set the machine in motion on or before January 1st, 1912. The work of arranging temporary quarters for the officers and record will not be delayed.

In this whole county seat removal matter the people of Pembina county have wrought magnificently. While it is true that Cavalier's interest has also been the people's interest, nevertheless are our citizens none the less appreciative or less grateful to the people who have stood shoulder to shoulder with them in the fight and helped to bring the county seat to a central location where it belonged.

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Who said the barbecue and county seat removal celebration was held too soon?

True to the promise of the Chronicle we would inform Editor Wardwell that Cavalier has accepted most gracefully, the last decision of the supreme court on the county seat removal matter.

When Cavalier received the news Tuesday evening of the decision of the supreme court in her favor on county seat removal, there was something doing again in the city for a few minutes. The bells, whistles and bank burglar alarms of the city did their prettiest to make a noise and the people joined in the chorus. Cavalier is a wide awake, enthusiastic city and appreciates a good thing when it comes her way.

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Chronicle

November 10, 1911

County Seat From Dec. 15

The last legal act in making Cavalier the county seat of Pembina county was performed on Friday last when the commissioners in regular session at Pembina declared this city the county seat (much of article unreadable)finally leased from W. H. Otten, the former Dennison (?) Hotel building which will be converted into six good offices, constituting quarters for Register of Deeds, Treasurer, County Judge, Auditor, Clerk of Court and Superintendent of Schools. Office for States Attorney and Sheriff will be provided elsewhere in the city. In connection with the building named a two story outside brick vault will be built 16x22 feet, for the safe keeping of the county records. The cement foundation and lower cement floor for said vault have already been laid, and the bricklayers commenced work on the superstructure Thursday. The building and vault will be in readiness, for use by Dec 15th and it is safe to say that all the county officers housed in the same will have decently comfortable temporary quarters in which to transact the county's business until the new court house can be built. The city hall will be used for temporary court room.

All Cavalier extends the glad hand to the county officers and their families. They are all cordially welcomed in our city, and we believe their residence among our people will prove mutually pleasant.

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Proclamation of the County Commissioners

Notice is hereby given, under the provisions of Section 2361 R.C 1905, as amended by Ch. 61 of the laws of 1907, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Pembina and State of North Dakota, that the result of the election upon the question of the removal of the County seat of said County from the City of Pembina, the place where it was heretofore located by law, to the City of Cavalier, as submitted to the people and electors of said county at the general election held therein and at the various election precincts thereof, on Tuesday, November 8, 1910, was as follows:

For the City of Cavalier for County seat two thousand two hunder and forty-nine (2249) votes.

For the City of Pembina for County seat eight hundred and fifteen (815) votes.

And that as a result thereof, the City of Cavalier received more than two thirds of the legal votes cast at such election and that more than two thirds of the legal votes case as such election were in favor of Cavalier for the place of the county seat of said County of Pembina.

Notice if further given that under the provisions of Sec. 2362 R.C. 1905, the said City of Cavalier is hereby declared to be the County seat of the county of Pembina, and State of North Dakota, on and from the 15th day of Dec., A.D. 1911

John K. Olafson, Chairman
Joseph Morrison
A B Purdy
N. Matheson
Joseph Morin

Board of County Commissioners of Pembina Co., N. D.
Attest: Wm W. Felson
(seal) County Auditor

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Warddwells' Opinion

(partial text)

While we do not blame Editor Wardwell or other residents of Pembina from feeling disappointed that they are to lose the county seat from their town, yet the fact that the county

seat belongs to the people of the whole county and that the great majority have the right to remove it to a location that will serve the convenience of the greatest number, and the great majority having voiced their desires in the matter, it certainly is unmanly for any part of the opposition in Pembina to become so offensively disgruntled as to refuse to be reconciled to either voice of the people or the legal mandates of the courts. If on national issues the people acted in that manner and few tried to subvert the expressed will of the majority, anarchy would be rife in the county in a very short period.

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Chronicle

December 15, 1911

The County Seat is Here

The Pembina County Seat opens in Cavalier this morning (Friday, Dec 15th, 1911). Most of the county officers arrived on the train yesterday noon, and two carloads ??? arrived by special train last evening. The ???? and school children met the officers at (the depot and escorted) them up town. A reception will be tendered for the county officers and their wives at the opera house this evening ???? (sponsored ?) by the Cavalier Commercial Club and citizens.

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The County Seat

Today, Friday, Dec 15th, 1911, Cavalier begins to wear her new honors as county seat town of Pembina county, and appreciating fully this prominent recognition which the people of the county have given her, she hopes to ever wear the honors with the dignity which the great and prosperous county of Pembina rightfully demands. It is the desire of the people of this city that everybody who comes here in the future to transact business with the county officials, to trade at our stores or to visit relatives or friends, receive the best treatment which it is possible for the enterprise, ability and generous hospitality of our city to accord – and our city prides herself in being above holding any second place of that order. Cavalier extends today the glad hand to the county officers, their wives and families, and bids them cordial welcome. We hope their residence and labors in our city will be accompanied by pleasant and prosperous experiences, morally, socially and financially, and that there may exist between them and our townspeople a mutual friendship which shall be productive of genuine mutual happiness.

Our city specially, and we believe, too, the people of the county generally, thank the county commissioners today by the noble and heroic manner in which they have so harmoniously supported the expressed will of the people on county seat removal and fount the good fight of faith. Their official position during the past year and a half has demanded the best in man of heroism, intellectual ability, sound judgment and official fidelity, but in none of these qualities were they found wanting; they fully comprehended their official duty and have sought to perform it without fear or favor. Well done, thou good and faithful servants.

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Chronicle
December 22. 1911

Reception to County Officers

Friday evening last was a memorable one in the history of Cavalier, it being the occasion of a reception tendered the county officers and their wives by the Commercial Club and citizens upon the close of the opening day of the county seat in this city. The opera house was crowded with citizens both from the city and country and several neighboring towns. The hall had been profusely and beautifully draped and festooned with the stars and stripes and welcome banners, which with the two city bands in one, uniformed in their red coats and setting in semi-circle upon the stage with glistening instruments, presented a very imposing appearance. The county officers and their wives, including the commissioners, sat in semi-circle under a canopy of the stars and stripes and as many of the people as the reception committee could handle were introduced to the honored guests of the occasion. Then followed a "feat of reason and a flow of soul" – that is to say there was some interesting speech making. Mayor D. J. Laxdal took the stage and in a few happy remarks introduced attorney Sveinbjorn Johnson, who in a very neat and timely address cordially welcomed the county officials, their wives and families to our city and to the business, social and religious circles of our people. Among other things Mr. Johnson said:

"This day will ever be memorable in the minds of the people of Cavalier and all of Pembina county. They will mark it with a white stone; they will count time by this day as peasants count time by holy days and as maidens do by holy vows. You gentlemen who come tonight as visitors, who represent the official population of this county and are holding the offices of the county by the suffrage of the people, come as objects in interest to us.

"No doubt some sharp, some cutting and stinging words were said, that neither Pembina or Cavalier ever meant, but that is past and now as the Christmas snow is falling fresh upon the ground, covering all the dark spots with spotless mantle there is no greater or more sincere hope in the heart of the people of Cavalier and we believe of Pembina than that all the sharp things in this county seat war may be covered over with a mantle of forgetfulness.

"With open hearts and extended hands we welcome you, our gates are thrown wide open to receive you. With every hospitality and friendly feeling our friendship is at your command. If you feel that the reception we give you has been pleasant we hope this feeling will continue from this time on and that you may feel that the hospitality we are extending to you is not the bubble of a moment but is intended to last and shall last."

County Judge H. G. Vick responded feelingly to the address of welcome. He said there was a sad side to the removal from Pembina because of the breaking of old ties, but he felt confident that they would be able to find many new and some old friends in Cavalier. He said they had come to become a part of our good progressive citizens and try to make and keep our city what it already is, the most prosperous and enterprising city in Pembina county. Other short addresses were also made by States Attorney McMurchie, county treasurer Gibson, clerk of court Winlaw,

Sheriff Foster, county Superintendent Mrs. Burley, commissioners Morrison and Morin, superintendant of schools Callahan, Col. Paul Johnson and Revs. Bohner, Thompson and Cooper. Refreshments were then served to all in the hall, after which the floor was cleaned and many engaged in the merry dance, music being furnished by the Cavalier Orchestra.

The following is list of officers present: County Judge H. G. Vick and wife; Clerk of Court J. D. Winlaw; States Attorney Wm. McMurchie; Sheriff I. J. Foster; County Auditor W. W. Felson and wife; Register Geo. Roadhouse and Deputy J. F. Gill; County Treasurer J. R. Gibson; County Supt. Of Schools Mrs. I. A. Burley and Deputy, Miss Pauline Thorwaldson; Deputy Treasurer A. Steinolfson; Deputy Auditor H. Horr; Clerk of Treasurer, Miss Freda Arneson; County Commissioners J. K. Olafson, Joe Morrison, J. Morin, N. Matheson.

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Court House Question

Since, through the popular vote of the people, Cavalier has just recently become the county seat of Pembina county, it would be a little presumptuous for the Chronicle or any citizen of this city to suggest how magnificent and how costly the needed new court house shall be that the county must have and which will be erected in Cavalier in the near future. However, we think the matter of suggestion from the Cavalier point is not so delicate that we may not wisely venture to suggest that the contemplated new structure should be thoroughly up-to-date and fire proof. Also it should be a building that will fully meet the convenience and needs of the county for generations to come, and moreover, reflect the dignity and beauty of the wealthy county of Pembina.

The St. Thomas Times, which was "agin" county seat removal and supported Pembina all through the fight both before and after the election, now turns about and takes a very optimistic view of the new court house question. The sentiment expressed by the Times in its last week's issue we think will be quite generally endorsed by the people, too. In fact, now that the county seat is permanently located, we don't think any intelligent tax payer in the county would be satisfied to see any style of "cheap John" court house erected. The Times article reads as follows:

This date marks the actual change of the county seat of Pembina county from Pembina to Cavalier. The records of the county are being transferred to the new location and the officers will take up their residence at Cavalier. Temporary quarters for the transaction of public business have been provided but the question of the erection of a permanent court house and jail is one that yet be settled.

The county commissioners have visited different court houses in the state with a view of securing ideas to the size and cost of buildings suitable for this county. The Times has no desire to lecture them or tell them what they should or should not do, but the editor as a tax payer of the county is directly interested in the kind of public buildings erected and will therefore go on record as in favor of buildings that are ornate, commodious, modern, fireproof and utilitarian. We do not believe in squandering public money unnecessarily, but we do believe in building a

court house that will reflect credit on the wealth and importance of Pembina county. The building with undoubtedly be the only one erected in the next fifty years and should provide for increase of business and population. The history of the past has been that public buildings are built without regard to future development and soon outgrown.

The difference in cost between an ordinary building and one of fireproof construction is so slight that the latter should be built, because the difference in cost will soon be made up in insurance premiums.

Just what a modern building of proper dimensions and architectural beauty will cost we have no clear idea, but we are convinced that anything less than \$100,000 for building and furniture will not be economical investment when time is taken into consideration, and we are in favor of a building that will cost when completed about that sum.

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Grafton News and Times, Dec.15

Today Cavalier is in its greatest glory as the county seat of Pembina county. The official family passed through Grafton Thursday and the books and records were shipped via the N. P., and transferred here to the Great Northern where a special train pulled the official document(s) in the jubilant city of Cavalier. Sheriff Foster and deputies were the guardians of the records while enroute. County commissioner Olafson, made arrangements with Sheriff Arnot for the board of the Pembina county prisoners until the new jail is completed.

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Proceedings – County Commissioners

Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment on the 14th day of December 1911 at the court house in the city of Pembina at 6:30 o'clock a.m. Commissioners John K. Olafson, Norman Matheson, Joseph Morn, Joseph Morrison and A. R. Purdy present. Board immediately adjourned until 9 o'clock a.m. December 15th, 1911 to meet at the city of Cavalier in Pembina county, North Dakota.

Commissioner Joseph Morin moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Morrison: Be it resolved by the Board of County commissioners of Pembina County, North Dakota, that the county of Pembina enter into a contract of lease with W. O. Otten of Cavalier, in said county, for the lease of the land and premises described as follows, to wit:

Lot 5 and the east half of lot 6, Block 12 in the city of Cavalier for the purpose of temporary court house, at the monthly rental of \$25 per month from the 20th day of July, 1911 and ending on the 20th day of July 1912 with the privilege on the part of the county to then renew said lease on the same terms for a period of time as they may desire, such renewal to be made at the expiration of this lease, the rental to be paid every three months, the said county agreeing to surrender said premises in the same condition that they may receive same, unless the parties

make other arrangements as to the manner of returning the same at the termination of the lease. Be it further resolved that the heretofore described building and premises be and the same is hereby designed, until the further action this Board, the Court House of the County of Pembina. Upon roll call commissioners Morrison, Matheson and Morin each voting "aye", none voting "no". Thereupon resolution was declared duly carried and adopted.

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January 12, 1912

Editorial
"The Cost of It"

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Chronicle
February 16, 1912 (repeated Feb 23 & March 1st, 8th & 15th)

Notice of Bond Election

Notice is Hereby Given, that pursuant to Article 22 of Chapter 28 of the Political Code of North Dakota of 1905, and acts amendatory thereof, an election will be held at the various polling precincts in the County Of Pembina, State of North Dakota, on Tuesday, the 19th day of March, A.D. 1912 for the purpose of determining the following questions:

Shall Pembina county, North Dakota, issue \$85,000 in bonds in denominations of \$1,000 each, to run twenty years from the date of issue, bearing four per cent interest per annum, interest payable annually, for the purpose of erecting a Court House at Cavalier, the county seat of said county: also:

Shall Pembina County, North Dakota, issue \$15,000 in bonds in denominations of \$1,000 each, to run twenty years from the date of issue, bearing four per cent interest per annum, interest payable annually, for the purpose of erecting a County Jail at Cavalier, the count seat of said county.

The ballots used at such election for this purpose will be as follows (sample ballot shown)
The polls for such election will be open at eight o'clock in the forenoon and will continue open until five o'clock in the afternoon of said day. (List of polling places then follows)

By Order of the Board of County Commissioners of Pembina County, North Dakota
Dated at Cavalier, N.D. this 13th day of February, A.D. 1912
Wm. W. Felson, County Auditor of Pembina County, North Dakota

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March 1, 1912
Commissioner's proceedings

C. W. Buechner of the firm of Buechner & Orth, architects employed by county to prepare plans for new courthouse appeared before board and proceeded to exhibit plans and drawings already prepared. After looking over same the following resolution was introduced and adopted: Resolved that the County Auditor proceed to advertise for sealed bids for the erection of a courthouse and jail at Cavalier city, according to plans and specifications prepared by Buechner & Orther, architects of St. Paul, Minn.

Plans and specifications of building to be seen at office of County Auditor at Cavalier, N.D, and office of Buechner & Orth, architects, 500 Shubert building, St. Paul, Minn. and also may be had by application to either of the above parties, after March 6th, 1912.

Separate bids will also be received on heating apparatus, plumbing, heating or electrical work for building at the same time, plans and specifications for same to be seen after March 6th, 1912.

Building to be completed on or before January 1st, 1913.

All bids shall be sealed and marked "bids for general work, plumbing, heating or electrical work" as the same shall be made and must be filed with County Auditor on or before the hour of 2 O'clock p.m., April 4th, 1912, at which time they will be opened before the County Commissioners of Pembina County, N.D. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check of 5% of the amount of bid, made payable to the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Joseph Morrison, of Pembina County, N.Dak.

Board of County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any of all bids.

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Chronicle
March 8, 1912

County Division Bugaboo

The Pembina Pioneer Express editor has become so exasperated over the matter of bonding the county for the erection of a county court house and jail that he has fallen into the degenerate act of trying to trump up the theory of county division as a menace to the proposition, hoping thereby to turn the heads of the weak and unguarded voters in support of his rule or ruin principles as a force that would deprive the county of needed new buildings, and thereby appease his illogical personal ire.

The fallacy of the county division scheme as an argument of the Pioneer Express editor put forth to defeat the bonding proposition is too rank to hardly deserve passing notice. In the first place, Pembina county could not be divided under the law without securing additional territory. Sec. 197 of Article 10, of the Constitution, provides that no county shall comprise an area less than

24 Congressional townships, and as Pembina County now contains altogether only about 30 Congressional townships, the certainty that it cannot be divided into two counties without first gaining addition territory through readjustment of all counties west in the state, which is not likely to be done within the life of the present generation, precludes all possibility of any near division of the county, should any number of the citizens desire it, which they do not.

Neither the people of Pembina county nor the County Commissioners are contemplating to build a court house to fit the feelings or pride of Cavalier, but rather are aiming to erect buildings that shall correspond with the present and future needs and demands of the county, so that the county may not need to be put to additional expense for other and larger buildings in the near future. It is what the people and the County Commissioners think will best serve the county for the longest term of years, and what is most economical to the county in the long run, that is sought to be obtained in bonding for \$100,000 for new buildings, not what the Cavalier county seat committee may have expressed before or after election at what price and in what way a court house could be erected to meet present day needs to house the county records and accommodate the county business better than it was being done in the old buildings at Pembina.

Now, see here, Editor Wardwell, before the county seat removal election was held, you stated in the Pioneer Express (and ran the matter in bold type) that any suitable new court house to be erected would cost the county not less than \$100,00. Did you publish that statement in good faith or were you promulgating it merely as a "bugaboo" against the county seat removal. If you acted in good faith then, you must act in good faith now, or else all your arguments on the court house question fall signally flat. Do you now favor building a new court house that will cost less than \$100,000 Editor Wardwell? If not, to be consistent, and make good your statements of the past, you must walk up to the polls on the 19th of March, 1912 and vote in favor of the \$100,000 bond proposition.

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Vote totals given for primary election

Question 1 – 1,381 yes – 513 no votes on question of issuing \$85,000 bonds for court house

Question 2 – 1,326 yes – 528 no votes on question of issuing \$15,000 bonds for jail

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Chronicle

April 12, 1912

Iowa Firm Given Contract

Bid of Rowley & Bailey for Court House Construction the Lowest

Numerous contractors submitted bids for the erection of court house and jail for this county which bids were opened last Thursday afternoon by the county commissioners in the presence

of a large number of Pembina county people and outside contractors. The contract for general work- court house and jail- was awarded to Rowley & Bailey of Sioux City, Iowa for the sum of \$76,850.

Heating and plumbing to John E Holt, of St. Paul, for \$8,322.

Electric wiring to R. J. Riley of Fargo, for \$1,152.

Jail work, to Pauley Jail Building Co., of St. Louis for \$3,875.

Vault doors and shutters, the Diebold Safe and Lock Co., of Canton, Ohio.

There were six bids submitted for the general work.

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Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received at the office of the County Auditor of Pembina county, at Cavalier, North Dakota for the following bonds:

Bonds of Pembina county, North Dakota, in the sum of \$85,000, which bonds are in denominations of \$1,000 each, to run for twenty years from date of issue, bearing four per cent interest per annum, interest payable annually, and issued for the purpose of erecting a Court House in Cavalier, the county seat of said county; also bonds of Pembina county, North Dakota, in the sum of \$15,000 which bonds are in denominations of \$1,000 each, to run for twenty years, bearing four per cent interest per annum, payable annually and issued for the purpose of erecting a County Jail at Cavalier, the county seat of said county, all of which bonds were authorized at an election held March 19th, 1912.

Separate bids may be submitted on the \$85,000 bonds issued for the purpose of erecting Court House and the \$15,000 issued for the purpose of erecting County Jail.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, payable without conditions, to the county treasurer of Pembina county, North Dakota, in the sum of two per cent of the amount of bonds bid for, as a guarantee that successful bidder will enter into a contract to take up bonds within thirty (30) days of the acceptance of bid.

Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and addressed to Wm. W. Felson, County Auditor of Pembina county, and shall have endorsed there on "bid for bonds" and same shall be made and must be filed with the said County Auditor at his office in the city of Cavalier, Pembina county, North Dakota, on or before the hour of two (2) o'clock p.m. May 21st, 1912, at which time they will be opened before the Board of County Commissioners of said county of Pembina, North Dakota.

The Board of County Commissioners of Pembina county, North Dakota, reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners of Pembina county, North Dakota, April 1st, 1912

Wm. W. Felson, County Auditor

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Same – vote abstract printed on page 4

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Chronicle

May 10, 1912

Getting Ready to Break Ground

The Court House Contractors are Here to Commence Operations

Messrs. W. M. Rowles and A. T. Elmer, of the firm of Rowles & Bailey, contractors, Sioux City, Iowa who have been awarded the contract for constructing the new court house and jail for Pembina county, arrived Saturday last and are busily engaged this week erecting temporary buildings and installing machinery in preparation for work on their contract. They expect to break ground for the basement of the main structure the first of next week. Mr. Rowles informs us that they will work during the season a force of from 35 to 60 men. The county commissioners, who were in session this week, staked out the land for the building Tuesday afternoon. Stone, cement and other material for the foundation and concrete work is expected to arrive this week. Mr. Rowles will remain here continuously to superintend the work.

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Chronicle

June 1, 1912

Court House Construction

The method of laying the foundation for the new court house is rather unique. A large tower has been erected by the contractors to the top of which a huge iron bucket is carried by power full of cement direct from the mixer and emptied into a hopper. From the hopper chutes run to different parts of the foundation receptacles and the concrete is conveyed thereby to the different sections for the foundation walls. Through this method the work of laying the foundation goes on rapidly.

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Chronicle

June 28, 1912

Building Improvements

Work on the court house building is progressing finely. The concrete foundation for the main structure was completed about two weeks ago. The facing stone which follows is nearly all laid and most of the window and door frames for basement section are set. The brick layers arrived last week and started in upon their work Saturday morning. A whole train load of material to be used in the structure has arrived the past week. Being shy of water in the well and tank upon the grounds, for cement and mortar work, the city fire engine was brought into use Tuesday morning and soon filled up both well and tank, the water being pumped from the Tongue river. The stone cutters are expected to arrive in a few days to prepare stone for the figure and ornamental work. There will be some big stone used in the structure. Two of these which have arrived weigh about three and five tons respectively. A nine-ton one is now on the way with others of lesser weight. The concrete foundation for sheriff's residence and jail is nearly finished.

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Chronicle

July 5, 1912 (same headline, without story in July 12, 1912 edition)

Court House Corner Stone Laying
Grand Ceremonies at Cavalier, Tuesday, July 16th
Free Barbecue, baseball Tournament, Etc.
Special Trains. Everybody Cordially Invited

Day is set For July 16

Corner Stone Laying for the New Court House to Take Place on That Date

The corner stone laying for the Pembina county court house will take place Tuesday, July 16th, and be attended by grand ceremonies which all Pembina county people should see. In order to more conspicuously mark this important day in the history of our county, citizens of Cavalier have decided to appropriately celebrate the event, and the day will be made a gala one in all which the term implies. In connection with the festivities a grand free barbecue will be given in the city park and a baseball tournament will take place at the ball park. There will also be other games and sports. There will be parades, speeches and music galore, and the gates of Cavalier will swing wide open with a cordial welcome to all people of the county and adjoining counties come and help us make merry.

The free barbecue lunch will probably be served from 4 to 6 p.m. The city park will be thrown wide open for all persons who may wish to picnic during the day.

**V*V*V*

Pembina County's New Court House

Grand Public Ceremonies of Laying of Corner Stone, Tuesday, July 16th

The ceremonies attendant upon the laying of the corner stone for Pembina county's new court house will take place in Cavalier on Tuesday of next week, July 16th, in connection with which there will be a base ball tournament, free barbecue and other festivities. Cavalier is planning to make this day one of the most memorable in the history of the county, and of large festivity for the people. The city park will be thrown open to all persons who may wish to picnic and enjoy a social time together with their families and friends. Seven of the brass bands of the county have been engaged and will furnish music for the occasion. The program for the occasion will be about as follows:

10:30 a.m. Base Ball – Langdon vs Cavalier

1:30 p.m. – Ceremonies of Laying of Corner Stone for Pembina County's new court house.

Address by Hon. A. A. Bruce, Justice of Supreme Court.

4 to 5 p.m. – Free Barbecue for all the people

6 p.m. Base Ball – Drayton vs. Cavalier

8 p.m. – Concert by seven Brass Bands

Grand Dance in the evening.

A special train will run from Grafton to Cavalier on this date. The same will leave Grafton at 9:20 a.m., returning 9 p.m., to connect with the Northern Pacific train at Grafton both ways.

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Chronicle

July 19, 1912

Many People Attend the Event

Corner Stone of Pembina County Court House Laid With Grand Ceremonies

Perhaps the greatest crowd of people ever gathered in Cavalier at any one time, participated in the festivities attending the corner stone laying for the new Pembina County Court House in Tuesday of this week. The crowd in the city is estimated all the way from 5,000 to 7,000 people. Members of the executive committee say that fully 5,000 people must have eaten at the barbecue and as there were hundreds in the city who did not partake of the same, 5,000 would be a large underestimate of the number of people present in the city.

The threatening weather and rain in the forenoon no doubt kept many persons at home who otherwise would have attended the festivities. However, the weather cleared about 11 a.m, the sun came out and the balance of the day was ideal.

The special trains running from Grafton and Walhalla brought in fully 1,000 people, and the other thousands came by auto, carriage and wagon.

The city was in holiday attire and welcome banners greeted the comers at entrance to the city from every part of the compass.

The first event of the day was the base ball game by the Langdon and Cavalier teams. This game was hotly contested and a large crowd enjoyed the same. Langdon won by a score of 5 to 4.

The ceremonies attending the laying of the corner stone for the new court house took place about 2 p.m. A long procession formed on Division Street, including officers of the county and Cavalier city, citizens in autos, carriages and on foot and marched to the court house. The procession was interspersed by seven brass bands of the county as follows: Drayton, Mountain, Neche, St. Thomas, Svold, Walhalla and Cavalier.

At the court house a temporary platform had been erected upon which sat, during the ceremonies, the county commissioners, county officers, mayor, chaplain and speaker of the day, also Mr. John Otten, of Neche, one of the oldest living ex-county commissioners of Pembina county.

The vast assemblage was called to order by Mr. Joseph Morrison, of Drayton, chairman of the board of county commissioners. Invocation by Rev. G. E. Bohner. Music by the bands. Welcome address by Chairman Joseph Morrison.

Land and Gentlemen – Fellow Citizens: On behalf of the county commissioners I tender you a hearty welcome to the laying of the corner stone of Pembina county court house, the oldest county in the State of North Dakota. I take opportunity at this time, on behalf of the county commissioners, to thank you for your liberal support in voting the necessary funds for the erection of this building and I want to assure you that it has been the aim and object of the of the commissioners that the building when erected will be a credit to Pembina county and at the same time not a burden upon the taxpayers of the county, and believe, when the building is completed you will have value for your money. County Auditor Felson will now give you a short sketch of the early history of Pembina county and a list of the articles to be deposited in the corner stone, after which we will proceed to lay the corner stone.

County Auditor Wm. W. Felson was next called upon who stated that the contents of the copper box about to be deposed in the corner stone were as follows:

A condensed historical account of Pembina county up to the present time, copies of the latest published nine newspapers of Pembina county, a copy of "Long Ago", current coins of the present day, samples of wheat, barley and oats grown in Pembina County. A list of present county, district and state officers. Financial Statement of Pembina County for the year 1911, picture of the old court house building in Pembina, present county officers, Blue Book of the state of North Dakota for year 1911.

Following this statement Mr. Felson gave the following historical sketch of Pembina County from its organization until present time.

From the year 1867 to 1874 inclusive, According to the records of Pembina county, on file in the office of the county auditor, a little more than 45 years ago, almost a half century, that portion

of the new famous Red River Valley of North Dakota, which lies south of the international boundary line between the United States and Canada, and north of the Sheyenne River which flows through Cass and Richland counties, was, on the ninth day of January in the year of our Lord, 1867, by an act of the legislative assembly of Dakota Territory, organized as Pembina county with the county seat the town (now city) of Pembina.

The county consisted, at this time, of a tract of land approximately 160 miles long by 70 miles wide or about 12,000 square miles in area, embracing that portion of North Dakota which now constitutes the counties of Cass, Trail, Grand Forks, Nelson, Steele, Cavalier, Walsh, Pembina, also a portion of Richland, Barnes and Ransom counties.

Charles Cavileer, Joseph Rolette and Charles Grant were appointed the first county commissioners of Pembina County on the 20th day of February, 1867.

On the 12th day of August, 1867, Charles Cavileer and Joseph Rolette, two of said county commissioners, and a majority of the board, met at the post office in the town of Pembina and proceeded to appoint the first county officers of Pembina county. The following persons were appointed.

Joseph Rolette, chairman of the board of county commissioners, John E. Harrison, register of deeds and ex-officio county clerk; James McFetridge, probate judge and ex-officio county treasurer; William Moorhead, sheriff; John Dease, superintendent of schools.

On the same date, so the proceeding of the board says, the board being satisfied that there were more than 20 legal voters in the county, they proceeded to divide the county into five election districts.

In the ancient history of the northwestern states it is stated that "there was a Pembina county in Minnesota prior to the year 1867 and that embraced a large portion of the Pembina county which was organized in 1867 but the same was unorganized, consequently there was no permanent organization until the year 1867.....The town of Pembina was in existence and was a historical point long prior to the year 1867, its history dates back over a century.The only means of transportation at this time was the red river cart drawn by oxen or horses. In the year 1871 steamboats began to ply on the Red River of the North through Pembina.

According to a census taken in the year 1861 there were but 76 white inhabitants in the Red River valley in Dakota Territory, consisting of 25 females and 51 males. At the time the county was organized, Andrew Johnson was president of the United States.

The first election, appearing of record, in Pembina County was held on the 13th day of October, 1868. The oldest Pembina county officers living today, appears to be Hon. H. E. Nelson, who in the year 1871 held the office of probate judge and ex-officio county treasurer. He now resides in the state of Oregon.

District court was held at Pembina during the year 1871 and Thomas Clover, a member of the

first grand jury drawn in the county, is still living in the county.

In July, 1871, the county board ordered that the first assessment be taken of property subject to taxation to the county.

The oldest county officer, now residing in county, appears to John Otten of Neche township, who was county commissioner in 1873.

While the Cavalier Band played a suitable impressive air, the corner stone was raised, almost noiselessly, by machinery, under direction of Contractor Rowles and his assistants, to its proper place at the northeast corner of the structure and properly laid by Commissioner Morrison.

The inscription on the corner stone comprise the names of the county commissioners and county auditor on one side and the year and name of the contractor on the other. (copy rest later)

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Chronicle
October ?, 1912

The New Court House

The fine weather of the past week has enable (sic) the workmen to make great progress on the new county buildings. The brick work for the sheriff's residence and jail is completed and the roof is being put on this week. The iron cells are all in place, and the work of installing the heating plant will come soon.

The brick work for the last story of the court house will be about complete this week if the fair weather holds out and the capstone and Cornish stone laying will quickly follow.

The stone cutters and sculptors are well along with their work, and no delay will occur on their account. Sculptor John Fandel is now bringing out the features of the stone lady who is to adorn the fore top of the buildings, and he smiles gracefully as the maiden responds in beautiful facial expression to the touch of his artistic hammer and chisel.

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Chronicle
December (unreadable) 1912

Court House Not Completed

The people of Pembina county have given their bonds bearing 4 per cent interest in the sum of \$100,000 for the construction of a court house and jail. It was supposed that the buildings would be completed and ready for occupancy before this. For some reason such is not the case.

The roof is not yet on the main building and the prospects are that it will not be completed according to contract before next fall.

Under these conditions the people of this county have a right to know why the buildings are not completed. The county commissioners have full charge of matters of this nature and they can explain the cause of the delay and should do so. Doubtless there is good sufficient reason but one does not occur to us and the rest of the people are probably but little wiser on the subject.

The taxpayers are paying \$4,000 a year interest on these bonds. That means they are willing to pay that sum annually for the use of county buildings. In the loss of the use of the buildings for a year we are losing \$4,000. Did the contractor give a bond for the completion of the buildings in 1912? If so why are the terms of the bond not enforced? If no bond was demanded or secured, the oversight will cost the county \$4,000.

It is likely that the county is paying rent on the buildings now occupied in addition to this \$4,000. As a heavy tax payer of the county we want the commissioners to make a statement. If they refuse to do so we want the county attorney to give the matter his attention. The action of inaction of the officers mentioned will show whether they feel themselves the servants of the people of that the people are their servants. Pink Paper

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Cavalier Chronicle
December 20, 1912
Vol. 23 No. 1

Why This Howl

The Pink Paper is certainly in a bad way. It refuses to take a wise, conscientious view of the court house construction matter and heaps abuse upon the county commissioners because the new building is not now ready for occupation. It implies that the commissioners let the contract without bond, and suggests that the contract could have been given to Dinnie Bros. of Grand Forks, whose bid it claims was "but a couple of hundred dollars below that of the outside bidders." In both those statements the Pink Paper is entirely wrong, thereby showing its editor to be either grossly ignorant on the whole court house matter of willfully putting up a show against the same merely to appease his personal feelings against the commissioners and county seat removal.

Now, in the first place, the commissioners did demand and receive good and sufficient bonds from the contractors. Rowles & Bailey the general contractors filed with the county auditor two bonds, each in the sum of \$76,850, just double of the amount of their contract with the Northwestern Trust Company as surety. Bonds for double the amount of the contract price were also filed in each case by John E. Holt, for plumbing and heating. Pauley Jail Building Company, for jail and cell work: T. P. Riley, for conducts (sic), electrical and telephone wiring (sic), Diebold Safe and Lock Company, for shutters and vault doors.

In the matter of awarding contracts the commissioners were forced to accept the lowest responsible bidder in each case regardless of whether he or they were residents of the state or not. That is the compulsory law of North Dakota in the matter of awarding contracts for county buildings. But the bid of Dinnie Bros., which the Pink Paper refers to as being a couple of hundred dollars above that of Rowles & Baily, was much more above. It was exactly \$1,628 above, their bid being \$78,478 and that of Rowles & Baily being \$76,850.

In the matter of the findings of the Pembina County Auditing Board, who met last week to take account of the doings of the Board of County Commissioners in connection with the award of contracts, acceptance of bonds and sureties, payments on court house and jail construction work, etc., the Chronicle will publish a full account next week. Then the Pink Paper man will see how grossly false and foolish he has been in his representations of the county commissioners in connection with new court house matters, even if he does not find full alleviation in this article.

As to the matter of suing contractors and sureties on the bonds given because the court house will not be completed on January 13th next, the time specified in the contracts, will the Pink Paper please inform us what material benefit could possibly accrue to the county thereby. We certainly could not get the court house any sooner nor cheaper thereby. The commissioners have taken into account the unfavorable building season, the hindrances in transportation of material and the wisdom of not forcing midwinter brick and stone work. It is no detriment to the county that they have permitted the contractors to suspend work upon the buildings until spring, under these conditions. In this they have shown far greater wisdom in safeguarding the material interests of the county than they possibly could have done by suing the contractors and sureties up on the bonds. Legal litigation is an expense (sic) indulgence, and the chances are ten to one that the county would be the great loser thereby in this case had the county commissioners been hot-headed and unwise enough to have commenced suit. The courts would have taken into account the unfavorable building season, the delay caused by the R. R. companies in transportation of building material and other unavoidable hindrances caused to the contractors for which they were not responsible.

Aside from the inconvenience to the county officers it is a matter of little moment to the county that a delay of three or four months in completion of the new county buildings is occasioned through unavoidable handicaps to the contractors. The delay will be a benefit to the county because of a better building that will be had through completion up the brick and stone work in non-freezing weather rather than in the below zero weather of mid-winter.

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Same

Furniture, Electrical Fixtures, and Decorations, Court House, Pembina Co., North Dak.

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the County Auditor of Pembina County, North Dakota at Cavalier, North Dakota for the furnishing of furniture, electrical fixtures and interior decoration for the Court House of said County, according to the

plans and specifications prepared by Beuchner & Orth, Architects, 500 Shubert Bldg, St. Paul, Minn.

Plans and specification for such work can be seen at the office of County Auditor at Cavalier, North Dakota and the office of Buechner & Orth, Architects, 500 Shubert Building, St. Paul, Minn, and also may be had by application to either of the above parties, after December 13th, 1912.

Separate bids to be received on the furniture, electrical fixtures or decorations above mentioned.

All bids shall be sealed and marked bids for furniture, electrical fixtures or decorations as the same shall be made and must be filed with the County Auditor on or before the hour of 2:00 p.m. January 10th, 1913, at which time they will be opened by the Board of County Commissioners of said Pembina County, North Dakota. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check for 5 per cent of amount bid, made payable to the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Pembina, N. Dak.

The Board of County Commissioners of said County reserve the right to reject any of all bids.

By order of the County Commissioners of said County of Pembina, North Dakota, December 4th, 1912

Attest...

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Cavalier Chronicle
Friday, December 27, 1912
Vol. 23 No. 2

Auditing board meets – results not copied

Same

[The Pink Paper](#) is Touched Up
The St. Thomas Times Hands a Bunch to Editor Willson

St. Thomas Times. It is evident from the tone of the editorials in the Pink Paper recently that its publisher believes some serious injustice has been done the tax payers of the county by commissioners and states attorney.

The charges that the Pink Paper makes against the commissioners are that at the time of letting the contract there were indications of poor judgment or worse. That the commissioners let the contract to a comparatively unknown firm without bond, that the county is paying \$4,000 rent per year for the uncompleted and unserviceable structure, that the county is paying a liberal

amount for the use of the "old Icelandic Hotel" and insinuated that there is a possible understanding between the contractors and the owners of the building. To these charges is added the threat that if the states attorney does not look into the matter it may be brought to the attention of the attorney general for investigation.

Last week the editor had a visit with Whitfield Douglas, of Pembina, for many years county treasurer of the county, a man of unquestioned character and good judgment, and a prominent Democrat. Mr. Douglas informed the editor on his first visit that he was on his way to Cavalier to assist in the auditing the accounts of the county relative to the expenditures for the construction of the court house. This information was the first we had that action was being taken to look into the charges made by Mr. Willson. Who asked Mr. Douglas to make the investigation, or who were the other men who assisted, if any, we did not enquire.

On his return home, last Saturday evening, the editor had another short visit with Mr. Douglas. He learned from the gentleman that every transaction of a public nature so far as the expenditure of public money was carried on was according to law and that the interest of the tax payers were properly safeguarded. The money arising from the sale of the bonds voted by the tax payers to build the court house, was not drawn in a single lump, but was drawn as needed by the commissioners, and interest on those amounts did not start until the money was received by the county treasurer for its legitimate use. The delay in completing the structure has been due to two principal causes. The first the securing of proper title to a part of the site for the court house, and the second the unseasonable weather that obtained in this section of the state during practically all of the time from the letting of the contract to the final setting in of winter. Everyone who resides in this locality knows well that for months rains interfered with the ordinary work of farming and there are standing today in Pembina county hundreds of acres of grain that will never be cut because of the continued wet weather, and hundreds of acres of grain that were unthreshed when the snow came and covered the shocks. These weather conditions operated against the court house contractors the same as against the farmers. The county is paying the magnificent sum of \$20 per month for the rent of the building in which the county officers are quartered, which does not appear to us to be in any way exorbitant, or sufficient to cause its owner to seek an understanding with the court house contractors to delay the completion of the structure. The architect has insisted that the completed portions of the building be properly protected against frost by the contractors so that no deteriorations or damage result. Finally the commissioners have withheld sufficient funds from the contractors to insure the completion of the building even in the absence of bonds.

Mr. Willson's statement that poor judgment or worse was shown at the lettering of the contract is unfair and unjust. The commissioners were bound by law to let the work to the lowest responsible bidder, and in doing so no blame can attach to them because a firm of non-residents made the lowest bid.

The legal tangle that resulted after the courthouse removal election was not the fault of the commissioners, and they acted in the matter of voting on bonds, advertising for bids and awarding the contract with all due speed. The commissioners were not to blame for the delay in securing the proper title to the court house site and they are certainly not chargeable with

the weather conditions that more than anything else have resulted in the failure of the contractors to complete the building.

Mr. Douglas, in whom we have implicit confidence, says the public funds voted by the tax payers for the construction of the court house are being honestly legally and economically expended. The architect states that the building is being protected from damage by the elements through measures he has compelled the contractors to employ. What then is there left of Mr. Willson's charge against the commissioners, or of the states attorney to call a grand jury or otherwise seek to investigate them?

We have known Mr. Willson for many years. He is a man of impulse, but he is generally fair-minded and generous. We believe that if he will endeavor to find out the real facts in this matter he will be convinced of his error in making his charges, and having been convinced of his error, he will hasten to apologize to those county officials he has publicly wronged.

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Same

Court House Matters

The Cavalier Chronicle makes some explanations regarding the court house and jail buildings not being erected which, if the Chronicle is not mistaken, puts a little better face on matters, so far as early use of the building is concerned. It says the building will be completed and ready for occupancy by February of the coming year. This statement probably emanates from the contractors, and as every man is presumed to be innocent until he is proven guilty we can but accept it at face value until February, when conditions will speak for themselves. Pink Paper, December 18th.

If the Pink Paper editor was really demented or a confirmed ignoramus, we might forgive him for the above statement which is unequivocally and utterly false. At no time, at no place and nowhere did the Chronicle say the new county buildings would be completed and ready for occupancy by February of the coming year. We deny the allegation and defy the allegator. The nearest approach to anything the Chronicle said about the matter, after it had explained that work, upon the buildings had been suspended until spring, was in its issue of Dec. 6th wherein it stated that contractor Rowles had assured the commissioners that the building would be completed by July 1st next.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle the Pink Paper editor will find a complete statement of the doings of the commissioners relative to "court house matters" as found and approved, by the county board of audit, of which Whitefield Douglas of Pembina is chairman. Read it, dear boy!

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Cavalier Chronicle

Friday, January 4, 1913

Vol. 23 No. 3

Grand Forks County New Courthouse

Late Monday afternoon, after deliberating for almost a week, the board of county commissioners selected plans for the new Grand Forks county court house. The plans submitted by Buchner & Orth of St. Paul were selected. The final selection was between this firm and the plans of W. J Edwards, a local architect.

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Same

Pink Paper Pills

[The Pink Paper](#) "takes back" much which it has said adversely about the county commissioners and court house construction, but for the sake of keeping up some argument derogatory to the matters in connection with the same it proceeds to "elongate" about the conditions of the bond given by contractors and wants to know if there is a penalty clause connected with the same to indemnify the county for delay in completing the contract. Under present conditions it matters little whether there is or is not such a clause attached to the said bond. The weather conditions, delays in transportation of material and skilled labor conditions having made impossible the completion of the most important brick and stone work before winter frosts set in, the commissioners were satisfied that for the highest welfare of the building, and the consequent material good of the county it was the better part of wisdom that further operations upon the same should be suspended until spring and the great majority of the tax payers of the county (many of the big ones like the Pink Paper editor) will say amen to the intelligent and logical decision of the commissioners. Everybody in the county who knows the conditions is satisfied that the commissioners have done the proper thing and safeguarded the best interest of the county (unreadable) and all further comments of the Pink Paper adversely thereto can be made only for the purpose of letting its editor "blow off" sufficiently to deceive the unwary and magnify his own personality.

(Followed by comments from the Mountaineer and Hamilton Independent supporting the commissioners actions)

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Cavalier Chronicle

Friday, January 10 ?), 1913

Vol. 23 NO. 4

When Pembina county editors run short of inspiration for their editorial columns, they start another scrap about the court house, not yet completed. Bismarck Tribune

You're wrong, dear boy. Pembina county editors never run short of editorial "inspiration" Recourse occasionally to the court house discussion is a side indulgence instituted for the

purpose of abnormal social development. Pembina county editors like to avoid the rut of social decay.

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Same

The New Board

The new board of county commissioners was organized Monday by the election of Norman Matheson as chairman. Hon. W. J. Watts, the new commissioner elect in the fourth district, to succeed Joseph Morin, arrived Sunday evening and was sworn in Monday morning. The board has been engaged most of the week checking up the books in the various county officers, fixing salaries of officers and deputies, accepting bonds of officers, designating banks for depositories of county funds, etc.

Brander Johnson was re-appointed janitor for the court house.

The following newspapers were designated official county papers for the year 1913. Pioneer Express, of Pembina. Mountaineer, of Wahalla, Chronicle, of Cavalier.

The county board of health was to have been appointed by the commissioners yesterday afternoon.

Today is the time set for opening bids for furniture, fixtures and decorations for new court house and jail.

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Cavalier Chronicle

Friday, January ???, 1913

Vol. 23 No. 5

The Grouchy Pink Paper

Still Giving specimens of the "Snake Dance"

[The Pink Paper](#) is still reeling off "gush" on the uncompleted court house question but still falls below the mark of making logical argument regarding want of wisdom in the delay of the really unavoidable circumstances attendant upon the same. It seeks to prod the commissioners because the court house is uncompleted, and will accept no logical argument that seeks to show the wisdom of delay in the construction work at a season of the year when such work could not wisely be prosecuted and the building be turned over to the county in highest substantial as well as most excellent form. The untruthful statement which the Pink Paper has made concerning the delay of court house work and the base insinuations which it has uttered against the wide and conscientious course of the commissioners in permitting suspension of work upon the buildings until the frost season was over, that no possible flaws or defects might creep into the important brick, stone and concrete work yet to be completed through the

agency of zero weather are highly remarkable. Since the contractors were unable through bad weather and other unavoidable handicaps to get this important work finished before the rigor of winter swept down upon the country, surely who can wisely say that the commissioners would have been morally justified, even if legally so, in enforcing any penalty clause against the contractors that might have been contained in the contract or bond.

As to what Dinnie Bros. might or might not have accomplished had they been awarded the contract, has nothing to do in this argument. The commissioners were bound under the state law to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, and the bid of Rowles & Bailey had to be accepted by them and unquestionably when they got through with their work, which will be early summer of the present new year, 1913, Pembina county will have one of the handsomest, most enduring and safe court houses to be found anywhere in the Northwest, and praise for the county commissioner board will then be upon the lips of the people for the sound judgment, wisdom and conscientious work in securing so complete and beautiful a home for county officials and the transaction of county business. Then will the Pink Paper fully realize what a measly (sic) fool it made (sic) of itself in its unsupported charges against the commissioners, for which there was no cause.

The Pink Paper intimates that it will take Whitfield Douglas' word about court house matters in some things but reject his judgment in others.

Listen to this from the Pink Paper: "If he will say why the commissioners failed to get after the contractors until we hunted them out with a long pole, we will take his word as truth just as we have done the better part of a lifetime".

With all due regard for the great editorial personality behind the Pink Paper, permit us to say that the "get after" proclivities of the commissioners were not stirred in the least by anything the Pink Paper has said about them. They did not get after the contractors, and have no reason for doing so, because of any "long pole" manipulated by the Pink Paper, which has proved to be only a straw.

Listen again: "The City of Cavalier is the greatest sufferer of all and still the Chronicle approves the course of the commissioners in delaying for a year the completion of this sightly building. The Chronotype in its first article said the building would be completed in April."

Pray, do tell, Mr. Pink Paper, just how it is that the City of Cavalier is any sufferer at all, or can suffer because this "sightly building" is not completed in midwinter? No thank you, no suffering here and none nowhere else in the county outside of the Pink Paper office. The City of Cavalier understands the legitimate cause of the delay and accepts the situation in a considerate, magnanimous spirit. If, Mr. Pink Paper, you mean in the above what you say, viz. that "The Chronotype in its first article said the building would be complete in April" we take no issue, but if names one of your typographical errors, and you really mean Chronicle when you say "Chronotype" then we deny the charge, for the Chronicle no time and nowhere said any such thing.

Here's something else: "We opposed the giving of the county judge \$1,000 additional salary. The Chronicle, Independent and "the other gang papers" said Mr. Vick would not remain at his present salary and we would lose a good official. He is a good official, but has anyone heard of his refusing to qualify at the old salary?"

Well, what has that got to do with the court house question? Why didn't you work off this old grouch of yours when the season was on? Anyhow, so far as the Chronicle is concerned it never said Judge Vick would not remain at his present salary and we did not argue for an increase of the same to \$1,000. But we did support the project to increase the jurisdiction of the county court which would have increased in a small way the salary of the county judge, but would have been a saving to the county in district court expense much beyond the salary increase. This we said regardless of whether Judge Vick or someone else held the office.

It if possibly can do, the Pink Paper will do well to infuse a little principle into its grouchiness, at least a sufficient amount to guard it against wholesale falsifying concerning what statements the Chronicle has made on court house and other questions of county note.

In conclusion – "The real cause for dissatisfaction among the taxpayers is not this specific act, whereby the county is deprived of the use of a court house for two years but that the business management is either so poor or so dishonest that such a condition could exist. We did not say the commissioners are dishonest, and we do not claim that they are lacking in ability to fill these offices."

If in the above you really do not mean what you say in charges of dishonesty and poor management on the part of the commissioners, what else do or can you mean, and why do you say anything at all? Better smother your grouchiness, dear boy, and get back in the conscientious and straight column.

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Same

Bids for court house accessories – mostly unreadable text

For Furniture, Wollager Manufacturing Company, of Milwaukee, Wis., through H. Pico, local representative, \$6500.

For Electrical Fixtures – Cassidy & Sons, St. Paul, \$1,800

For Decorations – Oden J. Oyen, of Lacrosse, Wis, \$2,000

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Cavalier Chronicle

Friday, March 28, 1913
Vol. 23 No. 15

[Pink Paper](#) Hypocrisy

Not court house related – slings and arrows to Frank Willson

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Cavalier Chronicle
Friday, May 2, 1913
Vol. 23 No. 20

Work is moving ahead at the new court house. Much of the heavy top stone and the heavy pilasters and their capitals have been raised in position and other important stone and brick work completed the past month. To facilitate the work of hoisting the heavy capstones to the stop of the structure, a new, heavy 65 feet derrick has been erected the past week. It is a monster affair and will do the most heavy lifting with comparative ease and safety. The plumbers are now at work also.

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SWAIN THORWALDSON, who enjoys the distinction of being the youngest officer in the court house in Pembina county, is rapidly rising to prominence and carries a remarkable influence for one of his years. He is a gentleman of integrity and persistent efforts, and is serving in the capacity of deputy auditor of Pembina county. Our subject was born in Kyelduskogum, Iceland, May 25, 1875, and was a son of Thorwaldur and Vilborg (Jonsdotter) Stigson. He was the youngest of fifteen children, and his father died while our subject was an infant. In 1881, the mother and eight children, piloted by the eldest son, crossed the water, and in September, located at St. Vincent, Minnesota, and soon afterward came to Akra township, and there purchased land, and our subject was reared to farm life. He was deprived of school advantages until his fourteenth year, and he then finished the common schools and clerked in his brother's store at Akra. He entered the Globe Business College at St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1896, and after completing the business course returned as clerk in his brother's store, and in August, 1898, purchased land in Avon township. He was appointed deputy auditor of Pembina county in March, 1899, and took up his residence in the city of Pembina, and is now serving in that capacity and is gaining popularity as a public official. Our subject was married, in 1898, to Miss Kristbjorg Johnson, also a native of Iceland. One son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Thorwaldson, upon whom they have bestowed the name of Waldimar Stigur. Mr. Thorwaldson is a Republican in political sentiment, and is a man who keeps pace with the times and lends his influence for good government and the upbuilding of the community in which he makes his home, and well merits his high standing.

[Source: "History and Biography of North Dakota". Transcribed by Susan Ripley]

DANIEL J. LAXDAL, attorney at law, and land commissioner for North Dakota, is a representative member of his profession, and has gained a high position in his locality, and enjoys a good practice in Cavalier, Pembina county.

Our subject was born in Iceland, April 9, 1866, and he and an elder sister constituted the family born to Grimur and Aldis (Jonasdottir or Bergmann) Laxdal. By a former marriage of the father five children were born. The father died in Iceland, and when our subject was ten years of age the mother came to America with her children and step-children, and was one of a colony of one thousand persons who emigrated from Iceland, with Lake Winnipeg as their objective point. The mother of our subject and the children went to Pembina county, North Dakota, in the spring of 1879, and there took land in section 27 in Gardar township. Our subject attended school in Winnipeg two months, but his English education was obtained in the common schools of Pembina county. When thirteen years of age he obtained a position at eight dollars per month, caring for officers' children at Fort Pembina, and in 1880-81 he worked in a biscuit factory in Winnipeg. He entered the Lutheran College in Iowa, in 1883, and by working hard remained five years, and then when in his senior year accepted a position in the law office of W. J. Kneeshaw, at Pembina, with who he read law, and two years later in March, 1890, was admitted to the bar. In the fall of that year, in partnership with Magnus Brynjolfson, he established an office in Cavalier, and this became the pioneer law firm of that city. He began alone in 1892 and has since conducted a general law practice, and also deals in real estate, loans and insurance.

Our subject was married, in 1893, to Miss Bessie Rose. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Laxdal, named as follows: Mabel, and Fredrick Eggert. Mr. Laxdal was appointed land commissioner for the state of North Dakota in 1899, and now serves in that capacity. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Lutheran church. Politically he is a Republican and served ten years as secretary of the county central committee.

[Source: Compendium of History and Biography of North Dakota, Publ. 1900.

Transcribed by Syndi Phillips]

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