

SCRAP
BOOK

River
Falls
SC
271

Oluff Halls

First Raid in a Quarter Century--the Story.

STORY OF THE RAID.

The saloon and adjoining resort run by Chas. Cook and May Cook on the island opposite Red Wing were raided at one o'clock this morning.

Chas. Cook and May Cook were arrested in their room in the saloon building by Sheriff Halls of Pierce county, Under Sheriff Frank Baker of River Falls and Deputy Oscar Halls. They made little resistance and submitted with simply the utterances of a few curses. After the two prisoners were presumably in hand, Chas. Cook escaped but was recaptured by Barton Jenson, a visitor in Pierce Co. from Virginia, Soren Halls, the son of the sheriff and Chas. Campbell of Ellsworth, three young men who were along as drivers.

While the Cooks were being arrested the officers not there engaged raided the resort a hundred yards or so further up stream, a place which has had a most unsavory reputation. Five women were there gathered in, also six young men, probably all from Red Wing were taken into custody. They pleaded for mercy but the strong arm of the law was relentless and the 11 persons arrested in this house together with May Cook were brought to Ellsworth. The carriages being overcrowded, Charley Cook was brought to Red Wing and placed in the county jail. This morning before five o'clock Sheriff Halls and his son, Jay Halls, a student at the University of Wisconsin, took him over to Ellsworth. When Sheriff Halls came over from the island with Cook he saw that the Republican office was open and marched his prisoner in to the waiting and surprised editors who were waiting for their reporters to return and not for prisoners to appear. A telephone message to Sheriff Lundquist secured accommodations for the prisoner for the night.

The raid on the resort where the girls were found was led by Jay Halls, and he was ably backed by Messrs. Roberts, Weldon, La Grand, Campbell and Mars, whose full names are given elsewhere. As the entrance was made some of the men took to the tall timber, and those remaining were meek as lambs. The "girls" thought the arrest was a joke at first but they soon realized it was the real thing. One started to call up Cook's by 'phone but young Halls prevented her from sending the message. One of the girls cried pitiously, but securing some cigarette paper and tobacco which was not taken from her she was soon pacified and ready to go with her sisters in shame.

The men arrested gave their names to the officers, but the sheriff and others feared that they were the names of other Red Wing people and deemed it wise not to make them public. One of the men said he was married. As those arrested were all in the "parlor" at the time of the raid no new evidence was obtained, in fact the sheriff did not expect any. What he wanted was to place the whole outfit under arrest on the testimony he can already produce, taking for granted that people of standing in Red Wing will volunteer to testify to the general reputation of the Cook resort.

The men and teams came over from Wisconsin in the afternoon. Driving back shortly after midnight they passed the saloons and stopped some distance beyond. The officers hastened back and the arrests were made as before stated. The whole affair was done so quickly, so expeditiously and so quietly that it was evident the sheriff and his men knew beforehand to a dot what they were going to do. The remnants of drunken men in the Cook saloon gave evidence of making trouble but the sheriff paid no attention to them and they finally thought best to restrain themselves.

This is the first raid made on the island in a quarter century and it is to be hoped that it marks the beginning of the end of that era of infamy and shame which has prevailed. The influence of the island on Red Wing has been damnable and it is time to call a halt.

It has been learned that there are three licensed saloons on the island. Chas. Cook has two licenses, one for his saloon and another for the house of ill repute. That the town board of Trenton township should grant such licenses can hardly be believed and pressure should be brought to bear on the members of the board against such infamy. The members of the board are James Gilmore, Victor Swanson and T.H. Eidem. Mr. Gilmore is at present candidate for sheriff and it seems that the people of Pierce county should make the island an issue in the election of county officers.

HONOR TO THOSE UPHOLDING LAW

Picture of Island Life Where Debauchery Reigns Supreme
In Resorts.

Honor to Sheriff Oluff O. Halls of Pierce county and his deputies and assistants who raided the hell-holes on the island across from this city and lodged in the county jail at Ellsworth the demi-mones early this morning.

It was a neat piece of work, the difficulties and hazards of which can hardly be appreciated by any one who has not himself been an officer of the law where crime and lawlessness held undisputed sway—where sobriety, virtue, honesty and other divine traits in man and woman were as scarce as the proverbial snow balls in the infernal regions.

For a quarter of a century the resorts on the island have swallowed up the mashood, the morality, the money and even the lives of men who have come within their zone, without ever being molested and with only an occasional faint voice raised against them. When spoken of it has been mainly in jest, by men whose blunted senses find merriment in debauchery and the opportunity for a smutty story and filthy joke in the blotting out of virtue among the habits of vice. Sodom and Gomorah in their palmyest days of licentiousness would have to look to their laurels were they to be compared with the island over which sounds the peals of Red Wing's church bells, and yet Heaven has not sent fire to destroy it nor has the public conscience of Red Wing risen in its might and smitten it, nor has Pierce county felt much uneasiness about this festering ulcer on her body.

More than a quarter of a century since. There was a pretense at attempts to drive the cloven hoofs from their island habitat, but they neither were effective nor sincere. True, about that time the whole filthy mess was consigned to the flames but it was freely charged that some interested individual fired the place to hide forever the evidence of a hundred unpunished crimes.

For a while it was quiet on the island. Then came a brothel that established itself at such a respectful distance from the city as if it were feeling its way. Becoming bolder it moved to the nearest possible point to Red Wing and there it has maintained itself, opulent and independent, regardless of law or authority. There it has flourished under the very eyes of ten thousand people who lay claim to Christianity and morality, notwithstanding the foul stench which has issued from the leper zone and permeated through the Desirable City, in spite of the fact that "hell's half acre" had been reeking with rotteness, and physical and moral ruin, has been left to carry on its satanic work of demoralization and destruction.

Every thief and thug who has visited Red Wing has there made his rendezvous. Every crime mentioned in the decalogue has been there committed. Were everything known—could those sloughs and ponds and the silent moving river tell their stories, could the trees and

walls whisper, the Guinness farm of Indiana, which shocked the world, would seem tame in comparison.

With their ears close to the ground, listening for the first sound of trouble, surrounded by subsidized people in office and out, ready to give the alarm should something happen; condoned by those who recognize "necessary evils" and patronized and befriended by the horde of young men and old, who have been selling their souls and buying damnation in these haunts of iniquity, the islanders have been fortified, protected and encouraged to a degree which would cause one to blush for shame and ask: "Why these schools, these church spires, these moral influences, these reputed Christian people when aught like this can thrive in our very midst, for five and twenty years" with scarcely a protest against them?

Is depravity so pronounced, corruption so general and cowardice so great that the county of Pierce and the city of Red Wing should pass this unnoticed? Heaven forbid! The majority of people are good but they have been asleep. The minority of them are bad—and they never sleep. Granted that Pierce county is legally responsible for conditions on the island. It need not simply be taken for granted that Red Wing furnishes nine-tenths of the sacrifices which the island claims on the altars of vice and corruption, for that is an indisputable fact. Although in Wisconsin and beyond our jurisdiction, there has never been a time when the right kind of public sentiment in Red Wing could not have morally controlled the island, and the moral influence of our citizens today, if properly, discretely, forcefully, courageously directed with such demonstration that its meaning cannot be misunderstood, can help the sheriff and attorney of Pierce county very materially in the wiping out of this "damned spot" from the map of this community.

PROFANITY AND RANK OBSCENITY

Together with Bestiality Are the
Trinity on the Island Saturday
Nights.

It was eleven o'clock and the saloons in Red Wing had generally closed. The crowds that had frequented them during the evening were meandering along the streets through the drizzling rain. Some went directly to their homes. Others loafed around in sheltered places in the down-town district. Many betook themselves to the bridge and over on the island, there to throw themselves into the gay, mad whirl of gambling, drunkenness and debauchery.

The advance guard of dissipation had come over at an earlier hour—as soon as darkness had drawn its concealing curtain over the bridge and river—and already a motley crowd of drunks and disorderlies, some in rags and others in fine clothes, had some time moved here and there among the dives, throwing their money at the proprietors.

In one saloon where a woman had usually slung out the booze and set the pace for the crowd, lashing the liquor with a recklessness which had caused even old lumber jacks to gaze in astonishment, had been replaced by men who acted as bar tenders. Profanity, obscenity and bestiality were the trinity that reigned supreme, while the fumes of liquor and stupefying drugs and unclean beings issued from every open door.

While far more tame than on nights when the weather was more favorable, the iniquity beggars description, and were it half told this article would be too loathsome to send into the homes of the city. Here and there were the gambling tables with their victims; here and there a drunken youth clinging clammy to a companion or staggering around, quite paralyzed with drink. At that hour mothers and sisters were saying their evening prayers in the pure homes of the city a few blocks distant, and clergymen were preparing the words of holy wisdom for their Sunday sermons, while in this vortex of crime and corruption, unbeknown to their dear ones were being swallowed up the integrity, the morality, yea the temporal and eternal welfare of many of our young men.

As the night wore on—the same as thousands of similar hilarious, licentious nights in these abodes of wickedness—the crowds around the bars thinned out, worn out by the dissipation and carousal; sluggish, clammy beings lay around the floors, benches and porches, or in their drunken stupor fumbled aimlessly around the grounds or in the road. A number staggered back over the bridge to the city as hundreds had done before, laden with liquor and contamination, to infect their homes with the damnation of the dens they had sought, and thereby shut out forever hope and happiness from innocent, loving hearts.

From among the carousers in the saloons a throng of men had poured

into the resort beyond the saloons, the infamy of which had been common report for a quarter century. In the "parlor" the "girls" held high carnival, entertaining a hilarious constituency. Beer at 50 cents per bottle flowed like water and every new "welcome" meant a drink for "the house." The wild and indecent orgies here enacted would look too shocking in print. Demi-mondes in scant attire cajoled both willing and unwilling victims into their nets. Had some of the "guests" heard from their sisters or their mothers the blasphemy, the filth, the profanity, then what? Or had they found a daughter, or sister or sweetheart in such environments, then what? Yet here they drank it all in eagerly and the wanton revels, the kind in which nothing is holy and all is hell, went madly on.

It was one o'clock and the stupid crowd was well scattered. The lights were low in the resort—and men of varying degrees had been reduced to the same level—young men, recent beginners in the school of vice, as well as coarse, uncouth humans, in whom every divine spark had, seemingly, been long extinguished. But it is the young men on whom the island mostly thrives and a sufficient number of recruits must yearly be enlisted to make it financially prosperous. The number of recruits, therefore, is shockingly, appallingly large.

The scenes which might be depicted, the incidents which might be described would sadden and sicken the reader, some being so loathsome, so unbelievable that any clean mind revolts against their contemplation; therefore let the reporter pass them by for the present and deal with more uncommon things.

Listen!

Several carriages roll over the high wagon bridge from Red Wing. As they pass the island resorts echoes are heard of the blasphemy, the maledictions, the ribaldry of earlier hours. There are subdued groans and curses. Images of men grope about in the dark. Four, five, six carriages, perhaps. It is not easy to discern in the dark. The carriages pass well beyond the saloons. Leaving the teams in charge of the drivers, the others walk quietly down to Cook's saloon and resort. In a shorter time than it takes to tell it, Sheriff Oluff O. Halls of Pierce county and his men have surrounded and raided one of the most notorious brothels in the Northwest and taken its habitues and a number of their patrons into custody.

THE PRISONERS HAVE ARRIVED

Those Arrested in the Island Raid
Placed Safely in the Jail at Ellsworth Without Incident.

Ellsworth, Sept. 27, (6 a. m.)—The officers arrived in Ellsworth with the prisoners arrested in the raid on the island resorts without any noteworthy incident. They were as meek as meek could be and gave evidence that they will continue on their best behavior.

"Hickory Bob," in jail in Ellsworth for stealing some of May Cook's jewelry, says he is "tickled to death" on the arrival of the island contingent.

SHERIFF HALLS INTERVIEWED

Says That Red Wing Should Cooperate in Prosecution or Forever Hold Its Peace.

Sheriff O. O. Halls of Pierce county with six teams and fourteen men or more were in the city most of the afternoon and the sheriff spoke freely about his plans. That the presence of the sheriff and his posse did not reach the keen-eared islanders with their host of friends shows with what skill and discretion the affair was planned and managed. Reporters of the Republican watched the developments as others might have done, but did not and the office was kept open waiting the latest news from the front.

Speaking with the reporter, Sheriff Halls said in part: "It has always been the cry of Red Wing that the officers of Pierce county would do nothing to improve the conditions on the island and clean out the lawlessness said to exist there. As sheriff of Pierce county I am going to do my share, so will the district attorney, Mr. George Thompson, but we expect the moral support of the good people of Red Wing. If we capture the lawbreakers on the island we expect a sufficient number from Red Wing to come of their own accord to Ellsworth and testify to the reputation of the island resort. If they are not willing to do that, let them hold their peace with reference to the Pierce county authorities."

When seen after the raid, which was witnessed by reporters from this office, Sheriff Halls said: "We have got them, and in less than two hours and a half they will be in jail in Ellsworth, except Charley Cook, who was temporarily brought over to Red Wing because the carriages were full before he was captured. The evidence we have obtained and what has been gathered during the past week by representatives from my office ought to be sufficient to convict."

The story of how the evidence was obtained and who secured it need not be told at this time, but it will make an exceedingly interesting chapter when the trial takes place in November. Presumably the preliminary hearing will be held tomorrow and those captured bound over to the November term of court presided over by Judge Weid. The preliminary hearing will be held before Justice Fenton.

Those who participated in the raid were: Sheriff O. O. Halls, of Ellsworth; Under Sheriff Frank Baker of River Falls; Percy Ap. Roberts, editor of River Falls "Times;" Supt. of Schools, Geo. Weldon, of Ellsworth; Deputy Sheriff Joe La Grande, of Ellsworth; Ed. Campbell, of Ellsworth; Deputy Sheriff Sam Mars, of Spring Valley; Deputy Sheriff Oscar Halls, of Ellsworth; Deputy Sheriff Jay Halls, of Ellsworth; T. H. Eidem, of Trenton. Besides these there were four or five men who took care of the teams.

One of the boys taking part in the island raid had not slept for three days and three nights, having assisted his father in running down the thieves who stole \$400 worth of property at various places in Ellsworth during the fair.

RED WING, MINNESOTA, MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 28, 1908.

NOT PERSONAL PROSECUTION

Wisconsin Officers Want General Clean-up—Red Wing and Goodhue Co. Officers Should Co-operate.

"It is not the intention of my office at this time to unnecessarily prosecute those people who have been accustomed to visit the island," said Sheriff Halls in his conversation with The Republican. "What we are after is the general proposition," continued he, "and we will bear down on individuals only so far as is necessary to prove the general case. I have a list of a large number of men who have been visiting the island and who can be quickly arrested and brought to Ellsworth and fined, as soon as they set foot on Wisconsin soil, but if they will let matters take their course and not do anything to block our progress in this matter they are reasonably sure of not being arrested. Not only do I have the names of people who were on the island Saturday night, but on other nights as well. I do not know them personally but I have their names and I have men who can swear to their presence, but as I said, I am not after the individuals. I am after the things that are bad, and I am going to clean them out as far as lies within my power. This may be only the beginning of the crusade. The owners and habitues of the dives on the island can call on a considerable number of men who will be compelled to give them assistance. The exposure that the islanders can make concerning the victims who are in their clutches are not pleasant to think about. The moral forces of Red Wing will have to come to the front and assist in this work. Gen. Thompson, our able district attorney, will put forth his very best efforts to convict the lawbreakers, and except for his strong qualities, and except for his strong qualities hesitated to take up the work which was begun Sunday morning."

If it had been the intention of Sheriff Halls to prosecute individuals, he would have gathered in a great many more Sunday morning. He only took with him a sufficient number to get evidence against the house which he raided. If the information now in the hands of the sheriff and district attorney should be made public, it would be more of a sensation than the Sunday morning edition of The Republican. They say it will never be used if the people concerned remain good.

As far back as can be remembered the police department of the city of Red Wing has often been unjustly censured for Sunday drunks and the presence in the city of undesirable characters. Invariably they have given assurance that these people come from the island and if the island resorts were wiped out Red Wing would have a better record. It is a very easy matter to get over the bridge and back and across the river and since the local police officers have had no authority on the other side, and the Pierce county authorities have before done little or nothing, the position which the Red Wing police have taken has generally been justified. The chief of police and the policemen are thoroughly familiar with the conditions existing on the island. Now, then, in order to make it possible to eliminate the island and make it easier for the police department to keep Red Wing clean and free from drunks at times when the saloons are closed, they have an opportunity to serve their community by going to Ellsworth at the time of the trial and giving all the evidence in their possession to the Wisconsin court. They can testify as to the character and reputation of the island and undoubtedly to a number of specific things which have come under their supervision while they have been the guardians of the law. Cook has on occasions been instrumental in turning over to the city and county authorities criminals who were desired, or at least in giving information which would lead to their capture. This may not have been a matter of benevolence on the part of Cook, or any great desire on his part to bring to speedy justice anyone who is a criminal. It has been good policy to do so, because he knew that if such information had not been given, public sentiment in Red Wing would have reached fever heat a long time ago. Mayor Pierce should instruct his entire police department to go to Ellsworth and reveal everything that is known in police circles, and Sheriff Lundquist, one of the ablest men in his particular line in the state, and one of the best detectives that Minnesota has ever seen, should also assist in the movement as a citizen, although not in his province as an officer. The authorities on this side

are certainly in moral duty bound to assist their brother officers in Wisconsin in cleaning out the island resort. At the proper time they will no doubt do so.

GILMORE WANTS THE ISLAND CLEANED OUT

Chairman of Trenton Board, Now Candidate for Sheriff, Will Enlist in the Cause.

One of the first callers at The Republican office this morning to express his approval of the desire on the part of the moral and law-abiding people of Red Wing to clean out the island and to pledge his support in favor of the movement was James H. Gilmore, chairman of the board of supervisors of the town of Trenton, and Republican candidate for the office of sheriff of Pierce county.

According to the laws of Wisconsin a sheriff can serve only one term. He can be re-elected only after he has been out of office for one term or more. This is to eliminate politics and other undesirable things from the office of sheriff and the system is said to work out well in the Badger state.

Mr. Gilmore said that the board of Trenton has issued liquor licenses, not of its own accord, but because the majority of people have voted in favor of license. Mr. Gilmore now is, and after his election to the office of sheriff, will be a most potent factor in keeping the island clean, and being a man who has got the courage to back up whatever he says, his voluntary promise of support in this conflict for morality and manhood is of particular significance. "I was not apprised by the sheriff that a raid was to be made," said Mr. Gilmore, "therefore I was not along."

The people of Pierce county will, within the next few weeks, be fully informed with regard to the condition which has existed across the river from Red Wing. The men and women of Pierce county are as moral and law-abiding as those of any other county in the state. What does this mean? It simply means that they will join with Red Wing in the crusade and will co-operate with their officers in their performance of their duty.

Mr. Gilmore has the sincere thanks of the people of Red Wing for the position that he has taken and the promise that he has made, and it has set him right with a large number of people not only in Red Wing, but in Pierce county, who have learned to become suspicious of anything that comes out of Trenton.

JUDICIAL MILLS START GRINDING

Island Habitués, Owners and Frequenters Appear in Ellsworth This Morning.

Special to The Republican:

Ellsworth, Sept. 28.—When invoice was taken of the prisoners brought over from the island yesterday morning it was found there were six women and four men in custody. The women gave their names as Mary Cook, Maggie Murphy, Ethel Root, Nan Darrell, Louise Ishan and Ella Wilkins. The men gave their names as Chas. Cook, Gust Clanaon, C. Bennett and Carl Kuss.

Chas. Cook, Mary Cook and Maggie Murphy were charged with running a house of ill repute. They pleaded not guilty at their first hearing today. The Cooks were represented by Senator Walter Owen of Malden Rock and Jno. Foley of Ellsworth. Mr. Owen was the individual who upset the plans for annexing the island to Red Wing four years ago. Maggie Murphy had no attorney and appeared in person. The regular preliminary hearing will be held tomorrow to take the testimony of Jay Halls, who did some clever detective work on the island, and then the case will be adjourned until a week from Wednesday.

Four of the habitués of Cook's resort were fined \$25 and costs each. The men were fined \$10 each and costs, amounting all told to \$18.00.

The penalty for running a house of ill repute in Wisconsin is from one to three years in the state penitentiary.

GREAT SENSATION CREATED BY RAID

Various Views of Looking at Prosecution of the Island Law-breakers.

The Sunday morning Extra of The Republican, giving the full details of the raid on the island created a most profound sensation throughout the city, such as nothing else has done for a great many years. It was instantly apparent that the people of Red Wing are tremendously interested in the solution of the problems connected with the island, but they divided themselves into three groups: One consists of the great majority of good, clean, moral people, who believe in blotting out the damnable spot that has been contaminating and corrupting our young people. Another group, a small minority, many of whom are as good, loyal citizens as those found in the bigger class, don't feel like "butting in" and getting personally mixed up with the affair. The third group consists of persons entirely opposed to prosecuting the island offenders for a variety of fine-spun reasons and don't want the lawbreakers molested.

In matters of this kind, as well as in other matters, everybody has the right to his opinion and whether a man is for or against it, his motives need not be impugned, because on the greatest of questions good people have differed.

It may be taken for granted, however, that those who like the kind of life which is being led over on the island, or who profit in one way or another by the damnable traffic which has there been in progress for more than a generation, will all oppose any movement which tends to clean out the place. It may also be taken equally for granted that people with strength of character and moral courage to back up that strength will use every endeavor and will give every assistance to the Wisconsin authorities to assist in blotting out the foul nest which was raided Sunday morning. Let people with courage all do what they consider to be their Christian duty. Those who do not have the courage of their convictions will find every excuse for not participating in this great moral work. But that class of milk and water people can be gotten along without. The contest will be between the good and the bad; the weaklings won't count.

There never was a question of more vital importance that confronted the city of Red Wing, than that which is now before them, and if they want the rottenness and licentiousness to continue across the river they will certainly have the privilege. If they want to blot it out forever, the Christian manhood and Christian womanhood of the citizens will assert itself and will be able to accomplish their work of island house cleaning in a comparatively short time.

At the November term of court in Ellsworth, Charles Cook, Mary Cook and Maggy McGuire, the latter the "supervisor" of the house of ill repute which was raided, will be given their trial. At that time it is necessary for Red Wing people to appear and testify as to the reputation of the island resort. They do not need to be posted with regard to any details. They don't have to swear to anything they do not know. All they have to do is to say what the reputation in Red Wing is of the Cook resort on the island. Or, people may go there without giving evidence and impress upon the Pierce county authorities the desire of the people of Red Wing to clean out the filthy mess and laying before them the damnable and iniquity of the island. There ought to be a thousand people in Red Wing, willing to march to Ellsworth in a body to make a demonstration, a lawful, orderly, Christianlike demonstration, which would so impress the hearts and the minds of the people in Pierce county, men and women, officers and citizens, that they would rise as one and banish forever the resorts and the dives which have been the curse of this community for more than a quarter century.

If the number of people who have called at the Republican office this morning or who have sent messages by telephone congratulating Sheriff Halls on his work and The Republican upon the Sunday morning Extra, and who have pledged to give the authorities of Wisconsin their heartiest cooperation, count for anything, the lawbreakers and their sympathizers will stand aghast when it comes to a show of strength.

FORMER SHERIFF PIERCE COUNTY DIES SUDDENLY

**Oluf O. Halls Succumbs to Heart
Attack at His Office in Ells-
worth Tuesday Evening—Fear-
less Officer and Respected
Citizen.**

(From The Morning Republican).
Oluf O. Halls, village clerk of
Ellsworth, Wis., and former sheriff
of Pierce county, died suddenly at
his office in Community hall, Ells-
worth, on Tuesday evening at about
6:20 o'clock. He had gone to attend
to his official duties following dinner
at home and appeared as well as
usual at the time. His son, Victor
Halls, as was his usual custom, stop-
ped to take him home following his
day's work at the office of the Ells-
worth Record. His father greeted
him cheerfully and while putting on
his overcoat dropped suddenly to the
floor. When his son reached his side
he was dead, the end being due to
an attack of heart trouble.

Born in Norway

Mr. Halls was born in Norway on
April 21, 1861 and came to this
country 47 years ago, settling first
at River Falls. There he was em-
ployed for a number of years as
clerk in a store. He later removed
to Ellsworth, where he conducted a
mercantile establishment for several
years and then went on the road as
a traveling salesman. During 1907
and 1908 Mr. Halls served as sher-
iff of Pierce county and proved a
most efficient and fearless official.
During his term in office the island,
opposite Red Wing, long a denizen
of vice, which had been disregarded
by former officials in their efforts to
enforce the law, was raided and dens
of iniquity were cleared out by de-
stroying the structures, which hous-
ed them. Mr. Halls worked in co-
operation with Red Wing men in
his campaign and succeeded in driv-
ing the vicious characters from their
haunts on the island. He was sued,
along with Red Wing residents, for

destruction of the properties involv-
ed and the plaintiffs were awarded
a verdict of a dollar. Following the
raid much of the island property was
deeded to Red Wing residents for
park purposes.

Highly Respected

Mr. Halls, following his retirement
as sheriff, lived a comparatively quiet
life. He was always interested in
community affairs and was active in
all things for the good of the people
at large. He was a man of a big
heart, kind and charitable to all but
a vigorous foe of wrongdoers. He was
held in respect by all who knew him
and admired for his splendid quali-
ties. For the past three years he
had served as village clerk of Ells-
worth, a task to which he gave his
most careful attention.

Mr. Halls had been in failing
health for a number of years and his
decline was especially noticeable dur-
ing the autumn months. He, however,
refused to give up his duties and
daily was found at his office.

Surviving, besides his wife are
four sons, Oscar A. Halls, editor of
the Ellsworth Record, Victor Halls,
associated with his brother in the
newspaper business, Jay C. Halls, an
attorney at Chicago, Soren Halls
of Lake Benton, Minn., and a daugh-
ter, Mrs. Waldemar Larson of Hart-
land, Wis.

Arrangements for the funeral have
not been completed.

SHERIFF HALLS, VICE CRUSADER, TAKEN BY DEATH

**Cleaned Up Island in the
Mississippi.**

Red Wing, Minn., Jan. 2.—[Special.]

—The sudden death of Oluf O. Halls,
once known as the crusading sheriff
of Pierce county, Wis., recalls the re-
lentless warfare he waged on vice and
the resultant acquisition by this city
of an island in the Mississippi, long a
refuge for criminals, for park purposes.

The island, wooded by virgin pines,
maple and cottonwood, was owned by
the state of Wisconsin, but was far re-
moved from the Pierce county seat
and the sheriff's eye. On it were sa-
loons, dives and gambling dens. It
was opposite Red Wing, but inasmuch
as it was the property of the Badger
state, Red Wing police could do nothing.

How Halls Cleaned Up.

When Mr. Halls came into office
nearly twenty years ago he promised
that his one object would be the "clean-
ing up of the island." He enlisted
the aid of many citizens of Red Wing,
and after his son, Jay C. Halls, now a
prominent attorney in Chicago, had
obtained evidence against all the places
of vice by posing as a derelict, a raid
was made by scores of men. Armed
with saws, crowbars, hammers and
hatchets, the raiders swooped down on
the island one dark night. They la-
bored until early morning, and when
they had left the island the buildings
which had housed the vice dens were
wrecks. Many of the criminals were
jailed.

Island Now Town's Playground.

The saloon proprietors, facing the
danger of investigation into many
suspicious happenings on the island,
such as the deaths of several who had
made it their "pleasure ground,"
agreed to quit the island and to deed
the land to the city of Red Wing. Ac-
tion was started for damages against
those involved in the raid, and a jury
awarded the plaintiffs the sum of one
dollar, which was never collected.

The island is now a playground for
the residents of Red Wing and the
surrounding country. It has a tourist
camp, a bathing beach, a baseball park
and athletic field, and one section is
now devoted to a colony of attractive
summer homes.

SPRING VALLEY, WISCONSIN, FEBRUARY 10, 1910



High in the heavens the other night
Suddenly flashed a glorious sight.
Is it the comet in its place,
Whose orbit is but four years long?
It must be—yet, how strange the face!
Perhaps there may be something wrong!
For since Pierce County's earliest days
That comet comes to fright and maze;
From deepest space it seems to come
To stream across the heavenly dome.
This is its time, but not its look—
Has it so changed, by hook or crook,
Or has some stranger had the gall
To butt in there ahead of all?



DRIVING OUT THE SERPENTS.

They are bound to go when the club of law enforcement is wielded in Oluff O. Halls' fearless and vigorous manner. The job is four-fifths completed. Do the people of Pierce county want it finished? Let the votes answer.

RED WING, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1910.

VICTORY FOR MORALITY; COOK'S ISLAND PROPERTY BECOMES PUBLIC PARK

Of greater importance to Red Wing than even the result of the elections was the final outcome of the battle against immorality and lawlessness on the island, which was settled at Ellsworth this afternoon. It is a victory of a quarter century in which all moral, law-abiding citizens will rejoice and at which the sympathizers of lawlessness and immorality will scoff.

Charles Cook, May Cook and Maggy Murphy were each fined \$100 and costs, amounting in all to \$516. The two women have been in jail ever since the raid but Cook has been out on bail.

The entire property controlled by Cook, on the island has been deeded to John H. Schacht, E. C. Erb and Robt. W. Putnam, the present members of the board of public works and will be converted into a park and picnic grounds for the people of Red Wing and Pierce county.

The remaining saloons in Trenton township are closing according to law at 11 p. m. and on Sundays. When the present license year expires no liquor licenses at all will be granted on the island.

Chas. Cook and his connections have expressed a determination never to return to this locality.

Chas. Cook has expressed his determination to lead a respectable life hereafter, the same as his relations to whom he points with pride.

The Cook resort on the island has been practically torn down, as an ex-

ample. The other buildings will be moved off the island by Feb. 15. Cook gets the salvage of the buildings.

There is an interesting story in connection with these terse facts which will be given in due time.

We present herewith pictures of the men whom Red Wing has to thank for the great work and difficult work, from which officers and citizens have shrunk for a generation, and which has been accomplished so effectively, so satisfactorily and in so short a time.



SHERIFF OLUFF O. HALLS,
of Pierce county, the intrepid and conscientious officer who raided the island and brought law and order where wretchedness had reigned for a generation.

THEY STAND BY MORAL REFORM

COLVILL PARK LADIES IN ANNUAL MEETING SUSTAIN SHERIFF HALLS WORK.

ELECT OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

Old Officials Re-elected—Encouraging Reports of a Successful Season's Work—New Members Accepted—Thanks Expressed for Help Rendered from Many Sources—Outlook Bright.

The annual meeting of the Colvill Park association was held last evening in the lecture room of the public library. The president, secretary and treasurer gave encouraging reports of the work done and the aid received since the organization meeting July 18.

The purchase price, \$1,500, had been paid in full, also expenses for the two months in which the park had been open to the public under paid supervision. The movable property had been stored for next season's use, and only the insurance remained unpaid with a balance of \$32.90 in the treasury. Nine members were received in addition to the 115 members previously reported. The work of soliciting memberships will be continued during the winter, and it is hoped that so many will pay the small yearly fee of twenty-five cents that a fund may be in readiness for enlarging the scope of the work next summer. A "well done good and faithful servant" was given to the officers by the unanimous re-election of each and all of them. Mrs. Jennie Lovgren declined to serve longer as secretary and Mrs. S. E. Noble was chosen in her place. The officers are:

President—Mrs. D. M. Neill.
First vice president—Mrs. H. L. Hjermstad.
Second vice president—Mrs. C. E. Friedrich.
Third vice president—Mrs. G. E. Gates.
Secretary—Mrs. S. E. Noble.
Treasurer—Mrs. H. Herder.

The terms of two members of the executive committee, Mrs. S. E. Hasler and Mrs. C. Steaffens, having expired, they were both re-elected.

The association unanimously adopted the following:

Resolutions.

1. We, the Colvill Park association, a society of women organized to promote the best interests of the city of Red Wing, and to counteract evil influences by providing a place of healthful recreation and harmless amusement for old and young, do hereby give hearty commendation to Sheriff Oluff Halls of Pierce county, Wis., for his efforts to suppress the evil resorts upon the island, which have heretofore disgraced Pierce county and demoralized the city of Red Wing to a greater extent than we can hope to offset with the best work we can do.

2. We express our approbation of the part taken by the Red Wing Republican in the crusade against vice, and we trust that the arm of the law and the voice of the press may continue to be lifted for the protection of the home against the greatest foes which menace it.

3. The secretary is herewith instructed to furnish a copy of the above resolutions to Sheriff Oluff Halls of Ellsworth, Pierce county, Wis., and to the Red Wing Republican.

The following resolution of thanks was also adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Colvill Park association are due and are hereby tendered to G. E. Freeman for furnishing an abstract of the Colvill Park property free of charge to us, for supplying the grounds with half a dozen settees and giving much valuable service at the park; to Hon. F. M. Wilson for gratuitous legal service in securing articles of incorporation for the association; to the Red Wing Republican for promoting our interests through the daily paper; to Peter Thompson for the donation of a large and suitable sign; to F. A. Whittier for numerous favors and to Messrs. Dana, Erb, Neill, Scott, Steaffens and Tufvesson for helpful co-operation and assistance in addition to their subscriptions.

RELIEF CORPS COMMENDS REFORM

Stirring Resolutions Are Passed Endorsing Action of Sheriff Halls and The Republican.

At the meeting of the Woman's Relief Corps, held yesterday, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

Whereas, The Woman's Relief Corps is an organized band of patriotic women, and

Whereas, The safety and the perpetuity of the government rests chiefly upon the purity and the security of the home, therefore be it

Resolved, That A. E. Welch W. R. C. No. 29, heartily approves the action of Sheriff Halls of Pierce county, Wis., in enforcing the law on the island opposite our city, and removing a source of corruption which has hitherto been a menace to the homes of Red Wing and an obstacle in the way of law enforcement here.

Resolved, That we appreciate the efforts of the Red Wing Republican to arouse public sentiment against an unspeakable nuisance by a fearless presentation of facts and that we hereby give a vote of thanks to Sheriff Halls and to The Republican.

Resolved, That our secretary be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the faithful officer and the fearless newspaper above named.

J. B. N.

Cook Case is Settled No Expense to County

The Cook case was settled in justice court yesterday on the following terms: Chas. Cook, May Cook and Maggie Murphy pay a fine of \$100 each; also all costs of prosecution amounting to \$216.85. The building formerly used for illegal purposes to be torn down and the land comprising four acres has been deeded to three trustees to be held in trust for park purposes. The trustees named in the deed of trust are J. H. Schacht, E. C. Erb and R. W. Putnam all prominent business men of Red Wing. An adjacent tract of land comprising 60 or 70 acres at present owned by the La Grange mills will also be acquired for park purposes.

Sheriff Halls is entitled to the thanks of all citizens of Pierce county and Red Wing for having wrought so good a work in the interests of law, order and morality. It will be noted that the change has been bro't about without one cent of expense to Pierce county.

J. B. N.

RESOLUTIONS BY THE W. C. T. U.

At the last meeting of the Red Wing Woman's Christian Temperance Union, held this week, the following resolutions were passed.

We, the Woman's Christian Temperance union of the city of Red Wing, a society standing for the suppression of vice, the enforcement of law, higher education on the line of morality, and the best interests of the home which is the corner stone of the republic, do hereby adopt the following resolutions:

1. We extend thanks to Sheriff Oluff Halls of Pierce county, Wis., for his efforts to suppress those fountains of evil influence on the island opposite our fair city, which were beyond the legal reach of our officials, and yet so near as to pour most of their poison into the city of Red Wing. We trust that the work so well begun will be continued until the beautiful island will be freed from the degradation of the past, and the work of the mothers, the teachers and other Christian workers of our city may no longer be torn down by those who are emboldened in sin by reason of a license and a state line.

2. We thank the editors of The Republican for their fearless presentation of facts in the case of a worse nuisance than any which carry germs of typhoid and similar diseases.

3. We hereby instruct our secretary to furnish copies of these resolutions to Sheriff Oluff Halls and to the Red Wing Republican.

J. B. N.

—We are at a loss to understand why anybody who lays any claim to common decency should censure Sheriff Oluf O. Halls for his efforts to blot out the depraved conditions said to have prevailed upon the island opposite the city of Red Wing, during the last twenty-five years. That a municipality in a neighboring State is the principal "feeder" for dens of infamy situated in the town of Trenton constitutes no sound reason why the iniquity complained of should be perpetually tolerated by the people of this county, and it was high time for somebody to "dip an oar" in the direction of improving conditions on the island. It appears to have fallen to Sheriff Halls to make the initial stroke, and those who condemn him for having done so would cut a sorry figure as sponsors for the morals of any reputable community in which they might chance to reside.

Records tells worth

THE ISLAND INCIDENT

CLOSED.

The "island cases" that have been pending at Ellsworth for a number of weeks past were finally disposed of, yesterday. Charles Cook, May Cook and Maggie Murphy were charged with the offense of keeping a house of ill-fame. For evidently satisfactory reasons this charge was changed to that of being inmates of such a house. To this charge the defendants yesterday plead guilty, and each was fined one hundred dollars and costs, amounting in all to the sum of five hundred and sixteen dollars and eighty-five cents. The "island plant" consisted of four acres of ground, upon which were situated the buildings used for the nefarious business alleged to have been conducted by the occupants. This ground has been deeded to three trustees consisting of the Park Commissioners of the city of Red Wing, to be used in connection with adjoining land for park purposes. The building alleged to have been used as a house of prostitution has been torn down, and the remaining buildings are to be removed from the state before February 15th. This delay means that "when the ice is good" the buildings will be moved across the Mississippi into Minnesota. It may be proper to mention in this connection that the charge against Rob Keefe, charged with the theft of May Cook's jewelry, has been withdrawn and the prisoner discharged, the Cook outfit paying all costs growing out of this case. It will thus be seen that the cost to the taxpayers of Sheriff Halls' attempt to rid the island of a tough lot has been reduced to the low minimum of two subjects for the poorhouse. The Sheriff still has "blood in his eye," and our reporter was informed that there is still a little more "cleaning up" to do over on the island, and that a thorough job of renovating is to be done there.



THE HUNTING

There was a little man, and he had a little gun,
And his bullets were made of lead, lead, lead;
He saw an Island Dove, (it was very badly soiled)
And he shot it right through the head, head, head,
He saw a Fat Pig, (it hadn't any eyes)
And soon that Pig was dead, dead, dead.
Along came a Duck, (a Daisy, Daisy Duck)
And the Ellsworth Nabobs bled, bled, bled;
But he shot it on the run with his little gun
And "Ouch" was all the Duck said, said, said.
A Rabbit so Rare, (some call it a Hare)
To the East put up its head, head, head,
But the fair little Hare is still sitting there
For he'd used up all his lead, lead, lead.

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE ISLAND



SHERIFF OLUFF O. HALLS, of Pierce county, the intrepid and conscientious officer who raided the island and brought law and order where wretchedness had reigned for a generation.

Mr. Halls was born in Larvik, Norway, April 21, 1861. He received his education in his native country, where he was graduated from Larvik's Middle and Latin School. In 1881 he emigrated to America and settled at River Falls, Wis., where he lived for thirteen years. He was married in 1885 to Miss Anna Sather of Martell, Wis. In 1894 he moved to Ellsworth, Wis., where he and his family have since continued their residence.

VICTORY FOR LAW AND ORDER

WHAT PIERCE COUNTY OFFICERS ACCOMPLISHED BY RAIDING THE ISLAND RESORT.

FIRST RAID IN A GENERATION

People in Red Wing and Pierce County Had Come to Believe That Relief Was Impossible When Sheriff Halls and District Attorney Thompson Came to the Front and Did a Thorough Job.

The greatest victory for morality, law and order ever recorded in Pierce and Goodhue counties was won when the Pierce county authorities redeemed the island across the river at Red Wing. For more than a quarter of a century the infamous resort had stood defiant in its position of lawlessness and the respectable people of Wisconsin and Minnesota had come to believe that the evil could not be blotted out. How many thousands of people from both sides of the river have traveled the island road during these many years, particularly at night, feeling that they took their lives in their hands, and feeling, also, that there was no hope to change these conditions. Likewise, the law-abiding citizens of both counties who had watched young men depraved by the hundred and older men go to physical and moral ruin in the dens of iniquity, stood aghast at the awful spectacle, but also taking it for granted that to wipe out these hell-holes was an utter impossibility. For a generation this feeling had so taken hold of the community that officers were willing to let things remain as they were. How many of them profited by such inactivity in years gone by nobody knows, but it is well known that the island dives were a source of revenue to those who gave protection or sounded alarms when it was needed. The last time when there had been an upheaval on the island was in the late 70's, when owners of the dens then existing burned down the buildings to cover a multitude of unpunished crimes.

For the first time in a great many years Pierce county now found itself in possession of both a sheriff and district attorney of the right stamp to dare and do. Either standing alone could accomplish nothing. The two officials for months had conferences discussing how the island, which had been the leper spot in Pierce county, could be given a thorough house-cleaning. Little was said to anybody because the faintest whisper was likely to reach the island through the many spies and other avenues of information leading to the owners of the resort. It would have put them on guard and made arrest and conviction well nigh impossible.

The first question was how to get the necessary evidence. Attorney Thompson and Sheriff Halls threshed that matter over and over. The difficulties that had to be overcome and the manner in which it was obtained is a story too intricate and too long to repeat. Suffice to say, that the evidence was cleverly obtained and that some of the cleverest detective work on record done in this case was done by Jay Halls, a young man scarcely out of his teens, a son of the sheriff, and a student in the law school of the University of Wisconsin. While it had already been decided to raid the island the authorities did not dare to rely on evidence they might obtain in connection therewith.

After the most minute consideration of details, Sheriff Halls and his men were ready to make the raid early Sunday morning, Sept. 27, Saturday afternoon and evening the forces of law and order met in Red Wing. The last thing done previous to the raid was to send scouts into the enemy's camp to locate those for whom the strong arm of the law was unrelentingly reaching out and to cut off the avenues of communication. Then the sheriff and his posse moved over the bridge and shortly after midnight the owners and inmates were placed under arrest and before anybody seemed to realize what was happening they were in the clutches of law.

Those who participated in the raid were: Sheriff O. O. Halls, of Ellsworth; Under Sheriff Frank Baker of River Falls; Percy Ap. Roberts, editor of River Falls Times; Superintendent of Schools, George Weldon of Ellsworth; Deputy Sheriff Joe La Grande of Ellsworth; Ed. Campbell of Ellsworth; Deputy Sheriff Sam Mars of Spring Valley; Deputy Sheriff Oscar Halls of Ellsworth; Deputy Sheriff Jay Halls of Ellsworth; T. H. Eldem of Trenton; Barton Jensen, a visitor in Pierce county from Virginia, and Soren Halls and Chas. Campbell of Ellsworth.

It was a daring and dangerous piece of business, the hazards of which those unfamiliar with such undertakings can scarcely realize and it is needless to say that all the sheriff's men were well provided with guns and cartridges.

The subsequent details with regard to the imprisonment, the hearings, the fines imposed, etc., were characterized by vigor and good common sense on the part of the district attorney and the sheriff which cannot be too highly commended. The object for which these officers strove was the cleaning out of the island, not for a month or a year, but permanently and the punishment of individuals for past and present misdeeds was of minor consequence. Both aims, however, were satisfactorily accomplished. For six weeks or more some of the principal offenders were behind the bars and then, on Nov. 4th they paid fines and costs aggregating between five and six hundred dollars, aside from the fines on the inmates who were released a day or two after the arrest. In the meantime the property where the resort was located had been deeded for a public park for Red Wing and Pierce county, the main buildings to be torn down by Nov. 6, which was done, and the other buildings to be moved out of Wisconsin by Feb. 15, 1909.

While the leper zone on the island got the most of its sacrifices from Red Wing, Pierce county, too, levied tribute of many victims for the saloons and resort as well. Both sides of the river have good reasons for rejoicing together over the victory. While Red Wing is exceedingly grateful to Pierce county and its able officers, Pierce county should be equally grateful to Red Wing in its willingness to look after the property deeded and the whole island for that matter should it be ceded to Minnesota in order that Goodhue county's authority may be made effective. The county seat of Pierce county is far away making it costly to police the island. The county seat of Goodhue county is near at hand to enforce the law. Moreover, Red Wing has spent more than a hundred thousand dollars in bridges and roads on the island which fact should not be overlooked.

Doubtlessly there will be added to the Cook property now acquired other parcels of land near by also for park purposes. Thus there will be created without expense to Pierce county an inter-state park, where the people of the two counties may meet for pleasure and recreation on holidays and at other times, to become still better acquainted and to realize more and more that they have common interests which they should jointly protect and promote.

THE DEED IS DELIVERED

THE REPUBLICAN TRANSMITS PAPERS ON ISLAND PROPERTY TO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

PROPERTY FOR PARK PURPOSES

Hope Expressed That Public-spirited Red Wing People Owning Other Island Property Will Help the City to Control Entire Shore Line for Public Uses—Great Credit Due Sheriff and District Attorney of Pierce County.

The following letter to the members of the board of public works is self explanatory:

Messrs. J. H. Schacht, E. C. Erb, R. W. Putnam, Members Board of Public Works, Red Wing, Minn.:

Nov. 25, 1908.

Messrs. J. H. Schacht, E. C. Erb, R. W. Putnam, Members, Board of Public Works, Red Wing, Minn.

Dear Sirs:—

It gives us great pleasure to hand you herewith a deed to the property formerly occupied by the resort across on the island, together with an abstract of title. From the articles which have from time to time appeared in The Republican, you know the facts as to how this property was acquired for the city and for what purposes it is to be used. Through the determined efforts of Sheriff Oluff O. Halls, and District Attorney George Thompson of Pierce County, the island resort was successfully raided and thoroughly cleaned out on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 27th, 1908. The inmates and owners were taken to Ellsworth and placed in jail, the inmates being fined and released, while the owners and one of the women were kept behind the bars or out on bail until Nov. 4th, when a heavy fine was imposed upon them, they promising to go away and not return to their former haunts in this vicinity.

Some time after the arrest had been made, one of the attorneys representing Charles Cook, called at the Republican office and made the proposition to donate his island property to the city of Red Wing for public purposes, the transfer of the property to be made to such person or persons as The Republican might indicate. The matter was gone over in detail and an agreement was reached by which The Republican would accept for the city the property mentioned, with the understanding that it should always be used for a park for Red Wing and Pierce county. The agreement included that the resort building should be torn down as an example, and that the other buildings should be moved off from the property before Feb. 15th, 1909.

In view of the fact that the desire on the part of the Pierce county authorities, as well as the people of Red Wing who sympathized with the move, was to clean out forever the place so long defying the law, and to prevent the possibility of the return of such conditions in the future, it seemed that in no way would this be so well accomplished as by the acquisition of the property and turning the same over to the public.

With regard to the future of this property which has been deeded to you, The Republican has given assurances that there would be organized in this city an association for the future care and maintenance of the grounds for the uses specified. Citizens of Red Wing and Pierce county should all be eligible to membership in that association. The organization should acquire, by gift, if possible, other island property, particularly that which is owned by Red Wing people, whose public spirit will no doubt assert itself in connection with this very commendable project. At least the shore line of the entire island opposite the city should be controlled by Red Wing, and added to the property already obtained. This will insure the people of Red Wing and Pierce County for all time against the possibility of a recurrence, on any part of the island, of the conditions that made the recent raid necessary; it will prevent the building there of unsightly shacks which surely will come some day and detract from the beauty of the scenery on the river at this place, un-

less it is acquired by the city. Moreover, the island offers the best opportunity for recreation and should be maintained as an inter-state park. You remember how the river front looked on this side before the old boat-houses, etc., were cleared away, and if we were to allow similar nuisances to be erected over on the island, the beautifying of our levee would hardly be worth while.

Knowing that you will give the matter your earnest consideration and believing that, with the aid of the public spirited people of Red Wing, we will jointly be able to accomplish for the city more good in this direction than had been dreamed of two months ago, we beg leave to remain,

Yours truly,
RED WING DAILY REPUBLICAN
—Jens K. Grondahl, Mgr.

CEDE ISLAND TO MINNESOTA

THE PROPER WAY TO SECURE LAW AND ORDER THERE FOR ALL TIME.

ELLSWORTH IS TOO FAR AWAY

Wisconsin Should Be Grateful if Minnesota is Willing to Assume the Burden—Small Revenue to Wisconsin From Island When Liquor Licenses Are Abolished.

It is not unlikely that the question with regard to the transfer of the island opposite this city, from Wisconsin to Minnesota, will come up in the legislatures of both states during the coming winter. An attempt was made four years ago to bring about this very desirable change in the boundary line of the two states, but because the evil forces were so strongly entrenched on the island at that time, obstacles which could not then be overcome were thrown in the way of the movement. The good people of Trenton township, and of Pierce county as well, have for years hoped that Minnesota would acquire the island, which would insure law and order there for all time.

Ellsworth, the county seat of Pierce county, is located so far from the island, that it would involve the expenditure of more money than Pierce county has been willing to contribute in the past, to maintain in that out-of-the-way corner of the county that respect for law and order which all respectable people desire. If Minnesota is willing to accept this island Wisconsin should be very glad of it, and hasten to make the change in the boundary line.

When liquor licenses are eliminated from the island, as they positively will be in the future, the revenue to be derived for the county is hardly worth mentioning.

Only a fraction of the island is above water in the spring months, and times have been known, when one could row all over the island in a skiff. One of the bugaboos used to frighten the people of Trenton four years ago was that if it were added to Red Wing taxes would be high. It should be understood that the island would not be added to Red Wing but to Minnesota, and be made a part of Goodhue county. It is not likely that the city limits of Red Wing would ever be extended to include it. And even if it were, the taxes would not be any higher than now.

If Minnesota is willing to take this burden off from the hands of Pierce county and see to it that law and order are maintained, the people of Minnesota will be entitled to the gratitude, not only of Pierce county, but of the state of Wisconsin as well. If Pierce county had been in a position to protect life and property on the island, and to enforce the laws there, the same as Minnesota will be, there is no one on this side of the river who would for a moment have asked for the transfer of the island to this state. If the question comes up in the legislature of the good, law-abiding citizens of Pierce county should make their influence felt at Madison and impress upon the lawmakers that it is for the best of everybody that the island should be ceded to Minnesota.

The Republican should like to hear from Pierce county people on this subject.



DISTRICT ATTY. GEO. THOMPSON, of Pierce county, a fearless, tactful and able official, who has handled the island house cleaning so efficiently.

Mr. Thompson was born on a farm near Moscow, Wis., October 13, 1875. After graduating from the common schools of his native town, he completed an academic course at Stoughton Academy, and later entered the State University at Madison. At the university he first completed a university course in the College of Letters and Science, graduating therefrom with special honors in 1899, and he then entered the University Law School from which he was graduated in 1901. After thus completing his education, he at once began the practice of law at Ellsworth, Wis., and was elected district attorney of Pierce county in the fall of 1902. He was married in 1905 to Miss Hilda Grinde of Madison, Wis., a daughter of the late attorney, L. J. Grinde, of that city. Mrs. Thompson is also a graduate of the university, being a member of the class of 1905, College of Letters and Science.

"Island" Case Settled

Through the efforts of Atty. Thompson and Sheriff Halls the "Island" case has been settled in a way that does not cost Pierce Co. anything, but will prevent any future trouble.

Chas. Cook, May Cook and Maggie Murphy paid fines of \$100 each and the costs, amounting to \$516.

They also deeded their land on the Island to a board of five trustees, who will develop it for an interstate park.

This is a good ending to a bad mess, and all those who had a hand in settling it are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

Prescol Tribune

LAW AND ORDER NOW AT RED WING

Authorities Succeed in Their Recent Fight Against Immigrant Crime.



Red Wing, Minn., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The people of Red Wing and Pierce counties are congratulating themselves on the outcome of the fight for law and order taken up and carried to a successful issue by Sheriff O. Halls and District Attorney George Thompson. The greatest blow to lawlessness ever recorded in Pierce and Goodhue counties was won when the Pierce county authorities redeemed the island across the river at Red Wing which for more than a quarter of a century stood defiant in its position against morality, law and order. A raid was successfully made on Sept. 25, and the parties responsible for the wretched state of affairs placed behind the bars and subsequently punished by imprisonment and fines. The latest developments in the case took place a day or two ago when the deed to the island property was delivered over to the board of public works. Mr. Charles Cook, the owner, had been engaged in negotiations with the management of the Red Wing Republican, which had taken great interest in the fight from the start, and finally it was decided that his property should be donated to the city of Red Wing for the purpose of using it as a public park for Red Wing and Pierce county. The papers have now been transferred, and it is the hope of those interested in the redemption of the island that the public-spirited Red Wing people owning other island property will help the city control the entire shore line for public uses.

MRS. HARRINGTON ASKS ANNULMENT OF HER MARRIAGE

Annulment of her marriage to Howard L. Harrington is asked by Violet Harrington in a petition placed on file in district court today by her attorneys. She asks in addition that her maiden name, Violet Gunn, be restored to her.

The marriage of the two took place in Albert Lea, Minn., Wednesday, November 12, this year. Annulment is asked due to the alleged fact that Mr. Harrington already was a married man at the time he was wedded to Miss Gunn in Albert Lea. At the time of the Albert Lea marriage he had not yet obtained a divorce, the petition states.

Mr. Harrington now, however, has obtained his divorce, the petition reads, it having been granted to him a few days after his marriage to Miss Gunn. It was granted to his former wife in the district court at Davenport, Scott county.

Mrs. Harrington states in the petition that she was of the opinion that Mr. Harrington had obtained a divorce prior to the time she married him in Albert Lea. The petition states they have never lived together.

A second marriage of the two was slated for the evening of November 12 in Fort Dodge, at the bride's home, 808 Second avenue south, to follow the Albert Lea wedding by a few hours. Application for a marriage license was made the afternoon of that day at the office of Carl F. Heileman, clerk of the courts, by Harrington, but was refused when Clerk Heileman learned by long distance telephone from Davenport, that Harrington had not yet received his divorce. The Fort Dodge wedding then was called off.

Stort og godt Arbejde.

To norske Embedsmænd, som vil og tør gjøre sin Pligt—Fra Vesthul til Part.

(Brev til "Standinaven".)

Red Wing, Minn. 4de Jan.—En af de vigtigste Ting, som er blevet udført paa denne Egn i det sidste Aar, er Rensningen af Den, som ligger ovenfor denne By og hvor der var Viltneiper og bergede Guse, som i en Menneskealder har trodset al Lov og Orden. Dette vanskelige og farlige Arbejde er udført af Sheriff Oluff O. Halls og Distriktsadvokat George Thompson af Pierce County, Wis.

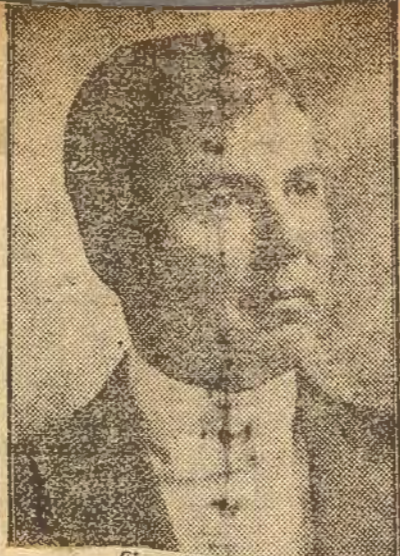
Den, som er afskilt fra Red Wing ved Hovedsejlsøbet i Missisippi, danner en Del af Pierce County, Wis., og er forbundet med Fastlandet paa begge Sider ved Broer. Ellsworth,



Oluff O. Halls.

Countyrådet i Pierce County, er i den anden Ende af Countiet, langt borte fra Den, som derfor i over et Slægtled har været overladt til sig selv. Salooner og bergede Guse har floreret, og de har haft Fremgang hovedsagelig paa Byen Red Wings Beløstning, da denne By er forbundet med Den ved en høj Dæmning. Naar Saloonerne i Red Wing lukkede kl. 11 Aften, gik Folk, som havde lyst dertil, over til Den, og de Drogter, som her gik i Svang i Arcadia, er vanskelige at beskrive.

De, som harrevet disse Lastens Guler paa Den, har haft mange Benner og Bestillere baade i Minnesota og Wisconsin, og naarsomhelst en Bevægelse blev sat i Gang (hvilket imidlertid ikke hendte ofte) for at faa dem stanset eller udryddet, blev deres Belyndere siebliftelig underrettet. Naar Autoriteterne kom, var de enten blinde eller ogsaa kunde de ikke faa fat i haandgribelige Beviser, der var sælende for Saloonerne eller de bergede Guses Gier.



Geo. Thompson.

Da Oluff O. Halls blev Sheriff i Pierce County, lagde han strax Planer til at rense Den. Distriktsadvokat George Thompson, en dygtig ung Mand, som er ibrig for at skjulte sine Pligter, lovede Sherffen at hjælpe ham i hans Arbejde. Sheriff Halls talte med nogle faa Mand i Red Wing, paa hvis Loyalitet, han kunde stole, og i flere Maaneer lagdes Planer til, hvorledes man paa den bedste Maade kunde faa arresteret disse Forbrydere og faa Dom over dem.

En Lørdag ved Midnat reiste Sherffen derhen med 15 væbnede Mand og tog med Storm ind i Saloon og berøvet Hus drevet af en Mand ved Navn Cool. Alle Husets blev arresteret, bragt til Ellsworth og indespærret. Saa forsligt havde man gaaet tilværks, at Døerne ikke havde hørt et Ord om det, som skulde gaa for sig. Telefontraaden var blevet overstaaret og alle andre Kommunikationsmidler var blevet afslaaet fra Den en Time eller to, før Sherffen reiste lid med sine Folk. Havde Saloonværtten faaet Underretning om det, blot fem Minuter i Forveien, vilde haade Værtskab og Gæster været forsbundet. De vilde flygtet tilfods.

Overretterne blev stillet for Retten, fundet skyldig og lagt store Mulfter. Chas. Galt, som eiede den største Saloon paa Den, forærede hele sin Eiendom til Red Wing til Part. Hovedbygningen paa hans Eiendom blev rebet ned som Gjemmel paa, hvad der kunde blive gjort med de andre Bygninger. De vil blive flyttet før den 15de Februar.

En Forening har dannet sig i Red Wing for at købe anden Eiendom paa Den og lægge til den, som man allerede har faaet. Man vil da faa en af de vakreste Parter, som findes langs Missisippi.

Samsundet har al Grund til at være taknemmelig mod Sheriff Halls og Advokat Thompson for deres udmærkede Arbejde.

Herold
CHANGES AT COURT HOUSE.

The new year has brought a few changes up at the Court House. F. G. Magee is occupying the Register's chair vacated by W. W. Walsingham after a twelve years tenure. We believe Mr. Magee will make an excellent official but it cannot be expected that he will break the record in view of Mr. Walsingham's faultless services. Mr. Warren as Harry Spinney's successor is already seasoned to the work and will keep up the high standard of efficiency in the clerk of court's office. Over in the jail residence the smiling face of Jim Gilmore, our new sheriff, may be seen, as he buckles on the armor of his office. We predict that he will be a popular official. Retiring Sheriff Halls has won the esteem of all in his official life. He has moved into his old home at the East End. Harry Spinney is in Chicago attending a dental college, and Walsingham is rolling pine (not political) logs in the northern part of the state. *Herold*

Oluff O. Halls

—Retiring Sheriff.



Sheriff Oluff O. Halls is making preparations to remove from the sheriff's residence to his own residence at East Ellsworth, to make way for the incoming official, Sheriff J. H. Gilmore. Mr. Halls has been a good sheriff, attending to business promptly and efficiently. His judicious handling of the Island cases which resulted in the complete obliteration of this resort without any expense to the County, was an especially commendable piece of work, for which Sheriff Halls and District Attorney Thompson are entitled to full credit. *Local*

DAISY LEE AGAIN IN THE TOILS

Housebreakers Who Worked Ellsworth Fair Week Sentenced In Colorado.

Our Pierce county readers will be interested to learn that "Daisy Lee," who was the "guest" of Sheriff O. O. Halls for a number of weeks, last autumn, is spending the winter in Colorado. It will be remembered that she was suspected of having assisted in the raid made upon the private dwellings in Ellsworth, during the second day of the County Fair, last September. In the absence of evidence to convict, Sheriff Halls proceeded upon the theory that it would be better to recover the stolen property and free the prisoner than for the case to come to trial and lose both property and prisoner. District Attorney Thompson supported the theory advanced by Sheriff Halls, and the property, or its equivalent, recovered. While the Sheriff was on the right track, he had no means of demonstrating that fact to the satisfaction of a jury until after "Daisy" had been given an immunity bath. It appears, however, that she is still as light-fingered as of yore and has been implicated in a matter that could not be satisfactorily explained to the Pueblo authorities, and the story is told in the following extracts clipped from the

Daily Repu

MINNESOTA, SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 20, 1909.

BUILDINGS ON ISLAND BEING TORN DOWN BY OWNERS OF PROPERTY

The remaining houses of the old Cook resort on the island are vanishing before the onslaught of the determined owners.

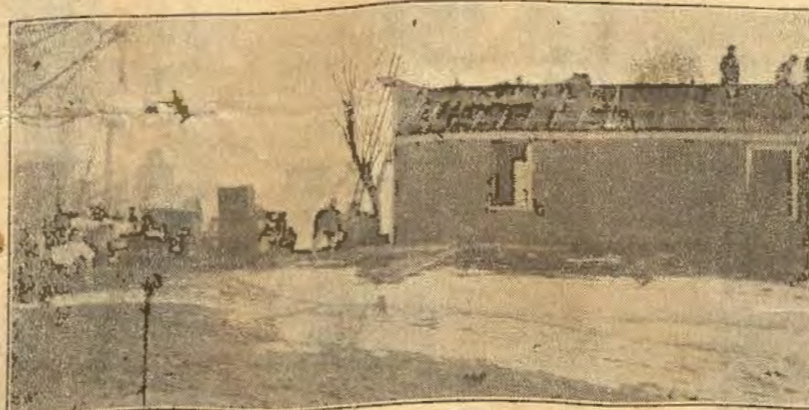
At the time of going to press, the structure where the saloon has been conducted has almost reached the ground in the unbuilding process.

About half past three o'clock the owners and a considerable force of

men, among whom was ex-Sheriff O. Halls of Pierce county, took possession of the property and before night there will be little to tell the story of the place unhallowed by a generation of unpunished misdeeds.

Hundreds of people were watching the tearing down of the buildings from the streets of the city and the river banks.

FEARLESS MEN ASSERTING THEIR RIGHTS.



R. W. Putnam, E. C. Erb and K. R. Seller took a half holiday and together with Oluf O. Halls and other men employed for the occasion, went over to the island and dismantled the houses on the property now owned by Messrs. Schacht, Putnam and Erb. This took place Saturday, March 20, and will remain as one of the red-letter days in the history of the work of these men for the good of the community. The attorney for the Cook woman attempted to intimidate the workmen but Mr. Halls, who made the original raid while sheriff, and who is now a private citizen, laid down the law to the lawyer. The lawyer offered to settle the matter by a fistic encounter and when Mr. Halls accepted, the attorney went back to the city of homes and schools and churches, saying that he would have his turn with Halls another time. "I'll take my hat off for you when you do," retorted the fearless ex-sheriff and the work of dismantling began, as will be seen by the accompanying illustrations, went merrily on. Only a small barn now remains standing and this may be converted into a pavilion when the property is opened as a park for the people of Red Wing and Pierce county.

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Special to The Republican:

Ellsworth, Wis., March 22.—A representative of The Republican today conversed with a number of prominent Pierce county people regarding the island matter and they expressed themselves jubilant over the vigorous manner in which the citizens of Red Wing are backing up the Pierce county authorities. A man from Red Wing recently circulated the report here that the mayor and people of Red Wing were not in favor of the island house cleaning but this is not believed true as the people here have kept in close touch with the sentiment on both sides of the river.

The saloon and house used as a home by the former occupants torn down and demolished at the old Cook resort on the island, was the good work done Saturday afternoon by the present owners of the property.

Public sentiment had rapidly crystallized since Friday forenoon and the law abiding, decent, self-respecting citizenship of Red Wing asserted itself in an unmistakable manner urging that the property be ridden of the buildings and their former obnoxious occupants. Meanwhile the determined owners had not been idle and they decided upon a coup Saturday afternoon which should clear their possessions of those who had no rights there and relieve it of everything in the way of buildings that were associated irredeemably with a vicious and unholy past.

At 11:30 a. m. Sheriff Halls of Pierce county, R. W. Putnam, E. C. Erb and J. H. Schacht, representing the owners of the property, walked over the bridge. Mr. Halls first, followed by the others, entered the saloon building where they found Charley Ells, Mrs. Cook's right-hand man, tending bar and Merritt Green, who was left by the woman to guard the building, asleep on the couch.

Halls told Ells that they had come to take possession of the building and tear it down to which Ells demurred but offered no resistance.

And then at once they began to take the personal belongings and property out of the building, Ells assisting and taking care of it.

By this time the force of men, to the number of about fifteen, who had been secured to help in the demolition of the building were on the ground ready for business. Among these was R. Seiler, who had obtained a half day's leave of absence from his work, and in the interest of the best kind of practical good citizenship, did most efficient and zealous work in hastening the destruction.

Just as they began the work of tearing down the saloon building, Attorney F. M. Wilson stepped out of a carriage in which he had come across from the city, entered the house, meeting Mr. Halls, and first wanted to know his name. The ex-sheriff of Pierce county assured him that he knew who he was, and it was absolutely unnecessary for him to furnish it. In an interview with Mr. Halls, he told The Republican that Mr. Wilson next asked him what he was doing, and he told him that they were tearing down the buildings, to which the answer was given, "I shall hold you responsible;" and then the attorney for Mrs. Cook wanted Mr. Halls to come out into the roadway and he would settle the matter with him, but when Halls very promptly agreed to do it, he withdrew from the contest with a disappointed tone saying, "But it's my turn next," and getting into his buggy left for the city.

The work of getting rid of the odious buildings, from that time on proceeded merrily. The front door was taken from its hinges, a crew of men proceeded to tear away the roof, another took out the windows and doors, while the third continued to empty the house of the personal property.

When the actual tearing down of the saloon began, Mr. Halls woke up Merritt Greene and said to him, "I thought you were holding the fort?" to which he replied, "I guess you're holding the fort. I'll get out of here," and he very meekly and quietly went out of the building. The men who had undertaken this job were not amateurs. They knew just what to do and where to do it in order to most expeditiously accomplish their mission.

They had the implements of way right with them, and knew just what

they were up against. Saws, hammers, crowbars, block and tackle, were ready at hand and used dextrously. Each corner of the building was sawed through and then in the center of each side of the building another cut was made and the roof joists were detached. Block and tackle were then attached to different sections and by the aid of teams the sides of the saloon were very soon down. It did not take long to complete the destruction of the entire building. The basement and the lower floor were left undisturbed. The basement was full of canned goods, beer and other wet goods.

The work of destroying the saloon was finished just before dusk and then they started on the house which was used for cooking and for a home, and the same method of procedure was used on this. It was after 8 o'clock when the dusk had given way to darkness before this building was down. Of all the buildings on the property nothing but the barn now remains.

During the time that the work was going on, Main street and the river front were thronged with Red Wing citizens, intensely interested, and greeting the removal of every section of the buildings with an increasing spirit of approval and heartfelt appreciation.

During all the day yesterday and today public interest has centered on this incident, and no event in the recent history of Red Wing has caused more widespread spirit of approval than the action of the owners of this property in ridding the city and Pierce county of a pest which has been their humiliation and shame for so long a time.

It is true that the wholesale liquor interests and a certain sporting element are attempting to create a public sentiment in favor of Mrs. Cook, on the ground that she has not been fairly treated, but the law-abiding people of the city who believe in, and are vitally concerned for the moral welfare of the community, thoroughly understand the situation. They cannot be deceived. Charley Cook, who was in Red Wing yesterday, says that Mrs. Cook, during her stay at Ellsworth drew the first sober breath she has drawn for years. Her personal property was taken care of, and is in charge of her own friend Charley Ells.

The cleaning up of this desperate resort, and the removal of this unmitigated and woeful pest is a great relief to the home loving people of the city, but it must be expected that those elements and those people which thrive from pandering to vice will be disconcerted and belligerent, but in a city where intelligence and virtue are so fully in control as they are in Red Wing the efforts of these unfortunate and unhappy conspirators against the well-being of society will be of little avail. Public sentiment in Red Wing heartily approves of the splendid work done Saturday, by the clear-headed, true-hearted owners of the property, and every right-minded citizen today feels that the air he breathes is purer and sweeter for their action.

What further action, if any, will be taken by Mrs. Cook, through her attorney, is not known. It is rumored that an action will be brought before the circuit court of Wisconsin to test the validity of the deed to the property, but however that may be the Cook resort, with its infamy, its debauchery, and its ruin, is a thing of the past.

Mrs. Cook returned from Ellsworth Saturday evening and is visiting on the island. It is understood that parties were in Ellsworth Sunday attempting to prejudice the people there against the action of the owners of the property and endeavoring to create sympathy for Mrs. Cook on a series of misrepresentations. If those who are now using their time to fortify and sustain this woman in positions which will make her even more criminal than she has been, had spent half the energy in a manly effort for her reformation they might have a credit mark on their record rather than one of dishonor and shame.

Hundreds visited the island yesterday to witness the scene of wreckage of what has been for a quarter of a century a veritable inferno, a maelstrom of wickedness and which in its silence, desolation and destruction testifies so convincingly of the

(Continued on page 4.)

ISLAND PROPERTY IS REDEEMED

(Continued from page 1).

triumph of virtue over vice and another milestone in the onward and upward progress of the community life of Red Wing and vicinity. It simply reiterates the truth that a few resolute men, backed by an aroused public opinion, can always accomplish what they purpose to accomplish for the public good.

PLAIN STATEMENT OF FACTS.

During the past few days the universal topic for conversation has been the tearing down of the buildings on the island. That the people of Red Wing have their hearts in the right place and stand for the protection of the home and for the destruction of the home-destroying dives, has been encouragingly demonstrated by the flood of congratulations and compliments which have been showered upon the present owners of the island property.

The people who were not patrons of the place, know very little about what happened across the river in the palmy days of the Cook resort. If only a fraction of what is known by the authorities and the newspapers with regard to the degradation existing in the vile joint had been published, the present owners of the property would never have had an opportunity to take down the buildings as a matter of legal right, because had the citizens of Red Wing known the details of what was transpiring on the other side they would have marched across the bridge en masse and in their righteous wrath would have razed every building to the ground. Although they would have had a moral right to do so they would have had no legal right and it is always well to be within the scope of the law. Even a half a century ago, when Red Wing was but a hamlet, the attitude toward the home-destroyer was the same that it is now, and when a wicked place which flourished near Sand hill could not be disposed of in any other way the members of Catawact Hose company in a body

marched to the place, backed up by righteously indignant citizens, and in broad daylight shattered the house to smithereens and drove the inmates out of town. The same thing would have been done to the island houses had the people of Red Wing really known how bestial and corrupt that resort was. But it is a matter on which the city should be congratulated, notwithstanding the moral right to stamp out such iniquities, that the cool heads who have handled this proposition have told only a small part of what they know and have thus been able to perform these acts with regard to the cleaning out process in full accordance with the law.

While the community as a whole is greatly elated over the finishing touches put on the resort buildings Saturday afternoon and evening, it is natural that a coterie who have been in sympathy with the island in the past should attempt to create a false sentimentality in regard to the matter. If these people had been the true friends of Mrs. Cook they would have counseled her to get away and would have used their influence to place her where she could have risen out of the filth and degradation which has made her life on earth for the past twenty-five years one perpetual hell on earth. But, be it understood, it has been to the personal interest of her "friends" to keep her degraded. If anybody should desire further facts along this line and court revelations that would appall the community, they can easily be accommodated. It has not been

(Continued on page 8).

ENDORSE ACTION OF THE OWNERS

(Continued from page 1).

considered good public policy to divulge these things, and they will not be unless those who are openly or secretly in favor of the old regime on the island make it necessary to do so.

The men who are handling these affairs are pot-boilers. They are not to be caught in traps. They have not done nor are they going to do anything that is not just or proper. They have the courage of their convictions and they will not be intimidated by anybody. They will go ahead to the end of the chapter no matter what difficulties arise, and no matter how long it takes. For a quarter of a century Red Wing has poured tens of thousands of dollars into the dives on the island, every penny of which was contaminated by vice and crime. Worse than that, for twenty-five years Red Wing has poured the souls of hundreds and hundreds of young men into these dives and wrecked them both for time and eternity. For twenty-five years not only moral but other leprosy from this source has been visited upon no inconsiderable number of people, and has compelled innocent wives and children to live wretched lives and look to death as their only deliverance, because of the crimes of others. All these things have only been hinted at and that should be sufficient. The plans in vogue, while the resort was running, for the gathering in of new recruits from among the boys in their early teens, have not been mentioned. It is a subject which should not be touched upon except in a general way. The wild orgies carried on, sometimes even in broad daylight, and the unspeakable debaucheries at night when vice and crime held high carnival have hardly been referred to, for if they had been painted in their true, revolting colors the wrath of an enraged community would have shown no bounds. Little has been said about the criminals who sought safety on the island and carried on their operations from that harbor of refuge. On several occasions, dead men were picked up in the sloughs and the Wisconsin channel whose pockets were empty and who had

nothing on their persons to identify them. The white slave traffic flourished in these haunts and it is safe to say that no resort has ever had any more infamy to its credit.

And in spite of these facts there are some people who express their sincere sympathy for the Cooks and do not think that it was just right for the present owners of the island property to take down their own buildings where the Cook woman was a trespasser, and who pretend to believe she should be permitted to remain in possession and continue the dive for the benefit of the depraved and those who furnish the island with beer and whiskey.

It is a sad commentary on men and on the times that some should weep alligator tears over a most depraved or depraved woman, who has sent more men to perdition in her day than a hundred pure women could rescue. Let those whose compassions are with the Cook woman join those who believe in morality, law and order and have her placed where whiskey and wicked men are not, and possibly that divine spark, which cannot well be wholly extinguished in the most degraded of mortals, may yet break forth and save her from that loathsome death to which drunkenness and debauchery must soon lead her if her so-called "friends" and "protectors" have their way.

Card of Thanks.

We sincerely thank all those who so befriended the late Mrs. Ingrid Paulson, and whose assistance and sympathy was given to the bereaved.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Peterson,
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Peterson,
Mr. and Mrs. John Endres.

Low Fares for Settlers, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry.

Low fares for settlers every Tuesday from March 23 to April 27, inclusive, to North Dakota and Montana points on the new Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railway. Rates apply to Haynes, Hettinger, Bowman, Marwarth and other North Dakota points, and to Baker, Miles City, Forsyth, Musselshell, Lavina, Roundup, Harlowtown, Moore, Lewiston and other Montana stations on this new line. Complete information free from your local agent. F. A. Miller, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

SPRING VALLEY, WISCONSIN, MARCH 25, 1909

The Island

The Island, has held the center of the stage the past week.

May Cook, former proprietress, went back recently and began selling liquor under her license from the town of Trenton, and also running the same kind of a house she used to.

Sheriff Gilmore went down to get her out, but she stood him off with a revolver. Later he went again and arrested her, taking her and her bar keeper to jail at Ellsworth. Mrs. Cook's lawyer, Frank Wilson, of Red Wing, hired a man with a shot gun to guard the property, with instructions to shoot.

Saturday O. O. Halls, former sheriff, with a gang of men, drove the guard out of the buildings and pulled them down.

Mrs. Cook and her fellow sinner were fined small sums and let go.

It is hoped this ends the matter.

The town of Trenton has been the cause of all this trouble and expense, having granted a license to sell liquor on the Island for many years, and having permitted (whether for money or not is not proved) all forms of vice there without protest. Two years ago, when an attempt was made to have the Island traded to Minnesota, so that Red Wing could clean it up, the town of Trenton spent hundreds of dollars, hiring Attorney W. C. Owen, of Maiden Rock, and defeated the move. The Island still belongs to Trenton.

SPRING VALLEY, WISCONSIN, APRIL 1, 1909

The Ellsworth Herald calls it a cowardly act by which ex-sheriff Halls and a party of men rid the Island of the presence of the Cook gang. The Herald is mistaken—it took more courage than has been available in Pierce county before for twenty years. The people of Pierce county have not known who was responsible for the conditions on the Island—but they are finding out now.

RED WING, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 7, 1909.

TRENTON GOES DRY

POLICY OF CLEANING UP THE ISLAND ENDORSED BY AN OVERWHELMING VOTE.

FRIENDLY TOWN BOARD ELECTED

By vote of 122 to 51 the People of the Wisconsin Township Across the River Declare Their Freedom from the Domination of the Saloon and the Dives—A Splendid Victory for Law, Order and Decency.

Hager City, Wis., April 7.—Trenton has gone dry. At the election held yesterday, license was buried under an avalanche of good men's votes. Five men out of every seven who went to the polls said, by the manner in which they cast their votes, "We are going to redeem Trenton township for morality and decency. With all our hearts we approve of the cleaning-up process which has been going on during the past few months and we will endorse the same with our votes, and, moreover, we will stamp out the liquor business, to which has in a very great measure been due the degradation and immorality in Trenton for the past generation. We are going to protect our homes—our dear boys and girls—from the dangers of the dives, and banish from the confines of our beloved community that wickedness which has cursed it so long. By our votes today we serve notice upon the lawbreakers in our own community, and those outside of our community who have done their best to contaminate and degrade the people of Trenton, that the sovereign will of our citizenship shall henceforth prevail in our town and that we will not tolerate attempts to perpetuate drunkenness and crime in our midst."

The conscience of the people had been thoroughly awakened and in spite of the most desperate battle which the liquor people have ever waged, morality and a clean government for Trenton township has triumphed and woe be unto those who would make light of that righteous victory.

Indeed, wonders never cease. For many years Trenton has been tied down by the agents and elements of corruption and decent people have scarcely dared to venture out at night, and those who have laughed at law, have gone ahead as wantonly as if they were upon an island in the sea where neither law nor authority had even been heard, of much less respected. But the worm has turned. In thundertones the will of the people has been spoken. Through all these years of vice domination there has smoldered in the hearts of the good men and women of Trenton a desire for better things. But the good people have stood aghast when contemplating the heavy odds against them in any crusade for the betterment of conditions. It is pretty safe to say that in any community a large majority of the people think right and are true to the higher ideals. No one has doubted that this was true in the case of Trenton; but it is so easy for those to unite in a common cause who are financially or selfishly interested in wickedness, and so hard for those who are good and who have no sordid interest to draw them together. A tremendous awakening is always necessary to accomplish things and so it was in Trenton. The awakening came, in the destroying of the worst spot over on the island, and the flame of righteous indignation which began to burn in the hearts of the people increased as the successful stages of the cleaning-up process went on, and as the protectors of infamy made repeated attempts to evade that justice and retribution.

The vote on the question of license was as follows: In favor of license, 51; against license, 122. The people who favored license were backed up in every way by wholesale liquor interests in Red Wing, Milwaukee and other cities. Trenton had been one of their impregnable strongholds for years and there was more at stake than simply the business in Trenton. If Trenton, which has been avowedly "wet" for so many years, should go dry, what might not happen in communities where the influences of these concerns had been less dominant? Let no one presume for a moment that an abandoned woman without any means and a lawyer with a big vocabulary could put up such a fight unless somebody had furnished the sinews of war.

And how was the victory won for Trenton? The good people, and par-

ticularly the churches, have been stirred as never before. By little gatherings of neighbors, man to man, on the road when they met, meetings in school houses, a mass meeting in one of the churches, women at the telephones, hustlers at the voting place, in fact all the good forces concentrated to crush out evil, the victory won.

The vote which the township registered is, first of all, a magnificent endorsement of the work done by District Attorney George Thompson and Sheriff Oluff O. Halls of Pierce county last fall. Secondly, it is an endorsement, by five voters out of every seven, of the action of the owners of the island property, formerly occupied by the Cooks, in tearing down the buildings and exercising their legal rights on the island. In the third place, it is a pledge that the people of Trenton will rid themselves of the last vestige of immoral domination and will make permanent the work which was undertaken by the fearless and honest officers and men here mentioned. Those elected as members of the town board for the ensuing year, Frank Johnson, chairman, and O. P. Westfield and Victor Swanson, are men of the same opinion as the people who elected them, and they can be relied up to enforce the law. The license year in Trenton expires July 1, and after that day Trenton will have neither saloons nor dives, and the people of Minnesota and Wisconsin, of Red Wing and of Pierce county, can then meet and enjoy themselves in the park on the river front of the now famous island, where but a few months before nothing but wickedness and wretchedness were known.

**The Last Echo
From The Island**

The saloon and house of the island resort opposite Red Wing were wrecked by a posse of men a fortnight since. Shortly after May Cook, the proprietress, returned from a sojourn in the jail at Ellsworth and determined to die in the last ditch, took refuge in the barn. Before destroying the other buildings the men engaged in the work carefully removed all personal contents to a place of safety. It is reported that May Cook has since begun a suit for \$5,000.00 damages. Some comments have been made by Pierce county papers.

The Ellsworth Herald calls it a cowardly act by which ex-sheriff Halls and a party of men rid the Island of the presence of the Cook gang. The Herald is mistaken-- it took more courage than has been available in Pierce county for twenty years. The people of Pierce county have not known who is responsible for the conditions on the Island-- but they are finding out now.--SPRING VALLEY SUN.

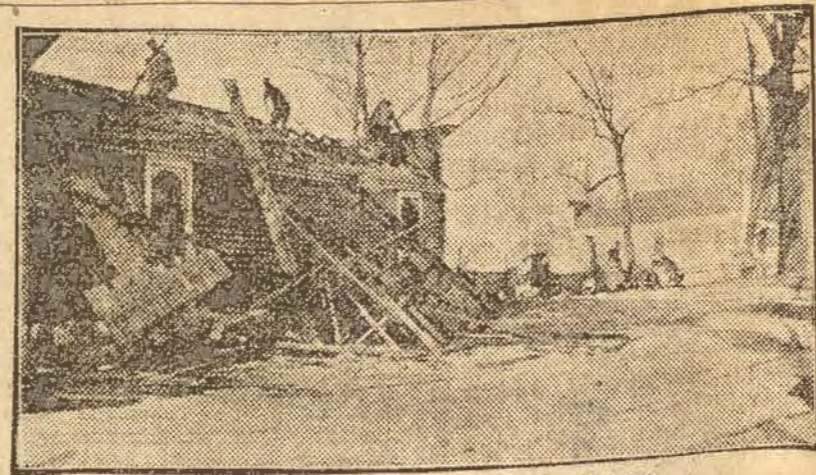
Another county exchange seems to misunderstand the purging of the island and says--

"Ex Sheriff O. Halls was last autumn given much glory for an alleged 'regeneration' of the island opposite Red Wing. The Red Wing Republican was lavish in its praise of Mr. Halls for what he did, but a recent issue of that paper depicted a condition of affairs as existing in the 'regenerated' territory that indicates the reform work to be of a transitory nature. It is up to the voters of Trenton to say whether or not the island shall be purged of its objectionable social conditions."

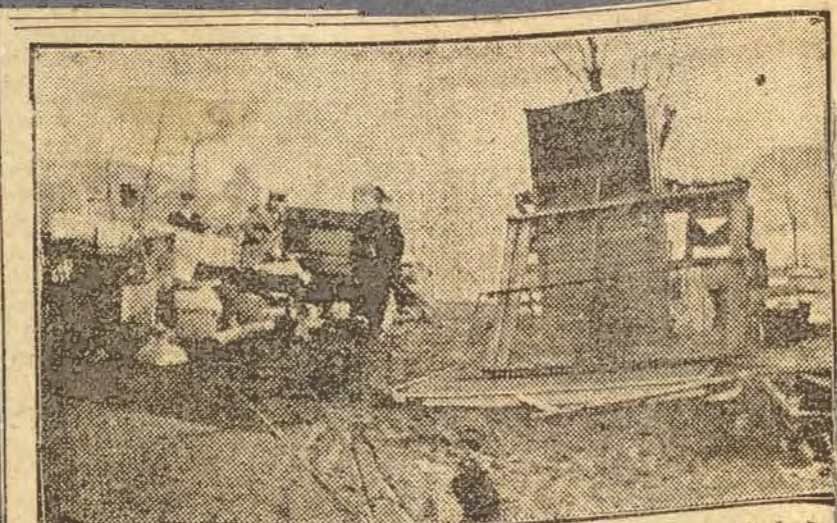
But long, long before the above quotation was written the "voters of Trenton" had been convicted of blasting the locality for a few hundred dollars of license revenue. They had shown themselves apparently unwilling to cope with a continued violation of an important state law and the whole affair, instead of being a town matter, had become a county business.

River Falls Times.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1909



Ødelæggelsens Bælt i fuld Gang.



Arbejdet gjort - Ødelæggernes Nederstyggenhed.

Skandinaven.

Krigen mod Styggdommen

Duff Halls gjør nok et Stykke godt Arbejde paa Den.

(Brev til "Skandinaven".)

Red Wing, Minn., 3die April. — Ex-Sheriff Duff D. Halls af Pierce County, Wis., som gjorde saa godt Arbejde i Forbindelse med Rydningen af lade Buler, der i en 25 Aar har graaferet paa Den ligeoverfor Red Wing, har atter udmærket sig. I Egenkab af Pribatmand har han hjulpet til at fuldføre det Arbejde, som blev paabegyndt af ham selv og Distriktsadvokat Thompson, da Halls var Sheriff i Countnet. Under den nuværende Lov i Wisconsin kan en Sheriff kun beholde Embedet en Termin ad Gangen, og Halls tog Afsted ved Slutningen af sidste Aar. Da

han første Gang udvædede sine Pligter paa Den, folgte Eiendomsbesidderne der sin Eiendom til Red Wings Board of Public Works, som Individier; Hensigten var at omforandre den til en Park, som baade Folk i Wisconsin og Minnesota kunde hyste Nytte og Fornøjelse af. De, som folgte Eiendommen, havde Ret til at rive ned Bygningerne og tage bort Materialet; men dette Arbejde maatte være udført før den 15de Februar 1909. Hvis disse Betingelser ikke blev opfyldt, skulde Bygningerne tilhøre de Mand, som havde kjøbt Landet. Da Halls var ude af Embedet, viste ikke Bulerne Eier nogen Tilbøjelighed til at flytte Bygningerne. Den mest berøgte af alle Kvindene berøver bosatte sig der igen, opmuntret af Byggerierne og Brændevinsbrænderne, som holdt hendes Saloon med berøgende Sager, og hun gav en god Dag i Dyrigheden. Eierne gjorde flere Forsøg paa at sætte sig i Besiddelse af sin Eiendom; men for at undgaa Boldsomheder og unødige Bloksudgyldelse blev Udførelsen af den paalønte Plan udsat Gang paa Gang. Over en Maaned var gaaet efter den Tid var udløbet, da Bygningerne efter den strebne Kontrakt skulde være nedrevet, og Eierne, som holder Eiendommen for Byen, bestemte sig da til at bruge Magt, hvis det var nødvendigt. Mr. Halls var i Byen en Dag, og Eierne søgte Raad hos ham. Anmodet om at hjælpe med Nedrivningen af Bygningerne, svarede Mr. Halls, at intet vilde glæde ham

mere, og snart var de Folk, som han havde medbragt, i Arbejde paa Den. Frank M. Wilson, som er Cook Kvindernes Advokat, og som paa mange Slags Maader har forsøgt at stramme Eierne, viste sig paa Grundten og henvendte sin Opmærksomhed paa Halls. Han udfordrede Halls til en Duel, og denne var strax færdig. Men da Wilson hørte det, havde han noget Arbejde i Byen som nødvendig skulde udføres. Dette indtraf Kl. 4 om Eftermiddagen; ved halv ni Tiden var Bygningerne nedrevet. Folket i Red Wing og Trenton glæder sig over, at Den er befriet for den Styggdom, som var der. Wilson havde sat en Mand til at passe paa Bygningerne, og han var væbnet med en Winchesterrifle. Han havde imidlertid drukket saa meget af den Brændevin, som fandtes i Bygningerne, at den var halvt nedrevet, før han vaagnede. Man havde taget fra ham hans Rifle og Ammunition. Cook Kvinden sidder i Fængsel i Ellsworth. Folk i Red Wing er forberedt paa bradsfald, Lovovertræderne maatte forsøge, og det er kun et Tidsspørgsmaal, naar de alle er jaget af Den.

Chicago, Illinois, Mandag den 12te April, 1909.

last week... Sheriff Halls lost one of his matched driving horses in a runaway accident Saturday. Soren Halls had charge of the team and was posing them for a picture when they became unmanageable. The team ran to East End and into a stone quarry, a fall of 20 feet.
Sent 26-1907

HALLS FOR SHERIFF

WOULD FINISH UP THE JOB OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SHORT ORDER.

GOOD PEOPLE SHOULD UNITE

Unless They Do the Saloon Element Will Again Come Into Power in Pierce County and if Possible Restore the Reign of Crime and Lawlessness Which Disgraced the County in Former Days.

Under the laws of Wisconsin, one who holds the office of sheriff in any county cannot succeed himself, thus limiting the term to two years for any one man at any one time. A person who has been sheriff and has been out of office two years, or longer, is again eligible for another two years. When Sheriff Olaf Halls of Pierce county stepped out of office at the close of 1908, many were the regrets expressed by the law-abiding people throughout the county because Mr. Halls had shown more vigor and fearlessness in the enforcement of law during his incumbency than had all his predecessors for a quarter of a century before him. The lawless element which flourished, particularly along the river, was effectually subdued and in various parts of the county where the liquor laws were being violated, Mr. Halls enforced the law with a strong hand. He was also responsible for a number of minor reforms and was giving the county a period of law and order which it had not seen before and which was exceedingly gratifying to the law-abiding people.

As an illustration of the attitude which the people assume towards the work of Mr. Halls, the vote on the liquor question in Trenton township may be cited. The township of Trenton had been hopelessly lost to respectability. The liquor interests and the dens of infamy were all powerful and while the good and law-abiding people were in the majority, they had practically nothing to say in the affairs of their local government and had about decided that it was a hopeless matter to attempt to reform things. A great change came about when Sheriff Halls, in co-operation with District Attorney Thompson, raided the dives in the township. The next step was to vote out the liquor business and so strong had public sentiment become in favor of the movement which Mr. Halls so vigorously led that five out of every seven voters in the township voted against license. At the previous election the majority in favor of the saloon had been as great in proportion. Before he had time to fully complete the regeneration of Pierce county and compelling obedience of law, Sheriff Halls' term expired. Since then little or nothing has been done to carry on the movement. A large majority of the voters of Pierce county and in surrounding communities as well, which had been effected by the lawlessness in Pierce county, believe that Mr. Halls should again become a candidate in 1910 and devote his superb energy and manhood for another two years to the maintenance and upbuilding of respect for law and order. If he should become a candidate it is quite certain that all those elements in the community which thrived on lawlessness, would be unalterably opposed to his candidacy but they would be found in a hopeless minority when the good people turn out and do their duty.

No doubt there are other worthy men in Pierce county who might aspire to the position of sheriff. Let them unite this time in behalf of Mr. Halls, who is the logical man for finishing up the great work which he has begun. The criminal element will fight Halls to the bitter end. Let not the good people be divided.

for if they are it will be a glorious day for the liquor people and a sad day for the moral, Christian element of the county.

FALSEHOODS ARE CIRCULATED

Saloon People and Their Sympathizers Misrepresent Things for a Purpose.

Those who are looking forward to the restoration of the island as it was before District Attorney Thompson and Sheriff Halls and the voters of Trenton township did that thorough house-cleaning a year or more ago, are spreading all sorts of false statements in order to regain their lost foothold. They cannot forget the thousands and thousands of dollars which flowed into their coffers while the dives, dens and hell-holes flourished and they are longing again for the same opportunity to bleed and degrade the people.

Among the falsehoods circulated is one that the Cook woman has recovered a large sum of money in court from the Red Wing parties that hold the island property in trust for the city of Red Wing and Pierce county. At the trial held in Red Wing last year, Mrs. Cook sued for \$5,000 and the jury gave her \$1. The dollar was to pay for a revolver which one of the men had bought on the island and which he thought was most safely carried away.

Another falsehood is that Mrs. Cook's personal property was left out doors, the court and jury held that she had no right to recover damages. It was by order of her own attorney that the furniture was left outside to rot. There was plenty of time and opportunity to put the furniture under cover but the attorney thought he could make out a stronger case by letting it remain out doors and go to ruin. Not only law but common sense would be sufficient to prove that damages could not be collected for such neglect on the part of the alleged owner and her attorney.

The case was not appealed to a higher court and nothing has been done done in the matter since then. A suit was filed over in Wisconsin questioning the validity of the deed which the owner of the island property gave to the members of the Red Wing board of public works as trustees, but knowing that they have no standing in court, the plaintiffs have not brought the action to trial.

The authorities of Wisconsin and the people of Red Wing and all others who had to do with the matter are fully within their legal rights, and in putting an end to the reign of crime that existed for a generation or two in Trenton township, they have done a noble work for humanity. Let it not be undone by the enemies of law, order and Christianity.

LIQUOR FIGHT IN TRENTON

It is Said Saloon Men Are Quietly Preparing to Vote in Saloons on April 5.

Unless the good law-abiding people of Trenton township are on the alert they are likely to find themselves outwitted by the friends of the saloon who are quietly planning to vote license at the town election April 5. A year ago license was defeated by the determination and combined efforts of the church people and law-abiding citizens of Trenton, the saloon people being buried under a large majority of votes.

While it is understood that liquor has been sold in Trenton during the past year, it has been done rather quietly and there has been none of that disturbance and criminality which made the island one of the vilest spots on the map before Sheriff Halls and District Attorney Thompson undertook the cleaning out process. There has been nothing there to entice young people and if any have obtained liquor, it has been mostly old timers who could be safely trusted not to tell. Taken as a whole, the moral conditions of Trenton township have been improved a thousand fold by the action taken by the authorities, and later by the vote of the people against liquor last April.

It is understood that the liquor

people have been working through agents who would not readily be suspected to be in league with them, trying to influence the law-abiding citizens of Trenton to vote the saloon in again at the coming election, emphasizing the fact that taxes have been a little higher and they have tried to induce farmers to go back to the old order of things for the sake of saving a few dollars a year.

Christian people cannot well be induced to believe that Trenton will vote in favor of the saloons and the evils which accompany them for the sake of a few paltry dollars. It cannot be believed that they would sell the souls of those who would be led into temptation, some of them probably members of their own families, for thirty acres of silver. The people of Trenton and Pierce county should revolt even against the faintest insinuation or suspicion of this kind and demonstrate once again that they are masters of their own township and that they intend to keep it clean and unadulterated for all time. Mothers and sisters should join hands with their brothers and husbands, and the churches should show the same activity that they did a year ago to crush out the saloon. They should use the telephone lines liberally to get in touch with one another in this important matter. Unless they do, the saloon people, backed by strong brewery organizations and well paid attorneys, will ride rough shod over the wishes of the people if they wait. In the name of all that is good, such an outrage should not be permitted.

A LITTLE PATIENCE IS NECESSARY

The Island Park Will Come as a Matter of Course—Co-operation Necessary

"We thought that Red Wing was going to give us a park over on the island," said a Trenton farmer the other day, "but still the wreck of the old buildings lies there and no park has been developed so far." The people of Trenton and Pierce county need not have any hesitations in believing that the park is coming. Let those who have given their time and energy and money to clean up the island have time to turn around and the park will be an accomplished fact.

For more than 30 years, the island was one of the worst spots in the Northwest. During all that time the people of Wisconsin did little to remedy the evil. Some cared not and some dared not and those left to do things were hopelessly in the minority. A great work has been accomplished. It is not safe to travel over the island. The dives and dens which enticed people from Wisconsin and Minnesota by the hundred are no longer flourishing. The evils that remain, small as they are compared with those which have been done away with, have got to go if the people of Trenton and Pierce county say so.

Even if Red Wing and Trenton should be obliged to wait for a year or two for the park to be established, they have no reason to be disappointed. Compare the conditions as they were with what they are now and only one conclusion can be drawn. Let everybody interested be as thoroughly awake as they were a year ago and let it be demonstrated again that a great majority of the people of Trenton believe in morality and law enforcement. Let it never be said again, as it was truthfully said for so many years, that Trenton was the wickedest place in the Northwest.

THE NONPAREIL

ROMANCE