

POTASH SUIT FOR A MILLION DOLLARS FILED

SHARP BLAMES EASTERN CONTRACTORS FOR LOSS.

Philadelphia Corporation Charged With Sharp Dealing and Unprofessional Conduct.

William E. Sharp brought suit last Tuesday in federal court against the Process Engineering company of Philadelphia, asking for a million dollars damages, according to the State Journal. He blames the company for his loss of \$660,000 in potential profits in potash during 1918 and for other losses bringing the total to a million, because of alleged faulty construction of the reduction plant of the Western Potash works in Sheridan county. He also charges sharp dealing in connection with the superintending of the construction, and several other instances of unprofessional conduct.

The petition for damages is the conclusion of an answer and cross petition to the suit of the Process Engineering company against Mr. Sharp and nine other defendants, stockholders and directors in the American Potash company, suing for payment on two notes for \$2,825 each, and \$4,204.83 said to be due as commission on finished products of the plant during its term of operation. The company also demands payment for a report on the resources of the Sheridan county field, said to have been prepared at the instance of George G. More of New York, one of the defendants, and never paid for.

Delay by the Defendants.
In his answer filed Tuesday Mr. Sharp says that his contract with the Philadelphia corporation was not executed until February 6, 1918, because of inability of the company to draw it to suit him on the first two or three attempts, but that it was dated back to December 27, 1917. He entered into the contract as managing trustee of the Western Potash works, not yet organized, he says. In the contract the salary of the construction superintendent was fixed at \$1,000 a month for a period not to exceed six months; before the expiration of the period, Mr. Sharp says, he discovered that the company had retained the engineer at a figure of \$250 a month and promised him a commission on the cost of construction. His services were never completed, the answer states, and he was overpaid for what he did; yet the construction company demanded more money at the same time that it refused to complete its contract.

In answer to the second and third causes of actions, dealing with notes alleged to be unpaid, Mr. Sharp sets forth that both notes were paid but that the payments were credited to the open account instead of on the

notes, until he remonstrated, when the company's president admitted that the notes had been paid and promised they should be returned. As to commissions on finished product, Mr. Sharp says everything owing was paid, and that the company failed to credit at least \$322.85 paid into this account.

The Engineer's Report.
The charge for an engineer's report on the potash fields is repudiated entirely, the answer setting forth that George C. Moore was not an agent of the company when he ordered such a report, and that he entered into the arrangement for his own benefit and that of the engineering company, furthermore, such a report was never furnished the company, nor any other except the one incorporated in the contract for the plant.

In his counter claim Mr. Sharp deposes that the contract specified a potash reducing plant that would produce 100 tons of potash and by-products daily, in marketable condition; that it, containing not more than 7 per cent water. He says the plant was never completed, its capacity never exceeded sixteen tons, it was improperly designed, inferior in construction, not up to specifications, and a total failure in operation.

The company put in steam pumps, it is claimed, which turned out to be worthless, and the substitution of motor driven centrifugal pumps necessitated the rebuilding of the main structure. The company put in a dryer of its own invention, one unit of a separation plant whose plans had never been thoroughly worked out, and which, though it cost \$175,000, wouldn't dry more than sixteen tons a day, even when the water delivered to it contained more than forty per cent potash salts. It finally had to be discarded as junk, after the vice president of the Process Engineering company himself tested it and gave it up. When the company abandoned the job, Mr. Sharp says, the Western Potash works completed it, installing new machinery and providing its own superintendent, at a cost of \$150,000.

Cut Wartime Profits.
The defective dryer was the last unit added to the plant, it is set forth, and fixed its capacity. Mr. Sharp had explained to the engineering company, he says, that potash would bring high prices only during the war, hence time was a prime consideration. If the terms of the contract had been filled, he declared, the plant would have begun operating on August 1 and would have turned out 100 tons a day, at a net profit of \$60 a ton. Delay in opening the plant, for reasons set forth above, until November 21, and restricted capacity occasioned by the defective dryer, cost the potash company \$660,000 net profit, it is alleged. Cost of rebuilding after changing the pumps, and of finishing the plant after it was abandoned by the Philadelphia company, and the overpayment of the engineering company's superintendent, brought the company's total loss and damage to a million dollars, the petition states, and damages are asked in that amount, plus the costs of the action.

ELLSWORTH

A. Moore and B. F. Bollinger bought furs from Bingham trappers the latter part of the week. Nearly a thousand dollars worth of furs exchanged hands there last Friday.

John Schonard and P. E. Law were Alliance visitors Saturday evening, returning late that night.

George Cooper who recently underwent quite a serious operation at St. Joseph's hospital in Alliance, returned to Ellsworth Tuesday noon, going out to his ranch northwest of here. While George is not quite so "spry" as formerly, he is well on the way to recovery and expects to be entirely well in a few weeks.

W. H. Been who has been employed on the local section the past few months, owing to a reduction in force is now out of a job and expects to move his family to Mt. Airy, N. C., where they have some property. Mr. Been also has a ranch near Dunning, Neb., where they lived before going to Lakeside four years ago, where Mr. Been was night foreman in one of the Potash plants.

It is reported that Mrs. Rice McKinnie has been granted an appeal to the case in which she recently lost the custody of three of her young children. Hearing of the case has been slated for March 1 in district court at Rushville and this of course will be tried under Judge Westover and Mrs. Rice McKinnie has a very good chance for the recovery of the children according to public sympathies here, and the general feeling is that she should win the case.

Many people have been enjoying skating on the nearby lakes and the ice has been in excellent condition.

The dance at Bingham last Saturday night was well attended and several from here attended, among them were Jim McCulloch, Eugene Kennedy, "Red" Fields, Truman Been, Dillon Donohoe, Misses Ruth Croft and Ethel Fields. A good time was reported by all and many plan to attend Bingham's next dance. A dance will be given in Ellsworth New Year's Eve.

James Burton of Bingham recently sold a bunch of furs to local buyers. George Beckler of Spade plans to leave soon for Rochester, N. Y., where he will attend school, living with an aunt there. The Spade mail route will be handled by J. W. Plew until July 1 when their contract expires. It is reported that many are bidding for the contract to carry the north mail.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Murphy entertained a number of friends at their home Saturday evening at a six o'clock dinner followed by progressive whist, the occasion being the 31 birthday of the hostess. A most delicious and bountiful dinner was served and in the whist fray following, Mrs. J. B. Kennedy was awarded the ladies' grand prize of W. F. Seebohm received the grand prize for the gentlemen. After reporting a most enjoyable evening and wishing the hostess many more and happy birthdays the guests departed at a late hour. Those present being Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Young, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wightman, Mr. and Mrs. A.

Moore, W. F. Seebohm, Misses Sarah Craig, Margaret Kennedy recently received as a Christmas present a most beautiful and valuable cape made of genuine Mink. The gift is certainly one to be proud of and is finished in beautiful brown sateen with a score of mink tails forming a fringe.

Mrs. J. L. Young left Tuesday for Ardmore, S. D., where she will spend Christmas at the home of her mother. Eugene Kennedy visited recently at the Ellsberry home in Alliance.

Lewis Larsen of near Bingham has been visiting at Ellsworth the past few days.

Reshingling of the hotel has been completed and other repair work is still in order and will be completed in the spring.

A number of nearby ranchers shipped turkeys to eastern markets. A fair price is being received for them ranging from 25 to 35 cents per pound, about the same as Thanksgiving prices.

Mrs. T. B. Shrewsbury was called to Grand Island, Tuesday by the death of her sister, Mrs. Thorp. The sympathies of the entire community are extended.

Harley Lancaster is now on the sick list suffering from slight injuries received while handling rails.

J. L. Young left Thursday for Ardmore, S. D., to spend Christmas, stopping off at Alliance on business.

B. F. Bollinger left Wednesday for Whitman, where he was engaged in buying furs.

W. Wightman was a Lakeside visitor Wednesday returning on No. 44, which was several hours late due to heavy storms on the Sheridan division.

LAKESIDE

Ed House returned Thursday on a business trip to Valentine.

Maggie Cody was shopping at Alliance Thursday and Friday.

Miss Belle Weibling arrived from Lincoln Thursday to spend her vacation with her relatives here.

Rev. Charles Burleigh and Harvey Whaley were shopping in Alliance the latter part of the week.

Miss Mae Livings, high school teacher, gave her pupils a nice treat at a Christmas tree Thursday afternoon. A nice merry time was enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Thompson and children arrived the latter part of the week from Mitchell to spend Christmas at the Hunsaker home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blumer spent Christmas at Lexington.

Miss Mae Livings left for Davenport Neb., Friday to spend her vacation with home folks. She was joined by her sister, Jessie, at Ashby, who also will spend the holidays with homefolks.

Miss Wilma Mote, intermediate teacher, held a short program Thursday afternoon, and gave her pupils a nice treat.

Miss Alice Schill remembered each of her pupils with a Christmas treat. She teaches the primary room.

Mrs. J. L. Roe and daughters, Mae, Dorothy and Helen Marie are in Missouri visiting Mr. Roe's father and other relatives during the holidays.

H. S. Fullerton was up from the ranch shopping Saturday.

J. L. Roe drove to Alliance Saturday evening.

Presley Ritter was in town Saturday from near Ellsworth.

Frank DeFrance and wife were shopping here Saturday afternoon.

Ray Toline came in from the Star ranch to spend Christmas with his family.

Harry Hudson, Jesse Underhill and Will Brown came in from the Carey ranch Friday, where they were helping thresh clover seed.

George White of Casper, Wyo., passed through here Friday on his way to Bingham to spend Christmas with his parents. George was once a resident of Lakeside. His wife is spending the holidays with her mother at Lincoln.

There was a nice program and Christmas tree at the church Saturday evening. Santa Claus was present. A very nice treat was distributed to all present.

Clarence Leishman returned from Alliance Sunday.



Tonight's attraction at the Imperial is the second showing of "Reputation," which Priscilla Dean is a most competent star. Revolving around a dual role, the theme of "Reputation" concerns a famous actress who dissipates until success falls away from her. She is in London, and a New York theatrical magnate is waiting for her to arrive to star on Broadway. When she doesn't come, her daughter—ignorant of the relationship—impersonates her and makes a spectacular hit in her mother's guise. Then back to New York comes the wretched woman who, a year before, was the brightest jewel in the diadem of the drama. A tremendous climax follows.

"My Lady's Latch Key," a First National photoplay, will be shown Wednesday. Katherine McDonald is the leading lady, and a pippin, at that, in a full roll of gentle Smiths, wealthy Smiths, Smith brothers and kind Smiths, poor innocent carefully guarded Annesley Grayle found herself bound at the matrimonial altar to the naughtiest, crookedest, smoothest, "darlingest" and—"darlingest" Smith that ever wrote his name on a police blotter. Just what Annesley does when she finds out that her husband has a standing invitation to the penitentiary makes one of the most absorbing stories ever written by the Williamsons.

Tom Mix in "Prairie Trails" is scheduled for Thursday. The story is a sequel to "The Texan," a popular Hendryx novel, in which Tom Mix scored a big hit a few months ago, as Tex Benton. In every picture Tom Mix makes he introduces some original stunt in riding, roping, or just straight acrobatics. "Prairie Trails" is said

to be crammed with such thrills. Those who have read the book and have been enthralled by Benton's hair-raising exploits will realize the terrific punch they will carry when actually presented on the screen.

PLEASANT VALLEY

Ferg. Timblin returned home Monday after spending a few days with his sisters at Pine Ridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fenster were shopping in Hemingford Saturday.

Miss Naomi Squibbs has been in very poor health for several days.

Edgar Brown made a business trip to Broken Bow Friday.

Gust Peterson was in Hemingford on business Tuesday.

Lew Roberts started overland Friday for Iowa, where he will visit his mother, who is in poor health.

Miss Fern Eaton spent Thursday night with Miss Ruth Cox.

O. W. Cox and family spent Sunday at the Thomas Squibbs home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts were Saturday and Sunday visitors at the Lew Roberts home.

POINT OF ROCK CREEK

Mrs. A. L. Lore is on the sick list. Miss Eva Simpson had to postpone her program and dance on account of the storm.

Miss Jessie Burns is spending a few days with Mrs. Nellie Peters.

Lester Hashman returned Wednesday evening from the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Essex were Alliance callers one day last week.

Mr. Crawford motored Miss Eva Simpson to her home Saturday.

Mike and Joe Sherlock are picking some corn they bought up at Nichols.

Ira Lore is on the sick list and is staying in town.

Mrs. Bowlian is going to Grand Island for an operation.

Earl Essex was a caller at Ernie Essex's Friday afternoon.

Ernie Wienell and George Napp were Alliance callers one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Camel spent Christmas day with the Roy Nichols' family.

T. P. A. MEETS TO PROBE RAIL RATES

OMAHA—A special convention of the Travelers Protective association will be held in Omaha, beginning today, to find out why railroad rates and hotel rates have not come down and to take action toward bringing them down toward a prewar basis.

Wholesale houses and manufacturers whose men will come in to attend the Sunrise of 1922 Business dinner Thursday night, have been instructed to get certificates when they buy their tickets. If 350 or more certificates are turned in, return tickets can be obtained at half fare.

Questionnaires were sent out recently to hotels asking whether rates had been reduced. Forty-two out of eighty hotels that replied said they had reduced their rates and fifteen said they had not raised rates during the war.

No Worries Over Xmas For the Year 1922

This Year The First State Bank Distributed \$15,000 to Help Pay Holiday Bills

ONE of the happiest feelings is to know that when the Christmas bills become due you'll have no occasion to worry over their payment. We'll help you solve that little problem if you join our Christmas Savings Club. The plan is quite simple. Put aside a stated sum each week during the year, and a week or two before Christmas you will have saved up quite a tidy sum. In addition you get the interest while the money is with us. Come to our bank and let us explain to you one of the several plans which will make saving easy.

How To Have Money Next Christmas

1-CENT CLUB Payments	
First Week	1 Cent
Second Week	2 Cents
Third Week	3 Cents
Increase 1 Cent Every Week	
Total in 50 Weeks—\$12.75	

50-CENT CLUB Payments	
First Week	50 Cents
Second Week	50 Cents
Third Week	50 Cents
Deposit 50 Cents Each Week	
Total in 50 Weeks—\$25.00	

2-CENT CLUB Payments	
First Week	2 Cents
Second Week	2 Cents
Third Week	6 Cents
Total in 50 Weeks—\$25.50	

\$1.00 CLUB Payments	
First Week	\$1.00
Second Week	\$1.00
Third Week	\$1.00
Deposit \$1.00 Every Week	
Total in 50 Weeks—\$50.00	

5-CENT CLUB Payments	
First Week	10 Cents
Second Week	10 Cents
Third Week	15 Cents
Increase 5 Cents Every Week	
Total in 50 Weeks—\$63.75	

\$5.00 CLUB Payments	
First Week	\$5.00
Second Week	\$5.00
Third Week	\$5.00
Deposit \$5.00 Every Week	
Total in 50 Weeks—\$250.00	

10-CENT CLUB Payments	
First Week	10 Cents
Second Week	20 Cents
Third Week	30 Cents
Increase 10 Cents Every Week	
Total in 50 Weeks—\$127.50	

X-CLUB	
for	
\$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$10.00	
or any amount.	

JOIN AT ONCE—GET A CHECK NEXT CHRISTMAS

The First State Bank Of Alliance

Originators of the Christmas Club in Alliance