

EXTRA COPY

CHOCOLATE DROPS

White Woman and Brood of Mulattoes Domiciled in Battle Lake.

Clitherall Township Authorities Unload Undesirables Upon the Village

The village authorities have a serious condition of affairs confronting them. Mrs. Emery, a white woman and her mulatto children were brought into town Saturday night by Trustee Ed Evanson of Clitherall township and installed in a dwelling house near the stock yards known as the "coffee mill." This dwelling house was leased for them by Trustee Evanson and six months rent paid in advance by check to the owner, Peter Sandstrom. Mr. Sandstrom claims he did not know the place was rented for the colored family and says he will return the check.

Since six months occupancy of the house will establish legal residence for the woman and her chocolate brood and since Clitherall township authorities have provided a house for six months, and provisions and fuel as well, and since no call will be made upon the village authorities for assistance, until after the six months have elapsed, it would appear that prompt and decisive action must be taken by the village officers lest these undesirables become permanent pensioners upon the village.

Can Mr. Sandstrom now repudiate the lease and return the check which he was willing and did in fact accept with alacrity from Trustee Ed Evanson?

Can Mrs. Emery and her clouded offspring be legally ousted and forcibly removed from a house leased and paid for six months in advance and with provisions, fuel in abundance and money in her pocket?

Suppose Mrs. Emery and her flock of blackbirds refuse to remove back to Clitherall township, where there are now no vacant houses and suppose they resist removal, can their home be forced and the occupants seized and legally expelled from the village?

Would not Mrs. Emery and her interesting family be justified in standing siege and defying anybody who tried to oust her from a house legally rented and supplied with food, fuel and money for current expenses?

The farm house formerly occupied by Mrs. Emery and her half-breeds in Clitherall township is now occupied by a new tenant; there are no empty houses anywhere in the township into which they can be moved and when Trustee Evanson rented the nearest empty dwelling house he could find, paid the rent, supplied the paupers with fuel, provisions and money, what illegal act, if any, was done?

The school authorities refused admittance to the negro children to the Battle Lake schools last Monday morning, but if Trustee Evanson tenders tuition money for them, what section of the law will prevent them from entering the schools?

The village employs officers to look after its rights and protect it from invasion by paupers and undesirables and no doubt all these questions will be easily solved but to the lay mind they appear embarrassing, especially in view of the fact that Mrs. Emery and her children are actually living in Battle Lake at this time and have been doing so since last Saturday.

John C. Emery, a negro, was employed as caretaker of the Hill summer camp on the north shore of Otter Tail lake about 15 years ago. While there he met and married a white woman who was teaching school in that neighborhood. He was later discharged and shortly after that discharge the Hill camp buildings burned down, set fire it is supposed by an unknown incendiary.

He then removed to Clitherall township where he rented a farm, moving from place to place as his leases expired, making a precarious living for the ever-increasing family. Last year he was arrested and sentenced to the penitentiary for adultery with a married white woman of that neighborhood.

Before his incarceration he made a scanty living for himself and family but since then the family has been aided by the Clitherall township authorities and are regarded as paupers.

There is much indignation expressed by the citizens of the village upon the invasion of these undesirables, and a determination not to allow them to reside here if legal methods can be found to oust them.

MULATTOES NOT REMOVED

The Emery Family Are Still Residing in Battle Lake.

In regard to the Emery mulatto family which was located in Battle Lake by Trustee Ed Evanson of Clitherall township on the night of April 10th, he says the Emery family has never been financially assisted by Clitherall township until he paid the expenses of bringing them to Battle Lake. That they tried to locate at Underwood and also in the village of Clitherall, but was unable to rent a dwelling in either place and was without funds, although she receives a mother's pension of \$16.00 per month from the state. Trustee Evanson said his only desire was to find a roof to cover them in their distress and this he found in Battle Lake. The house was rented of Peter Sandstrom, not Peter Sandstrom, as narrated in the Review last week. Mr. Sandstrom does not own the house and had nothing to do with the leasing it.

Another attempt was made to secure admittance to the Battle Lake schools last Monday by the colored children, and they were admitted, without requiring tuition money from Clitherall township—a mistake.

Mr. Evanson consulted with Probate Judge Frankberg prior to bringing the family to Battle Lake, and said efforts would be made to send the children to the Owatonna school for homeless children, although Mrs. Emery is said to have told Trustee Evanson that she will refuse to consider a separation from her children.

Up to the time of going to press the Emery family are still living in Battle Lake, the mulatto children are attending school, and the village authorities have not succeeded in ousting them.

(See Review Nov 14, 1902 about J.C. Emery and the Hill camp at Ottertail)
 Nov 21, 1902 Emery loses case.
 June 25, 1914 Emery goes to prison
 Oct 9, 1919 Mrs Emery & children leave for Minneapolis.

Dangerous to the health of the community