

ALLEGED SWINDLER IS IN THE TOILS

S. P. Lesselyoung, Accused of
Using the Mails to Defraud
—Was Known Here.

Many of our readers will be interested in the following account taken from the Red Lake Falls, Minn., Gazette. Lesselyoung operated in this vicinity about five years ago, and we understand that a number of our farmers were "stung." He was up to his old game in Minnesota when he was arrested by a postoffice inspector. The story follows:

"Simon Peter Lesselyoung, operating under the name of "Farmers' General Service Company," of Minneapolis, was arrested in Red Lake Falls last Friday by Postal Inspector P. M. Hughahl and was taken to St. Paul to answer the charge of using the mails to defraud.

"Lesselyoung induced farmers to give him notes for amounts of \$100 or more for certain alleged valuable services in the marketing of produce the purchasing of goods, etc. The authorities allege that the notes were given without consideration and the transaction in each case is a swindle.

"Lesselyoung had been operating between this city and Crookston recently and several farmers in the vicinity of Gentilly and Louisville signed notes. Several notes were discounted at Crookston banks, it is said. Lesselyoung was just getting nicely started in the immediate vicinity of Red Lake Falls when Inspector Hughahl took him into cus-

tody. It is alleged by the postoffice inspectors that Lesselyoung obtained the notes of farmers in Minnesota and North and South Dakota to the amount of more than \$125,000 without giving value received.

"The company, according to Inspector Hughahl, and others who have been working on the case, sold to farmers in the three states, a contract under which it was to act as a purchasing and selling agency buying the necessaries for the farmer at reduced prices and disposing of his produce to his advantage. The inspectors allege that the company had no general stock and bought the goods ordered in its catalogs from regular wholesale houses and that it disposed of the produce at the commission houses in Minneapolis after paying the regular commission for the work."

Ground Hog Was on the Job Monday.

The ground hog was on the job last Monday.

February 2 is the day according to eminent historians, and zoologists when the fabled subterranean porcupine emerges from his winter quarters to view the landscape o'er, and incidentally to decide the weather probabilities for the next six weeks.

It takes more than a common or garden ground hog to govern the weather conditions in this state.

One thing is certain though, the timid animal couldn't have seen his shadow on a cloudy morning such as this one was, so those who hope for an early spring may take courage from the fact that he is probably still roaming at large.

Dance and basket social for the benefit of the base ball team, Friday the 6th.