

DEATH OF OTTO FAUST.

He Dies After Being Taken to an Insane Asylum by Chicago Officials.

Last week The Times-Record published a clipping from a St. Paul paper which conveyed the information that Otto Faust, a well-known farmer of this county, had been sent to an insane asylum by Chicago officials. Word was received here Sunday that Mr. Faust was dead. It is probable that the shock caused by his arrest and incarceration in an asylum are responsible for his physical breaking down, and it is reasonable to suppose that if he had been permitted to follow out his plans according to his own ideas, his life would have been prolonged. The body was brought to Valley City Monday. His relatives and friends have caused a post mortem to be held in order to determine the cause of death.

While Mr. Faust entertained peculiar religious views, in business matters he was alert and prudent and fully capable of managing his own affairs. It is understood that he deeded his farm, which consisted of about 1400 acres of land in Hobart township, to his wife last winter. This was done, after his return from Minneapolis, where he went on a religious expedition. At the time the transfer was made it was understood that he retained several thousand dollars worth of property with which he proposed to carry on his religious work.

The church which Mr. Faust owned in this city was maintained altogether at his own expense and his object was, as he stated, that religion should be "free for all." He was very much opposed to denominational religion and the example he set by his own life was convincing evidence that he was honest and sincere in his views.

Under a Chicago date line, the St. Paul Pioneer Press publishes the following, quite a good deal of which will be news to the people who were acquainted with the facts.

"Ruined by generosity which prompted him to give away thousands of acres of land, Otto Faust, who came to Chicago less than a week ago, was taken to Dunning today, a mental wreck.

Last month he was worth \$50,000 in farm property at Valley City, N. D.

A jury in the detention hospital, before whom the white-haired man struggled in shackles today while a witness told of the prisoner's religious mania, declared him insane.

"Golden Rule" Faust was the name he went by in the North Dakota country around Valley City. For nine years he has made a practice of selling one-tenth of his vast acres and giving the money to the poor as tithes.

He professed no religion. None of the creeds of the various churches suited him, so he built a church at his own expense in Valley City, and any one who chooses may go there and preach. The eccentric builder of the unique place of worship said he did not like the way modern churches diverged from the teachings of the Bible, and so he intended that his townspeople should have a church that would meet his views.

Four weeks ago "Golden Rule" Faust decided that it was right for him to give away nine-tenths of his wealth every year instead of one tenth, and accordingly he disposed of nearly

all of it, leaving himself little. This was the strange story that was told in the insane court today by G. B. Vallandigham, one of the foremost business men of Valley City, N. D. When Otto Faust was taken into custody because of his violent actions he asked that Vallandigham be notified. The latter came. The veil was drawn from the character of the strange prisoner, of whom the police had been able to learn only that he came to Chicago last week with \$65 in his pocket.

It was business in Chicago in connection with the church which he built, it is said, that induced the Dakotan to come to this city.

Leaving his home last Thursday, he came here without telling his relatives or friends where he was going. The church is heated by a furnace and lighted by electricity, and provided with other modern improvements. He maintained the church, and personally bears all expenses. It was in connection with buying some medals for this church that he came to Chicago.

"Mr. Faust came to Valley City twenty-three years ago from Sweden," said Mr. Vallandigham, "and he has been prominent in school affairs and has held several school offices in the township where he lives. He has a wife and eight children."

At one time Mr. Vallandigham was county clerk of Barnes county, where Valley City is located, and he said that during his term Mr. Faust redeemed hundreds of pieces of property sold for mortgages and taxes for poor men and made presents of the land to the disconsolate owners, expecting nothing and asking nothing in return.

Faust will be taken back to Dakota, and probably assigned to the Jamestown hospital for the insane.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

There having been rumors that Mr. Faust's death was caused by mistreatment either at the hands of the officers in Chicago or the attendants at the asylum, a post mortem examination was held by Dr. Platou Wednesday. Several external bruises were found on the face and head, but nothing that was at all serious. An examination of the brain disclosed the fact that several blood vessels had bursted, and this was undoubtedly the cause of death. A rheumatic condition of the heart was also found. It is probable that Mr. Faust became greatly excited when he found himself restrained in the asylum and that his passion operated upon his brain.

FUNERAL SERVICES.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon in the church founded by Mr. Faust, but were not concluded on account of the post mortem, which was then in progress. Further services were held this afternoon and the body was interred in Hillside cemetery. Rev. Christ, of this city, assisted by Rev. Davis, of Minneapolis, conducted the services. There was a large attendance of friends and neighbors and the floral offerings were both numerous and beautiful.

Farmers' Excursion to Fargo.

One hundred farmers from Barnes county left last Thursday evening for Fargo, and spent the following day at the Agricultural college. They gained a great deal of information and are unanimous in their praise of the management of the college. The railway company also comes in for a share of the praise.