

Argus, daily and weekly of Fargo 1881-1899

Papers, 2 boxes

A Fargo, N . D., newspaper in which Hill had a controlling interest. A lawsuit developed when Alanson W. Edwards, the president of the Argus Company, created a new company in 1885, the Argus Printing Company, making Edwards' collateral (held as security by Hill) quite worthless. Suits were commenced to declare the new company the successor to the first one. The first company was incorporated April 28, 1881. Alexander Griggs (close friend of Hill's) held one share to enable him to be on the board of directors. On November 1, 1882 Hill loaned Edwards \$15,000 at 7% and in return took 510

of Edwards' stock (out of a total of 1,000). On July 20, 1889, when \$22,000 was owed Hill in principal and interest, he announced a public auction to sell the 510 shares. Eventually this auction was not held, for a rapprochement was managed between Hill & Edwards and the suits were dropped. However, further trouble developed in 1890 & a suit was brought by Hill after Edwards had held an election of officers on the theory that he was the owner of a controlling interest in the company. Meantime, on Aug. 10, 1889 Edwards had assigned his certificate of stock to Edwin O. Faulkner, the new director of the Argus Printing Co. Faulkner resigned on Sept. 2, to enable William A. Stephens, Hill's private secretary, to manage the company. He

became a director with one share of stock on June 3, 1890, and thereafter ran the business through local managers. On Nov. 29, 1890 Hill sold Edwards' promissory note to Charles H. Babcock (\$19,473.46) of the Minneapolis Trust Co. for \$2,800 or a loss of \$16,673.46. After several lawsuits, the establishment of rival newspapers in Fargo, the highly unsuccessful management locally of George K. Shaw, and other episodes, Shaw's foreman, Frank L. Gage, became proprietor. W. E. Cosway was soon employed as bookkeeper. There are printed brief & argument, appellant's abstract, and respondent's proposed amendment in the case of J.P. Birchall vs. Alexander Griggs, which was decided "in our

favor". In late 1894 agreements were made with the Pioneer Press Co. for press work and heating local quarters of the Argus building in the name of the North Dakota Newspaper Union. C.A. Lounsberry in early 1895 as the Bismarck correspondent of the Argus wrote several letters complaining of his treatment by Gage & of that man's incompetence for his job. Frank H. Irons is mentioned frequently in letters. The Minneapolis Trust Co., as trustee for bondholders of the paper's mortgage, and Samuel Hill (J.J.H.'s son-in-law) were correspondents. Wm. H. Robinson of Mayville bought Gage's chattel mortgage in 1896 & R. D. Hoskins became business manager

JJH ~~Miscellaneous File by Subject~~
Special File. "Argus"