

ly a Hope excursion, and had Agent McPherson been notified sooner, a much larger crowd would have gone up. As it was, only about 100 people could get ready on so short a notice.

About 11:20 the train pulled out with the Hope Cornet Band, about twenty-five ladies and the rest men and boys. A more jolly crowd never got together, and the trip was one of pleasure.

The track is an extra good one, very solid and smooth, and much better than some main roads. Folley Bros. who built the road, certainly are workmen of rare ability. The scenery from here to Aneta is not as grand as in some countries—say California, or Yellowstone Park—but there is plenty of prairie to look at. Our first stop was at the Twin Cities of the northwest, Gilbert and Finley. They are progressing nicely up there, and the out look for both, is bright. A large elevator is being constructed at Finley and improvements in Gilbert are noticeable. Our popular county commissioner Robt. Cochrane boarded the train there and accompanied us up the line. We stopped on the high bridge over the Goose river near Easton, and it required about thirty minutes to fill the tank with water. This is the longest and highest bridge on the line, being about 37 feet high and 200 feet long. At Sharon we made another stop and viewed the pleasant surroundings, among them the beautiful farm of our friend Peter Duncan, which is also the Sharon postoffice. At about 1:30 we pulled into Aneta, where we found an enthusiastic crowd gathered to meet us. The town has made wonderful progress in the short time of its existence, and we see no reason why it should not grow to be a nice city—as large as Hope—in time. On our way up the band played sweet music at each stop and made merry the occasion.

The first thing on our arrival was dinner, for we were all as hungry as bears, and right here we want to say that Mayor Thair made one mistake. He should have had a reception committee to receive the crowd, and escort them to the various hotels. He may have had one, but we did not see it, or hear of it, and the writer was one of the first off the train. Every fellow—ladies and all—had to scramble for what they got, and the worst of it was, we didn't know where to get it. But after a time we all got full—of a good dinner—etc., etc. Now if you know what etc. means, you are all right, and if you don't know—don't show your ignorance by asking. There were various flags floating in the breeze—and there was plenty of breeze too when we landed there—for a storm was threatening. The band played and the boys sang songs, danced gigs and had lots of fun, while the ladies stood by and looked on. We should say that Aneta has about twenty business houses, all nice buildings, large and roomy. They have an elegant bank, and various other houses—some are said to be "blind" and some say their eyes are open. We cannot say from experience, neither do we believe that any one in the Hope crowd can—so as we have no one to ask, we cannot varify either statement—but they do say there is eleven of them in all.

We found Joe Pepper doing well in his neat little Pamorama office of which all Hopeites are glad to know. Chas. Gardner is there, in all his glory and has accepted a good situation in a drug store. Our own F. R. Rugg is erecting a large wind mill getting ready to grind feed, saw wood and sell flour, wood, coal, etc. We found the genial S. J. Axdahl in his livery barn doing a good business. Mayor Thair was everywhere at once, with his neck all bandaged with a red flannel cloth.

At 4:30 our train left for home where we arrived safe and sound at about 6 o'clock.

In conversation with the officials, we were told by Vice-President Clough that they were well pleased with the road, and that it was all they expected. He further stated that if business demanded it, they would give us a daily train, and that in the near future the Hope branch will be the main line. It is no question but what the line will be extended through to the main line, before a great while.

Through trains will commence running to Aneta next Monday.