

OLD SETTLERS MEET

THE VILLAGE OF WIMBLEDON IS THE SCENE OF A LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING OF THE OLD TIMERS ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.

To relieve the monotony and tedium of the cold weather which has for several weeks past settled down on this vicinity of Dakota the business men of Wimbledon conceived the notion of calling together, in their town, the old timers in a sort of an old settlers "experience meeting" for last Wednesday evening. They made a united, vigorous effort which resulted in a fine success. A thousand people, perhaps more, assembled in the little village from the country around about to shake hands with, and look into the faces of, those whom they met and knew a score of years ago. The old pioneers came out in surprising numbers and recounted their old experiences with a relish which took them back to the early 80ies and their struggles. Jamestown, Valley City, Dasey and Carrington were represented. E. F. Horn, Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Tucker, Dr. Macdonald, Will Reid, H. J. Murphy and C. A. Sanford represented Courtenay. George Tucker, John Bradford, B. A. Thorsgard, and George Murdock and their wives, James Reid, John Moroney and John Posey came in from Corinne and a large number from Dover and Leal were present. Old acquaintances were renewed and new ones formed.

The ladies of Wimbledon had provided an abundant and palatable lunch which was spread in one of the halls and to which everybody present did ample justice. The refreshments were an important feature of the occasion. At nine o'clock or so, after a two or three hours of social visit and converse Joos' spacious hall was cleared for those who wished to enjoy the dance and Fried's Hall was at once packed to its full to hear the speeches and "music by the band." After the hall was packed two or three hundred were turned away for want of room to admit them. J. J. Feckler had charge of the meeting. D. R. Swartout presided and set the ball rolling by one of his original speeches. He was followed by Allen Booth the blooded stock man, Herman Winterer, of Valley City, E. F. Horn and C. A. Sanford of Courtenay, John Maloy, of Dazey, and Mr. Bascom, all bringing vividly to the front the early experiences, struggles, privations and hardships which they and their early neighbors encountered in the "old times." Others were heard from in a few words including Charley Fulford, John Moroney, H. N. Tucker, Howard Wilson, Al Clendenning, and others. Judging from the enthusiastic clapping of hands the minds of the audience reverted to the past with pleasure and enthusiasm. The Wimbledon band, which is well up-to-date for a place of its size, did its full share to enliven the occasion. The program in Fried's Hall was brought to a close about 11 o'clock after which many returned to the inviting free lunch counter and re-did themselves justice, re-chatted on the present and past and withdrew about 12 o'clock leaving the dancers who had at that time occupied the floor of Fried's Hall as well as Joos', to enjoy themselves further—till 4 o'clock in the morning. The ladies of Wimbledon did themselves proud in the splendid lunch they gave. The business men displayed a fine energy in getting a large number together. Both the ladies and gentlemen acquitted themselves handsomely in the hearty welcome they gave every body. This initiative old settlers' meeting will not be soon forgotten and is likely to stimulate other similar ones.