

Dakota in History.

The following excellent bit of history is going the rounds of the press:

"The territory of Dakota has this year attained its majority, and it would be a fitting time for the commencement of a new era in its political existence. This country was originally acquired by the United States under what is known as the celebrated Louisiana purchase. At the beginning of the century "Louisiana" was the title not simply of the present state bearing that name, but of a vast region which extended indefinitely westward and northward. Spain acquired this territory from France in 1763 and restored it to France in 1800. Before the Spaniards withdrew they excluded citizens of the United States from the trade of New Orleans, and France was credited with the same unfavorable design. The United States Senate proposed to seize New Orleans, but that was too extreme a measure to carry at that time. President Jefferson instructed the United States envoys to France and Spain to arrange for the purchase of the Mississippi delta, including the port of New Orleans; but finding France willing to sell the whole, the American government purchased the entire tract for fifteen millions of dollars, the bargain being consummated on the 30th of April, 1803. In the old maps of forty years ago Dakota is known as the Mandan territory. It was once a part of the Michigan territory, and was subsequently incorporated with Wisconsin territory. After the state organization of Wisconsin was completed, that portion of this territory lying east of the Missouri river was embraced in the Minnesota territory and from 1856 to 1861, Nebraska territory included that portion west of the Missouri. After the above changes, the balance of these territories occupied by the Indians and not included in any organization, was by common consent named Dakota, from the great associated tribes bearing the same title. The first cession of lands within Dakota territory was made in 1858 with the Yanktons and Poncas, opening 25,000 square miles lying in southeastern Dakota, and this accession of territory has been followed by other treaties with the Dakotas, or Sioux, as the French styled them, until at the present time nearly all the lands east of the Missouri have been acquired by the U. S. government. In 1877 the Black Hills country in southwest Dakota was added to the territorial domain. To some small extent white settlement within the present bounds of the territory was commenced in 1859, but the act of congress creating the territory of Dakota was not passed until Mar. 2, 1861, since which time it has had a regular territorial organization. Under the act of 1861 Idaho, Montana and Wyoming were included with the present territory of Dakota, and by successive acts of congress new divisions bearing these titles were created. The first general election in Dakota was held in September, 1861, but the first legislative assembly was not convened until March, 1882. No doubt the next great change will be division into North and South Dakota, and the inauguration of the most prosperous and auspicious era ever known in the history of any of the great political divisions of the Union.

Facts for Farmers.

Massachusetts farmers pay over \$300,000 per year for Paris green to kill the potato bugs on their 46,000 farms.

The reaping machine came into practical use about the year 1853, and the self-binder made its first good record in 1876.

In the Province of Quebec farmers who are members of the Catholic church pay to the church one twenty-sixth part of the grain they raise.

An Ohio farmer names the mammoth pearl as the potato to take the place of the peachblow, against which charges of deterioration are made.

Agriculturist: Examine your cattle for lice; these pests may be found along the back and neck of the animal. Rub the infested parts with kerosene oil, diluted with an equal quantity of sweet oil or lard.

Lansing, Mich., has a refrigerator company which stores up summer-made butter at low prices, to be sold in the winter at advanced prices. It has now on hand fifty tons, all of which is said to be of excellent quality.

The late order of the secretary of the interior to compel cattle men who are trespassing with stock on the Cherokee Indian lands, to remove their stock immediately, is creating considerable stir. It is said there are \$10,000,000 worth of cattle on said lands, and to be removed by the army this cold winter would create immense loss. But the way of the trespasser is sometimes hard.

We have noticed that plows last, on an average, about three years; wagons, eight or ten years; reapers, five to eight; drills, eight to ten. We think these figures are fully as large as the truth warrants. We know of many implements that have not lasted so long, and of many which have lasted much longer. We today can point to wagons that have been

in constant and hard use for twenty years, reapers that have stood the wear and tear of liberal use for more than fifteen years, drills that have been in use as long, and other agricultural implements that have stood the wear of fully twice the average age of such implements. These implements were not made of unusually good materials, nor were they suffered to lie idle. They were put to constant use. What, then, is the secret of their greater endurance? It is simply this—they were taken care of. When not in use they were put away, and put away properly.—Ohio Farmer.

Fergus, Ontario, expects to send one hundred families to Dakota next spring.

A bill legitimizing children born out of wedlock, by the subsequent marriage of their parents, has passed the New York Legislature with only five dissenting votes.

A number of Stockton, Ore., boys were arrested a few days ago while engaged in playing poker and shaking dice in the steeple of the Congregational church, which they had fitted up with tables, chairs, etc.

Ingersoll says plug hats and suspenders are needed in the south before she will make much headway, and no people who wear slouch hats and let their trousers hang slovenly on their hips can ever become really civilized.

Everything American is the fashion at present in the City of Mexico, and the Mexicans are beginning to adopt many of the customs of this country. American ladies find especial favor in the eyes of the dark-eyed senor.

A man living near Lake Louise, in Manitoba, picked up an armful of sticks one day last week, and, carrying them home, threw them under the stove. In a few minutes two of the sticks commenced crawling away, having developed from the heat into good-sized megalasin snakes.

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