

DAKOTA NEWS.

CANTON CAPITAL CONVENTION.

The Convention Unexpectedly Commends the Dakota Capital Commissioners.

[The following from Canton of the 19th, is a special to the Pioneer Press.]

The convention last night was the largest ever held in this city. Fifteen counties were represented. Speeches were made by Kellam, Pettigrew, Gifford, Ming and J. W. Taylor, in opposition to the capital commission, and by Jercel, Brown, Kennedy and others, in favor. The sentiment of the meeting was expressed by the vote on the adoption of the following resolutions, introduced by A. R. Brown, chairman of the committee on resolutions. A standing vote was taken, and but seven persons voted against their adoption, while fully 100 votes were cast for the resolutions:

Resolved, That we are opposed to any unlawful interference in any manner whatsoever, calculated or intended to obstruct or hinder the said commission in the lawful discharge of their duties; that we believe any unlawful or unjust measures had or taken to obstruct the said commission in the discharge of their duties, as aforesaid, to be derogatory to the business interest and financial prosperity of this Territory; that we believe the said commission has not committed any act to justify the public press in attacking them; that we hold it is grossly wrong to condemn any man or body of men for any act which they have not committed; that during the last year immense sums of money have been expended in advertising this Territory for the purpose of attracting immigration thereto, and that as a result this Territory is to-day the best advertised country in the world; that the tide of immigration which has been directed heretofore to the Southwest and West is coming to this Territory, and that we are to-day in the midst of one of the greatest immigration booms ever enjoyed by a Territory; that it is to the interest of every citizen of Dakota to zealously scrutinize any measure calculated to injure or check immigration in any way or manner; that the public defamations and scandalizing of any of our citizens by the public press is calculated to injure our present prosperous outlook and to open an avenue for our competitors to take advantage of and turn our immigration to them; that we are in favor of giving the said commission an opportunity to fairly, honestly and impartially discharge their duties.

A substitute denouncing the legislature and the commission was offered by King of Chamberlain, but it received less than a dozen votes. The sentiment of this convention was overwhelmingly in opposition to the party in whose interest the meeting was called.

NORTHERN PACIFIC LAND.

A Very Important Case Now Awaiting the Decision of the Interior Department.

WASHINGTON, Special Telegram, April 18.—Secretary Teller is now engaged on a very important decision affecting the interests of a large number of settlers along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad company, as well as those of the company. Important legal questions relative to the company's grant are involved, and were argued before the secretary several days ago by Roscoe Conkling in the interest of the company. Mr. Reddington, a land office attorney here, who has a large number of clients along the line of the railroad, in a conversation with your correspondent to-day, thus succinctly explains the questions to be settled by the secretary's decision:

The original grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad company was for twenty miles in the States and forty miles in the Territories, with an indemnity limit of ten miles additional in both States and Territories. Afterwards there was another grant of additional ten miles indemnity limit. In 1872 a question arose in the interior department whether the granting act was not in itself a legislative withdrawal of all lands within the granting limits taking effect immediately upon the filing of the map of the general route. Secretary Delano held that the sixth section of the act already operated as a legislative withdrawal of the granted lands, but this decision did not affect the indemnity limits under either of the acts. An executive withdrawal, however, was made on the States and Territories of the indemnity limits not covered by the legislative withdrawal under the act. Three questions now arise:

First—Whether the act itself operated as a legislative withdrawal of lands within the indemnity limits.

Second—Whether the executive withdrawal of the indemnity limits were authorized by law, and if not authorized by law whether the land should be restored.

Fifth—Whether there is any power in the secretary of the interior to now withdraw any of the lands within the indemnity limit.

Mr. Reddington says that thousands of people are interested in the forthcoming decision, and that he is in receipt every day of a large number of letters of inquiry regarding it. The grant was an immense one, and, although there were a great many settlements within the indemnity limits, still the fact that the decision of the secretary of the interior in 1872 held that those lands were withdrawn by legislative action operated to keep people off the lands. Thousands are now waiting to take them if they are thrown open. Mr. Reddington is of the opinion that, under the decision of the secretary, they will be thrown open to settlement.

What is Due to Dakota Newspapers.

From the Cincinnati Times.

The rapid development of Dakota, that is the wonder of the day, is more largely due to the newspapers of the territory than to any other cause. A town is scarcely mapped out before a weekly paper is established, and a population of a thousand souls is sometimes considered sufficient to justify the publication of a daily. So generally are the benefits from a newspaper appreciated that the merchants often offer a printer inducement by way of a bonus or subscriptions for a certain number of copies to start a paper, and in all cases they liberally patronize the printing offices. The extent to which Dakota merchants advertise in the newspapers and by circulars is astonishing. A Dakota town whose newspaper is not literally filled with advertisements is considered dying or dead, and not a desirable place for an enterprising and energetic man to locate.

A feature of some of the Dakota papers is in the "boom" editions, which are issued every few months, and which, being sent all over the country, and also to Europe, have given every town in the territory a wide reputation. It is not to be supposed that the newspaper publishers are the wealthy men of Dakota. They sow and others reap, but there is a labor of love, and usually it is enough if they are able to afford their families a comfortable living.

Pierre Journal: Tally one for the Pierre lady lawyer, Miss Cynthia Eloise, Cleveland. She was assigned by Judge Edgerton as counsel for Ada Williams,

indicted for selling liquor without a license. The opposing counsel were Holmes & Dillon, and the way that Miss Cleveland vanquished these gentlemen of the Pierre bar was a caution.

Dakota's Territorial University.

YANKTON, D. T., Special Telegram, April 18.—Saturday and to-day the Dakota university at Vermillion, Clay county, was formally organized, Gov. Ordway being ex-officio president of the board of regents, and Gen. Beadle superintendent of public instruction, also ex-officio member of the board. The other members are F. N. Burdick, Vermillion, N. D. Fanning, Jamestown, E. C. Erickson, Elk Point, John L. Jelly, Vermillion; E. T. Cressy, Huron, and D. Elwell, Sioux Falls, all of whom were present except the two latter. The first legislature passed a bill locating the State university at Vermillion. Nothing was done till a year ago, when the people of Vermillion incorporated the university under Territorial laws, with a board of trustees, etc. Clay county voted \$10,000 bonds and citizens gave \$5,000 in cash and land. Building was begun, and last fall, under Rev. Dr. Epstein, the university was opened for pupils and something over fifty have attended. At once, the people of Vermillion, not feeling fully satisfied with their title to the university, procured the passage of a bill last winter locating and endowing the Dakota university at Vermillion, and appropriating \$30,000 in bonds for the completion of the building. The institution thus came under the patronage of the Territory, and the old board turned over all the property and records to the new board of regents. D. W. Inman was chosen treasurer, and Gen. Beadle secretary. The board made arrangements to complete the building and purchase apparatus. Dr. Epstein is to continue in charge for the present. Dakota now has a free university in full operation.

Sioux Falls Justice.

SIoux FALLS, Dak., Special Telegram, April 16.—The April term of the district court for this county adjourned to-day, having been in session ten days. One prisoner, Thomas Golden, was sentenced to the Territorial penitentiary for one year, convicted of grand larceny. The aggregate of the fines imposed amounts to \$1,400, \$900 being from the gambling cases. One of the most important cases—that of Sarah Burdick of Minneapolis vs. The Estate of T. T. Cochran—was settled before trial, and the famous title suit of Shillock vs. Pettigrew, involving title to a large part of the land upon which the city of Sioux Falls is situated, was continued.

Bismarck has voted \$25,000 for the purpose of building a new school house.

The concentration of troops at central points in large garrisons will result in the abandonment of a number of the smaller posts on the Northwestern frontier, and it is understood that Fort Stevenson is included in the list of those to be given up by the military authorities. Application has already been made by its transfer to the interior department to be used as a school for the instruction of Indian youth. The application has been favorably considered, and the change will be made as soon as the date of abandonment has been fixed upon by the war department. Some delay may, however, be caused by the failure of congress to appropriate funds sufficient to enlarge those selected to be permanent posts.

J. J. Patent is the new mayor of Jamestown.

Jensen, the Fargo city treasurer, is \$12,000 short. His bondsmen, twenty in number, are good for it.

David Calhoun committed suicide at Yankton by cutting the arteries in his arms with a pen knife and by cutting a gash in his abdomen. Whisky did it.

Scott Higgins, a disreputable character of Yankton, is in jail for attempting to ravish an elderly lady named Bancroft.

There is a rush of immigrants over the Hastings & Dakota road this spring. From fifty to one hundred car loads of stock and household goods per day have been coming for the past three weeks. The passenger trains run from six to ten coaches filled with land seekers.

Judge Carville, one of the original settlers at Bismarck and the first judge of probate and treasurer of Burleigh county, died at Manchester, N. H., a short time ago.

A new road from Yankton up the Missouri valley, to a point near Fort Buford, is soon to be built. The road is to be called the Yankton, Okobjo & Fort Buford. The articles of incorporation have been filed with the secretary of Dakota Territory.

A Yankton dispatch says: Inasmuch as the capital removal bill stipulates that the territory shall receive not only a bonus of at least \$100,000 in money, but also a bonus of at least 160 acres of land wherever the capitol is fixed, which 160 acres is to be mainly laid out in town lots and sold for the benefit of the territory, it is assumed that the location to be fixed upon will not be any considerable town already established, but will be rather, some place easily accessible but removed from present towns. It is understood here that the committee will not be influenced by mere proffers of money over and above the \$100,000 to locate the capital at any other than the best point.

Geo. S. Bidwell, of Mitchell, gave a banquet in honor of Judge Edgerton and members of the bar recently. Toasts were given and responses made and altogether it was a very happy affair.

Fred Haselton, a homesteader living twelve miles south of Mitchell fell dead in the street. The family lived at Waterloo, Iowa. He leaves a wife and eight children.

The Grand Forks council has voted to issue bonds to build two iron bridges across the Red River to connect East Grand Forks.

At the government land office in Huron 25,000 acres were taken on the 5th inst.

A fine flowing well, throwing a three-inch sheet forty feet high, has been struck in Mitchell at a depth of 300 feet, giving the town the best water supply in Southeastern Dakota. A water power company will be formed at once to afford facilities for manufacturing.

Sixty-one instruments are now connected with the Huron telephone exchange.

A lumber famine in the towns west of

Mitchell is seriously delaying building projects.

The Dakota Central railway company have supplied fifteen extra engines for the transfer of freight.

Miller Journal: Fifteen new locomotives have been placed on this line within the last thirty days, and still the blockade is almost as unbroken as ever. Some of our merchants have had freight on the road from Chicago for four weeks and yet it cometh not.

Seeding is reported to be progressing rapidly in Southern Dakota, and the ground is said to have never been in better condition. This is especially so in the neighborhood of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha county. Reports from all points in the Red river valley indicates that seeding will be commenced next Monday.

A contract has been let for the construction of a flouring mill at Aberdeen, Dak., for \$50,000, Chesham Brothers & Gunn, Minneapolis, being the successful bidders.

THE GREAT BRIDGE.

The New York and Brooklyn Marvel of Modern Engineering.

Gath's Letter.

I went over the Brooklyn Bridge to-day, which is not to be opened for about two months, and is just passable for an adventurer. It is a suspension bridge the span between the towers being 1,600 feet, or nearly a third of a mile. The approaches to the New York bridge supported by the cables are 940 feet long each, but beyond the anchorages there are huge causeways above the two cities of about 1,300 feet long on the New York side. The whole bridge, therefore, as I walked it to-day—going in at the gate in Brooklyn, which is rather on the top of the hill, to the gate where I came out opposite the City Hall Park, New York—was 3,564 feet, a considerably more than one mile. This gives you a pretty good idea of the bridge. Some of the largest bridges in the world are only a mile, like that at Columbia over the Susquehanna river.

No suspension bridge in the world bears any proportion to this East river bridge either in length, weight, cost or general character and appearance. It is a gigantic monument, or rather two such monuments, connected by a stupendous net, and approached by tremendous viaducts. The approaches, especially on the New York side, are magnificent, being made of gigantic brick, the parapets in hewn granite cut in great sizes, and the galleries hewn out of the solid stone. The East river is a very deep tidal stream, subject to ice gorges and to heavy winds, and often is choked with fog so that the ferry-boats grope around for an hour or more, blowing and listening to shore bells to get into their slips, and risking collisions at all times, as through the river runs nearly the whole of the enormous commerce between New England and New York.

The principal problems before the bridge-builder were to get his piers down in this deep water, and to raise the money out of two jealous and rather corrupt cities to carry on the work. Great coffer-dams had to be made and caissons sunk not only through the water but through quicksand and other deposits on the bottom to bed rock. I think that these two huge towers which now seem to be connected with the shore, but were not so originally, stand something like eighty feet under the level of the tide, while they rise above it about 270 feet. The towers, therefore, are something like 350 feet high from where they begin under the river to where they end, higher in the air than almost any steeple shot-tower, flag-staff or any other object in either city. Take either of these towers and set them beside the Washington monument which is to be over 500 feet high, and they would be sevenths of its height, and a great deal more effective in breadth.

Each tower as it stands up and down stream, is 134 feet long at the bottom by 56 feet wide. This is a prodigious mass of masonry. The cubical quantity of stone in the two towers is said to be nearly 63,000 cubic yards. The towers are not built solid, but hollow, and at their summit, 350 feet above their foundations they are 120 feet wide by 40 feet thick. You could, therefore, raise on the summit of each of these towers two houses side by side, each 20 feet wide and extending backward 120 feet. Over these immense towers run four cables. It is said that the cables, with the bridge they suspend and all the people, railroad trains fully loaded, teams, &c., will weigh 4,753 tons, or in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 pounds, or the weight of nearly 100,000 men of 100 pounds apiece. In short, an army of 75,000 soldiers, ready for battle, would weigh about as much as these bridge towers have to sustain in their extremity.

The New York bridge floor is almost eighty feet wide, divided into five spaces. The engineer said of this bridge when he designed it, sixteen years ago: "It will not be the greatest bridge in existence, but it will be great engineering work of this continent and of the age. Its most conspicuous features, the great towers will serve as landmarks to the adjoining cities, and they will be entitled to be ranked as national monuments. As a great work of art and a successful specimen of advanced bridge engineering, this structure will forever testify to the energy, enterprise and wealth of that community which shall secure its erection." The bridge floor is said to be 118 feet above high water. There may have been some changes in these figures, but I think not much. It is also hard to put into popular description the technical description of engineers.

Mrs. James E. Wirman, of Harrison, O., writes: "Dr. Guyssot's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla cured my daughter of dyspepsia and irregularities."

The values quoted for the United States silver dollars in the dealers' lists are: 1794, \$20; 1804, \$250; 1838, \$15; 1839, \$10; 1851-2, \$15; 1858 \$10; no others are worth any considerable premium. Sometimes larger prices are realized at sales by auction from collectors.

FIELD AND FARM.

Farmer's Brevities.

Every farmer who keeps poultry should have an enclosure in which to shut them up during the early growing season. See to this before the rush of spring work sets in.

Early sown oats generally succeed the best, as the growth must be largely made before very hot weather sets in—heat does not suit them. The fact that they will endure a very low temperature without damage is an argument for early sowing.

When cows take a fancy to eat wood lick earth, or chew bones, it is an indication that they are suffering from indigestion. Give each cow a pint of linseed-oil or a pound of melted lard, and bran-slop for a few days, and they will probably leave off eating wood or other rubbish.

The market gardeners who grow melons for the New York market by acres proceed as follows: If possible they plow under a sod of Fall rye which has been maturated the year before. They then make a compost of pig manure and night soil and use a shovelful of this to a hill, planting six feet apart; also, using a table-spoonful of guano or superphosphate of lime to each hill. In this way they will produce sometimes 300 barrels to the acre. For beets old stable manure and superphosphate are the best fertilizers.

It has often been said that the best time to market grain is just as soon as it is ready, and before it is reduced by any sort of loss or shrinkage. A table showing the price of wheat in New York for sixteen years, made by Statistician Walker to the Produce Exchange confirms the soundness of this advice in so far as it shows that the average price from September 1 to March was higher than in the later six months in just one half of the years.

President D. E. Rogers, of Wheatland, told at a meeting of the Western New York Farmer's Club, of one of his wheat-fields being self-seeded to clover from seed which must have lain in the ground several years. This often turns up in fields where clover is occasionally allowed to go to seed as a crop. It must be ever remembered that many weed-seeds have the same faculty of lying dormant furrow deep on the ground for nobody knows how many years, and are very apt to turn up most inopportunistly.

HOME INTERESTS.

Setting One's House in Order.

When the head of the house is laid low there is trouble. And the trouble is greater if, as so often happens, death finds him before his house is "set in order" and he is ready to depart. If he had lived he would have collected debts, straightened out tangles and got things into proper shape for his successor. If he had lived perhaps only a little longer he would have made his will, and aided so far in settling his estate amicably and according to his plan. A great many more men die intestate than otherwise. A man has the feeling that making a will is a direct and immediate preparation for death. And that putting off this duty delays the final, fatal dart. But when this dart has sped, and the widow finds herself alone and responsible for setting the estate, she feels utterly lost and knows not which way to turn. The legal forms that must be gone through with are quite incomprehensible and strange to her, and she has little idea what ought to be done, or of the manner in which the estate ought to be settled up. In too many cases the wife knows very little about her husband's business affairs, his obligations, his assets, his liabilities. She takes it for granted that "he knows his own business," and is not only competent to manage it in the best way for the interests of both, but that he does so, and that she is "secure" in any event. Many wives have a feeling that the manifestation of a lively interest in the exact status of affairs would betray or seem to betray a lack of confidence in their husbands, and in accordance with this feeling they hand over to their husbands all their own property and effects, trusting that by so doing they can lose nothing. But unless accounts are kept and the wife's property is protected when the husband dies and creditors and heirs come in, and there are fees to be collected, there is no lack of opportunity for the widow to be robbed of all which the greed of those in whose power she is may be able to swallow.

Fortunate is she that can find a trustworthy and capable man who will advise as to the winding up of the estate and see that it is thoroughly and carefully done. Women ought to know enough of legal forms and requirements as to these matters to be able intelligently to sign papers in their own interest, and to refuse to sign such as would injure them; but while their husbands live, when their husbands die they are often too much bewildered and overcome by the new aspect of things to learn what is best to do and to have done. There are many cases in which widows have resolutely set themselves to work to master all the principles and details involved in the settlement of estates, and have administered upon them with skill and sagacity. This course cannot be too highly commended. In some of our states there are special treatises upon settling estates, giving the law and the forms to be gone through; a woman with such a book for consultation would be able to have an intelligent opinion as to the various steps to be taken in her own case. As months are required for the work of which we are speaking, there need be no haste in taking the various steps. Where there are minor children it is sometimes impossible to conclude matters until the children attain legal majority. In such cases there is time for the widow to become so conversant with her affairs that she may act intelligently and with the advice of competent counsel before taking any important step.

When the wife dies, with or without a will, there are few legal difficulties often

none at all, for the husband to encounter in settling up her estate; but when the husband dies without a will the wife is hampered at every step, and most of all by her own ignorance. The best remedy for this, in the existing state of things, is for the husband to keep accounts so carefully and exactly that all property or moneys belonging to his wife's estate may be readily identified as hers, and so not be at the mercy of his creditors, and to see to it that titles to property are clear and unincumbered. A widow left with a farm of which her husband supposed himself to be the owner, found after his death that the man of whom the farm was bought had no power to give title, this, by the operation of a self-foreclosing mortgage, having passed into the hands of the mortgagee before her husband bought it. A mistake of this kind is generally much more easily remedied by the buyer than by his widow, for human nature is such that the power to oppress often begets the disposition to do so. That this has always been so is amply evidenced by the frequent references in the scriptures to the care of God for the widow and the fatherless, and the denunciations against those who oppress them. To these the defenceless widow may betake herself and find in them abundant support and consolation.

There is no truer way for the husband to show his love and care of his wife and children than by systematically so arranging and ordering his affairs as to leave them, in the event of his death, protected from all who would take advantage of their ignorance or their weakness. This he will do if he sets his house in order and keeps it so.

Fashion Notes.

Dress bonnets are of medium size. Colored lace mits in the new shades will be worn this summer.

Stylishly-dressed children now wear lace shoulder-capes instead of collars.

The return to fashion of gros-grains and failles has met with universal approbation.

Small mantelettes of cloth are newer than jackets with sailor-made cloth suits.

Humming-birds poised on flowers and lace appear on spring bonnets of straw and silk.

Pointed stomachers of lace, beads or passementerie, trim the pointed basques of elegant dinner dresses.

Heavy silks, woven in small matelasse patterns, will replace to some extent the plain Ottoman of the past season.

Purple violets and barbes of Valenciennes lace trim the fine Milan straw bonnets designed for elderly ladies.

Rosettes of gold braid and smaller rosettes of narrow velvet ribbon trim the wicker bonnet displayed on opening-day.

French pelisses of cashmere, or of black Ottoman silk designed for spring wraps, have narrow plaits down the front and back, flowing sleeves, and a puffed collar.

Velvet will be worn to the latest possible moment, or until the heated term shall render it uncomfortable, as it holds, or rather has increased, its hold on popular favor.

Fans of tinted ostrich feathers, mounted on tortoise shells, are still the height of style for evening dress. They are oval in shape, and usually have a brilliantly plumaged bird or a cluster of lilies or roses set in the center of the fan.

Yellow, in a score of tints, ranging from daffodil and primrose to citron yellow or a greenish tint, is a color that is now exceedingly fashionable in every sort of dry. It becomes very hard and almost like stone, but is very much improved by a coating of hot, melted gas tar which costs but little and makes the floor water-proof and still harder.—Rural New Yorker.

The Middleman Makes the Difference.

A barrel of the best flour, worth in New York \$7, will make 180 loaves of bread; cost of making the loaves is \$3; whole cost, \$10; retailers price for 180 loaves at 10 cents a loaf, \$18; profit, \$8. The total freight charge on a barrel of flour from Minneapolis to New York is \$1, or about 1-2 cent for the flour of one loaf.

A hind quarter of beef, weighing 200 pounds, costs in New York, 9 cents a pound, \$18, retails at \$16 cents per pound, or \$32 for the whole quarter; profit \$14. The railroads carry dressed beef from Chicago to New York for 40 cents per 100 pounds, or four mills per pound. Hams and bacon, on which the consumer pays a profit of 4 or 5 cents per pound are carried by the railroads from St. Louis, Cincinnati and Chicago for 1.5 of a cent per pound.

The consumer in States west of the Mississippi pays an average price of, say, 30 cents per pound for tea, an average profit of 4 cents. Tea is first-class freight. The freight charges for 100 pounds of tea from New York to Davenport, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, Kansas City and St. Paul—from 1,200 to 1,500 miles—range at the average from 90c to \$1.10; an average of a cent per pound. Tea may suffice as an example for other food articles and food products. Whenever the consumer pays a high margin of profit over the producer's price, as in coffee, canned goods, fruits and other groceries, he does not pay it to the transporter, but to the middlemen and dealers.

A suit of clothes may be bought by the workman, or average citizen, for from \$20 to \$30. The transporter's charge from eastern manufactories to points west of the Mississippi does not exceed an average of 5 cents on a suit of clothes. The average profit to dealers on a \$20 suit of clothes is \$8. The profit on a single pair of \$4 boots and shoes is three times the total freight charges on a dozen pairs 1,500 miles.—Chicago Times.

The Minneapolis city council placed the liquor license at \$1,500 but it is supposed that it will be vetoed by the mayor.