

# Cooperstown Courier.

VOL. 1, NO. 51.

COOPERSTOWN, GRIGGS CO., DAK., FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1884.

\$2 PER ANNUM

## THE COURIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING  
By Ed. D. STAIR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
One copy, one year, \$2.00  
Six months, 1.00  
Cash invariably in Advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Display ads, \$1 per inch a month; 25 per cent off on yearly contracts of over 2 inches. Locals, 10 cents for first and 5 cents for each subsequent insertion. Final proof and contest notices, without citations, \$5 each, spot cash.

Official Paper of Griggs County

FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 1884.

### LOCAL LACONICS.

—Fred A. Sabin is in Fargo on business.

—R. C. Cooper is in St. Paul on important business.

—Ice is being quite extensively harvested these days.

—Looks a little like an old-fashioned eastern January thaw.

—Nelson & Langlie are in the midst of an inventory siege.

—O. P. Olson registered at the Palace Wednesday, from Hope.

How many resolutions have you broken since the 1st of January?

—The mercury struck for a raise on Tuesday and got above zero.

—The ever genial Banker Burrell, of Sanborn, ran up and dined with Cashier Pickett last Monday.

—Mr. Ole Serumgard has been at Sanborn, Fargo and Valley City all the week attending to legal business.

—The cold wave of last week extended all over the United States, and in many localities much suffering resulted.

—Sanborn Enterprise: The Courier boasts of \$90,390 expended in buildings in Cooperstown. Good enough for the first year.

—H. P. Smart, our efficient register of deeds and county clerk, has been in Fargo this week on business connected with his claim.

—W. T. Woodruff, who has been an employee of the Lenham E. & L. Company for some time, started for Washington Territory Monday.

—Odegard & Thompson are taking stock and will soon know just how many thousand dollars they have made during their first year in trade at Cooperstown.

—Joseph Buchheit has taken temporary office room in the Courier building, where his patrons will find him ever ready to draw up a receipt or take a new order.

—Messrs. Muir and Christie, those genuine get-there-Eli contractors, came on Monday's train feeling much the better for their two weeks' cruise in the outside world.

—County Assessor E. W. McCrea has gone for a visit to old scenes in Canada, and says he'll miss his guess if a fine "invoice" of new settlers don't return with him in the spring.

—Sanborn denizens were treated to the most severe blizzard of the season Wednesday night. The weather was considerable milder in this latitude, though the wind blew nearly all night.

—During his absence the publisher will pretty thoroughly examine Chicago and Detroit, but won't feel under obligations to buy either town unless he feels well satisfied of a good bargain.

—The Courier was in error last week as regards the amount paid for the Gunderson place by Messrs. Stevens, Jacobson & Serumgard. The consideration was \$1,800, instead of \$1,200 as stated.

—Miss Florence Frazier, one of Dakota's fair "farmers," came up to Cooperstown Monday and proved up on her little 100-acre plantation, having lived her six months out with true feminine fortitude.

—The heating power of school hall being inadequate church services were held in the Palace dining room last Sunday evening, and are announced to be held at the hotel next Sunday, both morning and evening.

—Mr. Ole Halverson, our new county commissioner from the second precinct, assumed the duties of his office last Monday in dead earnest, being present and participating in the annual commissioners meeting held that day.

—Miss Grace Baranum, who holds a valuable Griggs county claim, has been registered at the Palace since Monday, but will not be able to prove up as she intended owing to a deficiency in her money to cover the quarter section.

—Tax-payers only have twenty days in which to liquidate their indebtedness to the county without paying the additional per centage for collection.

—County Treasurer Anton Enger left on Monday last for a few weeks' sojourn at his old home, Lanesboro, Minn. During his absence Deputy Melgard will be pleased to hand over your tax receipt.

—The Jamestown Northern branch is very hard to keep open owing to numerous deep cuts, and it is liable to be abandoned any time. The railroaders report no trouble whatever on the Cooperstown branch.

—In its list of improvements the Courier inadvertently neglected to include the residence of John N. Jorgensen, which cost \$1,050. This makes the grand total of building investments for 1883 amount to the snug little sum of 90,440.00.

—The Steele Herald don't believe in working for less than is necessary and so charges full rates for final proof publications, which is \$9.50. Your head is level, Bro. Britton, and you should have hearty co-operation for making the break in your district.

—It is leap year and there are a score of eligible bachelors in Cooperstown, whose names we have a good mind to publish for the benefit of eastern maidens who may have the courage to avail themselves of leap year privileges, and thus secure a loving liege lord.

—The patrons of this school district met at the school house last Monday and adopted plans for the ensuing school year. It was decided that the interests of the school would be best subserved by retaining Mr. Clough as teacher, and we learn he has accepted the situation, for the coming term at least.

—Mr. H. Maitland Kersey, a traveller for the traffic department of the Northern Pacific R. R. was up glancing over Griggs county's hub last Monday. He reports gigantic efforts on the part of the company to advertise this country in the east, and says they are sending out tons of printed matter from headquarters.

—The Sanborn Enterprise is mistaken in its statement that Mr. F. M. Rockwell, of this place had froze his feet. He did, in company with his wife and Mrs. J. N. Brown, spend a severe night on the prairie, but none of the party were injured by the frost—not even severely chilled, so well did they care for themselves.

—If there is any reasonable reason for the telegraph wire on the Cooperstown branch remaining down for a week at a stretch an indignant public would like to hear it. Mr. Cowen, our gentlemanly agent, exercises all the power possible each time to find the break, but it generally occurs near the other end and we are cut off from the outside world for days at a time. Who is in fault?

—There is nothing small about W. S. Alexander, General Passenger Agent of the Manitoba railroad. He read one of the Holiday Couriers and now informs us that the courtesies of his great lines will be gladly extended the humble publisher for 1884. We are just the chap that can appreciate such kind favors for we never feel backward about riding on a pass.

—For a town of its importance the mail facilities afforded Cooperstown are an outrage. Two mails in two weeks is all we have had through kindness of the government, and there has been no depending on them, as they came and went at their pleasure. The department owes this community a speedy remedy and will no doubt apply it when the matter is understood by the "powers that be" at Washington.

—A magnificent mirage was viewed hereabouts Sunday forenoon, when one could stand on the Palace walk and look over intervening bluffs and plainly discern the Sheyenne timber, some two hundred feet below our level, and about fourteen miles from town. It was a most beautiful optical illusion and well worth going a long distance to experience. Houses eight to ten miles away seemed within a few rods distance.

—Nelson & Langlie have the largest stock of confectionery in the city.

—Some of our readers complain of the meagre salary offered Mr. Villard by the Courier. It's all right gentlemen, but \$7 a week is all our foreman thinks the office can stand at present. You see Y's hands are stiff and he would be of little account for type setting on the start, and about all he would be expected to do is to fold papers, wash rollers, build fires, keep the office tidy, etc. Of course when he gets his "hand in" he will be worth more.

—Cashier J. M. Burrell was the recipient on New Year's of a handsome gold Elgin watch, a gift from Banker E. M. Kiser, as an expression of appreciation of Mr. Burrell's fidelity to business. Engraved upon the back of the case is a neat monogram, "J. M. B." Mr. B. is much elated over his valuable present, and will always remember the generosity of Mr. Kiser who has many times placed him under obligation by similar marks of appreciation.—Sanborn Enterprise.

—The first year of the Courier is drawing to a close, and it is now in order that those who feel they can stand the paper's racket for another year manifest their willingness so to do by calling and obtaining their receipt. Much as we desire to maintain our flattering list of subscribers our pride and business principles won't permit us to send the paper longer than paid for. It's too much like forcing it upon our patrons, and then we have learned that it don't pay.

—Delegate Raymond writes Mr. R. C. Cooper that he is doing all in his power to get a daily "star" route mail service established between Sanborn and Cooperstown, but that he fears it will be necessary for our people to give up their railway service if they want the overland. The vote of the public is in favor of the overland service, by a large majority. It would be much more reliable than the railroad, the officials of which make no special effort to send a train here even on the days advertised. Mr. Raymond can do Griggs county great service by having the mode of our mail transportation changed at once.

—This item is intended to inform our readers that the architect of these columns has voted himself a committee of one to go down and lay the manifold attractions of Griggs county as an abiding place before his old Michigan acquaintances, and that his absence may be prolonged for a period of two weeks if not more. During his absence the Courier's faithful first-lieutenant, C. A. Moore, will have full swing and no doubt our patrons will enjoy the change. Adly is not exceedingly large about the waist, but strikes quick and strong from either shoulder, he therefore has a power of attorney to deal out "satisfaction" to all who may cherish spite against the paper as well as to receipt for money received on account.

—An exchange thus lectures its readers: "When business men of a town fail to advertise extensively they diminish the importance and trade of a place and permit more enterprising localities to take the latter from them. Although done for their individual interests, advertisers should be looked upon by citizens of the town where they reside as in some sense public benefactors, and they should be encouraged accordingly. One merchant who advertises extensively is worth to his town and its people more than forty who never show themselves in print, and should be for this reason alone preferred, assuming that he is of course a fair business man. The enterprising public-spiritedness of her merchants has been of great advantage to Cooperstown, and the dealers of neighboring towns can draw a good lesson from them.

—Wm. Glass loans money for final proof, and on titled land. 50¢.

—Anything in the line of Farm Machinery at Baerheit Bros.

—Stoneware until you can't rest at Odegard & Thompson's.

—We sell the "Acorn" cigar, the best in the Cooperstown market, all arguments to the contrary notwithstanding. Nelson & Langlie.

—Call and see the celebrated Household Sewing Machines at Buchheit Bros.

—Our immense and growing trade satisfies us that the people appreciate our efforts in dispensing the best goods at lowest possible figures. Nelson & Langlie.

—We have now the largest stock of winter Boots and Shoes ever brought to Griggs county. Come and see for yourselves. Odegard & Thompson.

—The Bank of Cooperstown is offering some No. 1 Land in the immediate vicinity of Cooperstown big bargains.

—Why are some of the farmers hauling these heavy loads so happy? Because they bought one of those fine Bob Sleds of Odegard & Thompson.

—We sell pure sugar goods, not glucose. Nelson & Langlie.

—We can sell you a team of mules or horses, a yoke of oxen, a cow, hogs, chickens, etc. You see we buy anything and sell everything—soft soap excepted. Odegard & Thompson.

—We can just discount our competitors every time, both as to quality of goods and price. Fifteen years' experience in purchasing goods in eastern markets. "That's what knocks." Nelson & Langlie.

—Our goods are not old goods shipped in from old stocks cast to be closed out. Bear that in mind when you want goods in our line. Odegard & Thompson.

## WHAT DAKOTA IS

And what it is Not, as Told by G. W. Everts in the Toledo (O.) Blade.

ONIDA, Dak., Dec. 17.

I have just been reading an article in one of the great religious weeklies of New York, wherein is given some wholesome truths concerning this much inflated bubble, Dakota. The writer concludes his article by stating that Dakota is a cold, barren region, fit only for roving Indians, and advises all Americans to remain contented in their peaceful eastern homes. In Harper's School Geography, series of 1882, you will find a brief description of this Territory, which fully corroborates the above statements, and the Harpers ought to know, for don't they publish a "Journal of Civilization?" I do hope the eastern press will continue in the good work until this delusive bubble is thoroughly pricked. For the life of me I can't see anything about this country to make people go crazy over it, like they are doing. The whole surface is covered with a sort of stunted grass, in some places not over a foot high, and fit for nothing under the sun but for stock to eat. And the soil is nothing but a black loam from four to eight feet deep and underlaid with a porous sort of subsoil, strongly impregnated with lime, gypsum and such stuff, that denote sterility.

AND THEN THE WIND!

While it is true we never have had any of your "sly coons" or "jimmie canes," we have terrible "blizzards." I have actually known of a blizzard blowing the hat off a man's head and carrying it as much as five rods before he could recover it. Also the savage beasts that roam over the prairie, such as the badger, the coyote, the gopher and the vicious prairie dog make it very unsafe to be caught out without being thoroughly armed and equipped. There are a hundred and one other features connected with this country that should warn the weary pilgrim that this is not the haven of his desires, yet thousands still continue to come and persist in staying and the longer they stay the crazier they seem to become.

I think the origin of this silly craze can be traced to an eccentric fellow, familiarly known as "Uncle Sam," who formerly owned all the real estate in this and several adjoining Territories and who, in order to unload offered to sell any person 320 acres on from five to eight years time without interest, and take the principal out in work. This was a most unfortunate proceeding and thousands and tens of thousands of honest, intelligent and industrious people have been deluded to accept this most ungenerous offer. The

EXPERIENCE OF YOUR CORRESPONDENT is similar to that of thousands of other poor dupes. I was doing a splendid business in Ohio, the best business in fact in the town. At least that is what my friends would tell me when they came in to trade, and then they would say, "just mark that down for a few days." Now, I might have remained in Ohio and had hosts of friends just as long as I had a dollar's worth of goods to sell "on tick." It was hard to sever those ties of friendship, amounting as they did in some cases from \$5 to \$50 each, but I braced myself for the effort, and am now in Dakota. I arrived early in the season, but found very little accommodation for gentlemen, and had to haul lumber, etc., for my house and other buildings, nearly 20 miles, and it took until the 1st of June to get to house-keeping, hence my experience is somewhat limited, but it is sufficient to demonstrate the utter uselessness of this as an agricultural country. I planted a few acres of sod corn which averaged only about 40 bushels to the acre. My potatoes were little scrawny things, the largest not weighing much over two pounds. I raised about a wagon load of melons but they were little bits of things only weighing from 15 to 20 pounds each. My cucumber crop was tolerably fair, but I mistook them for squashes and did not discover the mistake until they began to ripen and then they were unfit for use. My pumpkin crop was an entire failure, not that they would not grow, but the tarnal fool cattle would stick up their noses at them and scamp off and eat the prairie grass in preference, which every eastern editor and college professor knows is not fit to be eaten by thoroughbred stock and should be eaten only by the heathen buffalo.

BUT THE MOST MISERABLE FAILURE was in beans. I have often read in eastern journals that Dakota wouldn't raise beans, and I ought to have known better; yet I was fool enough to sow four quarts of the white navy variety on fresh broken soil and harrow them over a couple of times, and by actual measurement I only got three bushels and a peck. I have a neighbor who used to farm back in Ohio on the shares. He told me himself he could crop both sides, and no peas that sometimes the plow would kick him over the fence and then kick him two or three times after he was over. Yet he was doing well, and might have been happy had he only been contented, for some years, after marketing his crop, he would find he was not much over \$50 behind. He came with the crowd to Dakota, and his condition is becoming more miserable every day. In addition to other things he sowed several acres of sod wheat that only yielded 50 bushels to the acre. He now says you don't catch him being such a fool again. He has broke and backed over 100 acres, and will sow it to wheat in the spring, and I really don't believe it will average over 30 bushels to the acre. When I told him so, he replied that if it did not it would be very discouraging, for at that rate it would take him four or five years to get rich.

## ANOTHER SERIOUS OBJECTION

is the unhealthy climate. The prevailing disease is loss of appetite. Healthy, robust looking men will sit down to a meal and apparently seem to enjoy it, but in half or three-quarters of an hour their appetites will be entirely gone. Now I really think something ought to be done, and done quickly, to properly inform the people and stop this everlasting rush of emigration to these barren plains. Trainload after trainload come pouring in, and nearly every deluded soul of them declare the "have come to stay." It should be looked after as a matter of economy also. At the present rate within a very few years Dakota will have as many people to the square mile as Ohio, and they will want their nice houses, big barns, schools, churches, public halls and all such things, like they have in the States, and just think what they will cost. Now why can't they stay back where they already have these things to save the expense. Another very important matter should also be taken into consideration. If the tenant farmers in the east emigrate to Dakota the land owners there will have to take their sons from colleges, or base ball clubs or other educational institutions, to work their farms, or they will have to stay at home and do it themselves, and then who will hold down dry goods boxes in the villages and discuss tariff, talk politics and save the country. Let the eastern press continue in the good work until the terrible delusion in regard to this Territory, that hangs like a horrible nightmare over the people, is entirely dispelled. G. W. EVERTS.

—We are receiving lumber of every description daily. Lenham Elevator & Lumber Co.

—If you want a Bob Sled, you must come soon or they will all be sold. They are selling like hot cakes. Odegard & Thompson.

—Old newspapers for sale at the Courier office.

—We have just received a car load of that genuine Fargo Roller Mill Flour and it will be sold cheaper than ever. Odegard & Thompson.

—The blizzards may blow; the train may stop, but Whidden Bros. have in stock and to arrive 5 cars flour, 1 car pork, two cars groceries, and everything needed for a month's shut-up.

—Our goods will bear inspection with any stock in this market, and all we ask is a call to convince you that by buying goods of us it is money in your pocket. Nelson & Langlie.

—Farmers clean your seed wheat. The Lenham E. & L. Co. will sell you a machine for \$25.00 that will take out all foul seed.

—We have too many knit underwear and will give you some cheap if you call soon. Odegard & Thompson.

—Call at Whidden Bros. for horse blankets, bed spreads, comforts and quilts. Marked low.

—Odegard & Thompson will sell you good calico for 6c per yard; full width sheeting 8c; and dry goods cheaper than ever.

—For mens' fur goods go to Nelson & Langlie's.

—Fine line of fresh confectionery at Odegard & Thompson's.

—Nelson & Langlie "only" keep the celebrated "Acorn."

—It will do you good to call at Odegard & Thompson's if you want flour or provisions. We will give you good bargains.

—Talk is cheap, but we won't be undersold. You can hear it in mind all day. Odegard & Thompson.

—We will not be undersold in North Dakota. Lenham Elevator & Lumber Co.

—A fine calf boot for \$2.75. Also a large stock of winter foot gear at Odegard & Thompson's.

—Have you got a yoke of oxen, sheep, hogs, etc.? We will always give you goods for them. Odegard & Thompson.

—Prices that compete with Fargo. Lenham Elevator & Lumber Co.

## For Rent.

A well appointed store in excellent location of Cooperstown, suitable for any kind of business, can be leased by applying to, R. C. COOPER.

THEO. F. KERR, M. D.

## Physician and Surgeon!

Cooperstown, Dakota.

Office in Newell's Drug Store.

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AT LOW RATES.

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Work done at residence of patrons or taken home, satisfaction guaranteed. Apply at Mr. Adams' Burrell Ave., COOPERSTOWN, D. T.

## IVER JACOBSON,

### Attorney

AND

COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW.

COOPERSTOWN, DAK.