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The Woodpile "Nigger."

HANNAFORD, N. DAK.
MAY 1st '04.

EDITOR COURIER:

My attention has been called to an article in your issue of April 21st in which the erstwhile Sage of Jessie once more takes down his gall pot, dips therein his caustic pen, and as of old proceeds to flay us to the quick. With the same foresight, which for so many years enabled him to see ruin on the road for the farmers, to see the time coming when they would be so poor as to be unable to buy the trust made nails wherewith to nail up the baby's coffin, with the incisive keenness of vision he is enabled to ferret out the gentlemen of color in our woodpile. Were it not for a conversation that we had with one of the aforementioned business men of Hannaford, we would be entirely at a loss to account for the gentleman's motive in so delving beneath the surface. Said this business man, "When McCollough was down here he pumped hot air into us for several hours on the elevator question. He had statistics from away back showing pretty near everything. He told us that he had sounded the Hannaford farmers on the elevator question and not found them in favor of it, that the time would come when they would deeply regret it. That he did not think much of Hannaford anyway." It is an undeniable fact that some human natures are so constituted that they can brook no opposition. Agree with them and you are a good fellow, oppose them, or in any way stand in the path, and you are all that is wrong. The sage of Jessie is very closely related to the quaker who said to his wife, "Martha, the whole world is queer but thee and me, and even thou art queer at times." We are very sorry for his poor opinion of us and our farmers, and maybe the time will come when they will not regret it. But why? We understand that the farmers elevator at Cooperstown intend to buy at 11c of Duluth, and to charge 1c for putting grain through the house. We never saw a carload of grain on that basis, and our customers are charged 1c for putting their grain through. Shortly after McCollough's visitation one of our prominent farmers and a personal friend of Mac's said to us: "As long as I get my grain handled as you have handled it, I don't see any inducement to go into a farmers elevator."

The venerable sage advises us to put in our time calling the farmers attention to the extortionate margins the Old Line Co's. used to charge. Thanks for the advice, but we believe we are putting it in to better advantage. We have known of third rate politicians who put in time waving the bloody shirt, and harping on issues dead and gone. We might return the advice by recommending that the keen eyed seer once more take up his harp and song of the dangers of protection and the gold standard. It won him a seat at Bismarck, but did it ever put a dollar in any one else's pocket? This spring we have put out pedigreed seed enough to sow 3000 acres. If the claims of the Minnesota experiment station can be relied on, it means an increase in the yield over common seed of at least 6000 bu. worth at the present market some \$5000. We brought in the first strictly fodder corn, and are busy shoving the sale of that also and next fall hundreds of waving acres will testify to the value of it as a forage crop. Philanthropy? Oh no! There is money in it for us right now and we think we can see more in the future. But for every \$ we make the farmer will make \$10. As long as the necessity lasted we put in our time calling attention to the big bargains.

Now as to our farmer catching-death dealing net, pray what do you know about it? Has it ever entangled you? Do you know that at the present time we are paying a 2c premium for such wheat as we can use? That some of our customers had wheat that we wanted and were not ready to sell, and to those we have issued storage tickets which read—payable at 2c over hard and no storage. That we have just cleaned a carload of flax for another at a cost of \$10 and returned to him screenings worth to us \$30 and that he got 2c more for his flax and saved \$9 freight on the dirt? That last summer when the combine were after our scalp, that our friends sold to us over 10,000 bu. of flax at 1c less per bu. than the others were offering. That (will the rest of you pardon the allusion) on three different occasions we have taken up mortgages on our customers teams to save foreclosure, without a cent of profit to us? Do you realize that every \$ we do make, and our farmers give us so much to handle that we make several of them, goes right into taxable property. We are undoubtedly foolish in many ways, but we hope are not quite so far gone as the advice of the honorable gentleman would indicate.

You remind us very much of Bryan when he held the interview with the inmate of an insane asylum, who said to him—well never mind, that will keep until next time.

"Written with the pen
"appertaining to
"Hannaford correspondent.

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It's shameful when youth fails to show proper respect for old age, but just the contrary in the case of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They cut off maladies no matter how severe and irrespective of old age. Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Fever, Constipation all yield to this perfect Pill. 25c, at H. H. Bateman's Drug Store.

Bids Wanted.

Bids will be received at the school house on May 28, 1904 for the repairing of the school house on Sec. 16-145-60, also for building a barn. Plans and specifications can be found at clerk's office. Also sealed bids will be received on same day for the purchase of schoolhouse on Sec. 23-145-60.

R. L. JONES, Clerk.
Hannaford, N. D.

Notice to Contractors.

Sealed bids will be received by Oscar D. Purinton, secretary board of education at his office, Cooperstown, North Dakota, up to the hour of 12 o'clock M. June 6th, 1904, for the erection and completion of a brick school building for the Board of Education of said city. All bids to be in strict conformity with plans and specifications prepared by W. C. Albrant, Architect of Fargo, N. D., which plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the secretary and of the Architect and at the Builders and Traders Exchange, Minneapolis on and after May 14th, 1904. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of \$2,000 made payable to said secretary as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract should it be awarded to him and furnish security bonds as required by law. Bids for the plumbing and heating will be received at the same time and each bid shall be accompanied with a certified check of \$500.00 which is sufficient to cover both bids and to be given on the same conditions as above stated and surrendered without protest should the bidder fail to enter into contract and furnish satisfactory bonds. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids without further liability. Dated at Cooperstown, N. D., May 4th, 1904.

By order of the Board of Education,
OSCAR D. PURINTON, Clerk.
W. C. ALBRANT, Architect.

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For Sale By C. J. Lucken, Cooperstown, N. D.