

Cooperstown And The Upper Sheyenne Valley.

From Sanborn on the North Pacific main line sixty-nine miles west of Fargo, a branch road runs due north, thirty-six miles to Cooperstown, over almost level prairie for most of the way until a branch of the Sheyenne River is crossed, and then across rolling land seven miles further to its terminus. The country is already fairly well settled, and about half of the area seen from the car windows is cultivated in wheat and other small grains. The harvest was in progress when our party made the journey, and the reaping machines were at work on all sides. There is an appearance of power and effectiveness in one of these big self-binding machines, drawn by three horses abreast, that makes it an impressive object in the landscape, and when you see five or six of them advancing in each line they remind you, if you were once a soldier, of artillery going to battle. The broad level expanses of the wheat fields, with the grain in shocks, or still waving in the prairie breezes, speak to the imagination of the fruitfulness and beneficence of our good mother earth, and you understand something of the fascination these rich Dakota prairies have for farmers from regions where a livelihood is only wrested by the hardest labor from the stingy and sterile soil.

I revisited Cooperstown in August after more than a year's absence and was glad to note many evidences of growth and prosperity. Two churches, Congregational and Methodist, have been erected, and there are several new business buildings and at least a score of new dwellings. The handsome court house is a landmark for nearly the whole of the county of which it is the capital. This stately edifice is one of the finest county buildings in North Dakota, and is hardly surpassed by the court houses in Fargo and Jamestown. The spirit of the Cooperstown people is buoyant and enterprising. Towns differ in this respect as well as individuals, some being hopeful, others melancholy; some friendly and some rather morose. There are disappointed towns, that have ceased to hope for much in the future, and and cheerful towns, confident of success. Cooperstown is one of the cheerful sort. It is pleased with the result of its three year's existence and has faith in its destiny. Trade is not over done and all the merchants are doing well. The growth of the place has only kept pace with that of the tributary country, and as that country becomes more thickly settled and the farmers get more forehanded and are able to make better improvements, there will be business for more merchants, mechanics and professional men. The present population is about 600. The town is the nearest trading point for the whole of Griggs county, and for considerable territory in the adjoining counties, especially in a northerly direction. There is absolutely no waste land in Griggs, and the county will eventually support in comfort ten times its present population.

This is by no means a region of monotonous level stretches, like the steppes of Southern Russia, where one mile is just like another, and the traveller is overcome with weariness for want of objects of interest in the landscape. The open prairie is diversified with ranges of grassy hills of varied contour and there are occasional lakes. One of these lakes, in the northern part of the county, has trees on its banks, and is especially attractive as a motive for drives and a destination for picnic parties. The Sheyenne river runs through the county from north to south, in a deep valley, and along the banks are flourishing groves of cottonwood trees, which in places climb the slopes of the hills to the level of the prairies. The scenery along the winding stream is so strikingly different from that of the treeless plains, that its beauty is enhanced by contrast. We drove out to the valley, six miles from the town, on a breezy morning, and while the artist made a sketch of the scene, the younger members of the party gathered flowers along the river banks, disturbing a flock of mallard ducks, that lazily declined to take flight, and only swam a few yards further down the stream, while the elders, took refuge from the sun in a shed built of poles and straw, for sleeping quarters for farm hands, during the harvest time. The end of the drive was to have been a group of curious mounds, of which Mr. Adams, the editor of the COURIER, had told me; but after fording the river twice, and making inquiries of several Scandinavian settlers, who had a very limited acquaintance with the English language, and could give us no information, we finally gave up the quest and turned back to the town. The mounds are five in number, and are about thirty feet high. Some suppose them to be Indian, or mound builder's work, but others think they were formed by nature, by processes like those which made the buttes in the Bad Lands of Western Dakota.

I hear the same report here about new

settlements that I heard in Ransom and La Moure counties—that it has not been large in volume but has been noticeably substantial in its character. The new comers did not migrate on a venture. They were well posted in advance on the peculiarities and resources of the country. Most of them had sold farms in the East, and were well provided with means to open new ones on the prairies. A number were Norwegians, whose relatives had preceded them, and had apprised them of the richness of the soil, the cheapness of the land, and the ease with which farming could be carried on. These recent settlers bring stock with them as a rule, and the other settlers are all the time increasing the number of their cattle, as their circumstances improve. Prairie hay costs nothing but the labor to cut it, and there are plenty of wet places which make good meadows, and yield from half a ton, to a ton per acre. With cheap hay and abundant summer feed and with comparative nearness to eastern markets, there is no reason why stock raising in connection with farming should not be profitable in this part of Dakota.

Messrs. Glass and MacLaren, the land agents say that there is still a little government land unclaimed in the county, but it is remote from the town and otherwise not very desirable. A great deal of railroad land is in the market at prices ranging from four to six dollars per acre, payable in preferred stock, which at this writing, is worth in New York, about sixty. These prices control those of government land offered for sale by first claimants, who add the value of their improvements and breaking. A thousand settlers could find good homes on the land in Griggs county this fall or next spring, at an outlay for a 160 acre tract of from six hundred to a thousand dollars. In the case of railroad land, they would have five or ten years to make their payments, so that the annual payment would be inconsiderable.

The wheat crop in Griggs county this year is much better than I expected to see. Some fields will yield twenty-five bushels to the acre, none are an entire failure, and the average is placed as high as eighteen bushels by competent judges. No fault can be found with land that will stand a seven weeks drouth, and then produce an average as large as this.—From the Northwest.

The Mayville Tribune says of the legislative candidates:

Mr. John Selby came to Traill county in the spring of 1881, from Clarion county Pennsylvania, and located at what was then Hill City, now Hillsboro. He was one of the pioneers that started that flourishing city. He began the practice of law in the city of his adoption, and has steadily advanced in his profession to the high station he now holds among the members of the bar of North Dakota. Mr. Selby is known as a careful and industrious lawyer, painstaking in the preparation, and capable in the conduct of cases committed to his care. When the legislature of 1883 abolished the old system of one district attorney for each judicial district, and provided for one for each county, Mr. Selby was most naturally looked too, to fill the office in this county, and was triumphantly elected at the general election of 1884.

As the representative from Steele county, the convention named D. W. Sprague.

Mr. Sprague is a native of New York, having been born in Onondaga county, in that state on March 25th 1838. Mr. Sprague was engaged in the mercantile pursuit at which time he removed west to take up his residence at St. Cloud Minnesota. The first two years of his residence in Minnesota, were spent in the lumbering business. The people of St. Cloud, in 1869, elected him to the position of supt. of the schools of that city, and placed him in charge of its high school as principal. After four years of successful work in this position, Mr. Sprague removed to Rushford, Minn., to accept a similar position there. Many residents of Mayville, who lived in Rushford while Mr. Sprague had charge of the high school, recall him as a popular and efficient instructor. While occupying this Mr. Sprague was elected County Supt. of schools of Fillmore county. Mr. Sprague removed to Steele county in the territory, where he has since 1882 been cultivating a section of land, of which he is a part owner.

In politics Mr. Sprague is republican, having cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. As a farmer he is not a gentle manager of a bonanza farm, but a hard working yeoman of the approved granger type. His sympathies and interests are on the side of the farmers, and the farmers of Steele county have full faith in his fidelity and ability.

We now come to the nominee from Griggs county—the handsome and popular editor of the Cooperstown COURIER—Ed H. Adams. The delegation

from his county was solid for his nomination—that better recommendation could be made in his behalf? Mr. Adams, as editor of the COURIER, is fearless and outspoken and his paper is a strong advocate of those measures, which should be enacted for the protection of our people against the designs of monopolistic corporations, which, in the words of the resolutions adopted by the convention, "are draining the life blood of the honest toilers who have built up this northwestern empire." We congratulate Griggs county upon selecting so capable and intelligent a gentleman as Mr. Adams, to be her representative in the next legislature. In him the people will have a fearless champion.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

Convened Oct. 2nd, 1886, at 2 p. m. Present, Commissioners Cooper, Hoggenson, Halvorson and Moseley. Commissioner Cooper in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Upon motion ordered that the county be divided into voting precincts as follows:

- Precinct No. 1—Including township 146, range 58; polling place at farm of M. F. Washburn—20-146-58.
- Precinct No. 2—Including township 145, range 58; polling place at Chalmer's school house—22-145-58.
- Precinct No. 3—Including township 144, ranges 58 and 59; polling place at Baker schoolhouse—18-144-58.
- Precinct No. 4—Including townships 144 and 145, ranges 60 and 61; polling place at Helena P. O.—29-145-60.
- Precinct No. 5—Including township 146, ranges 60 and 61; polling place at Church's school house—16-146-60.
- Precinct No. 6—Including townships 145 and 146, range 59—polling place at K. Thompson's office in Cooperstown.
- Precinct No. 7—Including townships 147 and 148, ranges 58 and 59—polling place at Mills' school house—25-148-59.
- Precinct No. 8—Including township 148, ranges 60 and 61; polling place at Clarke school house—16-148-60.
- Precinct No. 9—Including township 147, ranges 60 and 61; polling place at school house—14-147-60.

On motion ordered that the following judges of election be appointed:

- Precinct No. 1—Geo. W. Barnard, C. P. Balkan, M. F. Washburn.
- Precinct No. 2—Duhois Newell, Ole P. Balkan and C. H. Frost.
- Precinct No. 3—W. A. Baker, J. M. Freer and C. E. Skarie.
- Precinct No. 4—Nick Swenson, W. E. Hyde and E. D. Bloom.
- Precinct No. 5—L. Lewis, J. F. Van Voorhis and A. B. Richardson.
- Precinct No. 6—John McDermott, Henry Retzlaff and John Syverson.
- Precinct No. 7—A. V. Johnson, M. Sutherland and Rolley Johnson.
- Precinct No. 8—Harry Clarke, E. S. Hamilton, and S. J. Fande.
- Precinct No. 9—Wm. F. McCulloch, Ole Thorn and S. H. Larson.

Requisition from clerk of district court from Barnes county for names of fifteen men from which to draw jurors for next term of district court was presented and the following names given:

- Chris Eimon, J. G. White, E. D. Bloom, Mark Sutherland, Ole O. Groff, A. V. Johnson, Iver Thompson, W. W. Newell, Nels Hemmingson, C. T. Whidden, Wm. Glass, P. E. Nelson, Joseph Buchheit, Gideon Sheldon and A. D. Ellis.

On Motion ordered that the following bills be allowed:

- Whidden Bros., wood, oil and lamps..... \$ 9 02
- M. L. Michaels, tailor's salary to Oct. 1st, 1886..... 75 00
- M. A. Iceland, surveying 146 50..... 7 00
- H. P. Smart, third yr. salary county clerk. 125 00
- Iver Jacobson, third yr. salary district attorney..... 125 00

On motion ordered that the following abatements be made:

- W. J. and sw. y. of n. w. 1-3-148-60; abated on 38 acres for 1885, tax..... \$ 4 10
- Gunder Nave, personal property tax for 1885, 9 40
- Ole Nave, personal property tax for 1885, 2 50
- J. A. McGuire, personal property for 1885, tax..... 9 80

Upon motion ordered that the valuation of lot 22, block 59, in Cooperstown as placed by the board of equalization for year 1886, be reduced \$75.

Upon motion adjourned.

ROLLIN C. COOPER, Chairman.

H. P. SMART, Clerk.

GRIGGS CONVENTS.

At 2:15 half the watches in the vast hall stopped. The hour of the county convention had arrived. Messrs Thompson and Jacobson, of the county committee, their curly hair disheveled with anxiety and excitement, appeared upon the stage where our dramatic artists and singers have been wont to make Rome howl. All the delegates were good men and true—brawny, intelligent specimens of the manhood of the West.

The assemblage was composed of twenty-nine delegates and about fifty interested spectators. Iver Jacobson, chairman of the committee, called the convention to order.

Paul J. Nilson moved that S. B. Langford be temporary chairman, and Maynard Crane, secretary. W. R. Whidden then moved that the chair appoint a committee of three on credentials. The

motion was carried, and the chair appointed as such committee, W. R. Whidden, Andrew Torfin and S. J. Lindsey. The committee then adjourned for consultation. In the meantime Sheriff Michaels volunteered the remark that there was not much use in writing tickets as the delegates had been canvassed so much that they probably would not vote at all. H. V. Safford, in a casual conversation doubted that he would vote for Buchheit for register, as Jo was a good neighbor and he hated to lose him. All this time the chairman and secretary were looking their prettiest, while some of the boys were looking out of the window in a restless fashion, and wondering why it was such a dry time. The committee on credentials then reported no contests, and the twenty-nine delegates mentioned in last week's COURIER, as regular delegates.

On motion of Paul J. Nelson, the report of the committee was adopted and the delegates duly seated. The committee also recommended that the temporary organization be made permanent, and that the nominations commence with the register of deeds, etc.—also that a county central committee be appointed by the chair, consisting of five members, one from each commissioner district. This report was also accepted and adopted. The nomination of a register was then declared to be in order. It was moved and carried that the nominations be by ballot. Andrew Torfin nominated H. P. Smart; J. H. Van Voorhis nominated Joseph Buchheit; Claus Jackson nominated Rolley Berg. Messrs McCulloch and Van Voorhis were appointed tellers.

The result of the first ballot was:
Smart..... 9
Buchheit..... 11
Berg..... 8
J. H. Van Voorhis moved that a plurality elect. The chair was unable to find how the land lay, and a half dozen motions were made to various ends. In fact this was the time of motions in the convention. A motion to have a majority nominate which had been lost was reconsidered and Mr. Van Voorhis repeated his original motion. Motion lost.

Moved by Wm. Carlton that the candidate receive a majority vote be the nominee. Carried.

Moved by John Mills that the man receiving the lesser number of votes be dropped out. Mr. Greenland did not propose to be dropped out. The motion was given up by "silent acclamation."

SECOND BALLOT.

- Smart..... 12
- Buchheit..... 12
- Berg..... 5

Wm. McCulloch moved that the man receiving the least number of votes be dropped out. The motion was seconded but lost. All the candidates except Berg, not present, came up smiling for the

THIRD BALLOT.

- Smart..... 13
- Buchheit..... 13
- Berg..... 3

All the candidates returned to the charge as before—H. P. Smart having a little the broadest smile.

FOURTH BALLOT.

- Smart..... 12
- Buchheit..... 15
- Berg..... 2

And Jo was declared nominated and his nomination was declared unanimous, the farmers all jubilated.

The convention then proceeded to the treasurership. Andrew Torfin nominated Knud Thompson; Wm. McCulloch named Anton Engor. The ballot resulted as follows:

- Thompson..... 20
- Engor..... 29

Thompson was then declared the nominee for the office of treasurer.

The sheriff's office was then attacked. Will Carlton nominated S. B. Langford; Claus Jackson named M. L. Michaels; C. C. MacDonald named Andrew Johnson. The ballot was as follows:

- M. L. Michaels..... 13
- S. B. Langford..... 11
- Andrew Johnson..... 4

Andrew Johnson then withdrew his name in favor of S. B. Langford.

SECOND BALLOT.

- M. L. Michaels..... 16
- S. B. Langford..... 13

Mr. Michaels was declared the nominee unanimously.

The candidates for Superintendent of Schools placed in nomination were Dr. T. F. Kerr, and C. W. Hodge. The vote was as follows:

- Kerr..... 15
- Hodge..... 14

Dr. Kerr was declared the nominee.

For judge of probate Mr. Crane named P. E. Nelson who was nominated by acclamation.

For assessor Mr. Crane nominated J. W. Fiero; C. C. Platt nominated F. Greenland. The ballot resulted as follows:

- Fiero..... 23
- Greenland..... 16

For district attorney R. H. Belden named Iver Jacobson; Wm. McCulloch named Charles M. MacLaren. The ballot resulted as follows:

- Jacobson..... 15
- MacLaren..... 14

Mr. Jacobson was declared the nominee.

Dr. Newell was nominated for Coroner by acclamation.

For county surveyor Martin A. Ueland was nominated by acclamation.

For justices of the peace, W. R. Whidden was nominated by acclamation; Paul J. Nelson was nominated by acclamation; P. A. Melgard and Alonzo Ellis were nominated by acclamation.

For constables, O. A. Johnson, Ole O. Graff, Harry Wasser were nominated unanimously.

For commissioners—Nels Hemmingson was nominated from district No. 1; C. H. Moseley, district No. 4; H. V. Safford, district No. 5.

The following central committee was named:

- Geo. B. Clark, A. V. Johnson,
- A. G. Lindsay, C. H. Jacobson,
- Debois Newell.

The convention then adjourned in peace and harmony, many of its members enjoying fragrant Havana contributed by Messrs Buchheit and Michaels, and munching the succulent apple brought up by the bushel by Messrs Thompson and Jacobson.

-AT-

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NOTICE OF CONTEST—Land Office at Fargo,
D. T., Aug. 6, 1886. Complaint having been en-
tered at this office by Ole Arneson against
Wm. J. Murphy, for failure to comply with law
as to timber entries, entry No. 6477, dated Feb.
18, 1882, upon the new 4 of section 20, township 148n,
range 57w, in Griggs county Dakota, with a
view to the cancellation of said entry, contestant
alleging that the said Wm. J. Murphy has wholly
failed to break, cultivate or plant to trees, tree-
seeds, roots, nuts, or cuttings, any part or portion
of said tract since making said entry, up to the
present time, and that said tract is wholly devoted
to breaking of any other improvement, being
wild prairie in its natural state, just as it was Feb-
ruary 18, 1882, the said parties are hereby summoned
to appear at this office on the 22d day of Sept.
1886, at 10 o'clock a. m., to respond and furnish
testimony concerning said timber claims.
E. C. GAREY, Receiver,
32-36
A. B. Gupilli, att'y., Fargo, Dak.

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