

DAKOTA DOINGS.

News Gathered From The Most Reliable Sources.

DAKOTA LEGISLATURE.

FEBRUARY 23—Gov. Church nominated to day F. F. McClure of Pierre for commissioner of immigration. It was also reported that the Governor has decided to appoint for railroad commissioners Hon. Abe Boynton, of Lennox, N. T. Smith of Huron, Alex Griggs of Grand Forks, and the nominations will soon be sent in. The Council passed a few bills today and several were introduced, but nothing of general importance.

In the House quite an amount of routine work was cleared up, and committees were busy all day, but as a good many had not returned from the recess, nothing more was done.

FEBRUARY 24—Bills passed the Council authorizing cities to issue bonds for school and city buildings, water works, etc., authorizing the division counties neither part to be less than 23 Congressional townships. The House local option bill was made the special order for Monday next. The third reading of the bill for the incorporation and government of Cities was begun. Owing to the absence of members of the Council the nominations received from the Governor were not taken up.

In the House various bills were introduced. The bills passed appropriating funds for Brookings College, to repeal the act authorizing the counties of Barnes and Gregg to refund their indebtedness. In the committee of the whole following bills were recommended for passage. The bill locating a central Dakota university, amended by substituting Aberdeen in place of Orway; also a bill appropriating \$30,000 for the dormitory for Vermillion University; also the bill appropriating \$25,000 for the Spearfish normal school.

FEBRUARY 25—Quite a number of bills were introduced, consuming much time, and the following were passed: No. 215, relating to township assessors. No. 150, relating to building and loan associations. No. 102 for the protection of game birds. No. 178, excepting bank deposits from the limitation of debts of private corporations. No. 184 authorizing the construction of bridges over navigable rivers in certain places.—House bill No. 60 for the assessment and taxation of telegraph companies.

In the House the following bills were passed: No. 230, providing for the relocation of county seats when they have been located by a vote of less than a majority of all electors voting. No. 80, established a territorial university at Aberdeen and providing for the issue of \$50,000 bonds therefor. The bill passed as amended, it originally naming Orway as the site. No. 224 relating to the terms of court in Black Hills counties No. 141, providing for the extension and maintenance of Spearfish Normal School, and issuing \$40,000 bonds therefor. No. 46, appropriating \$50,000 bonds for a dormitory and wing at Vermillion University. No. 187, repealing the law relating to the change of venue in preliminary examinations.

FEBRUARY 26—The Council after long consideration rejected the bill 10-8 to remove the U. S. Court from Yankton to Mitchell. It is admitted on all sides that very little legislation has been accomplished of public concern and that too much time has been given to special and local matters.

The House did nothing but to introduce bills and pass a resolution for a joint committee, 3 from the House and 2 from the Council, on apportionment.

Messrs Grisy, Collins and Sheldon waited upon Gov. Church, making the demand of him that the majority of boards, etc., to be appointed should be Republicans. Gov. Church said that the Republicans should have representation on all the boards, but he deemed it the judicious policy that the Democrats should have the majority, and intimated that he would not be averse to following the suggestions of the Council respecting of whom the majority should consist, but declined further concession. While the Governor was inclined to go farther than had been the policy under Republican administration that shut out Democrats simply because they were Democrats, he deemed it an unfair demand of a Democratic administration that the majority of all appointments should be Republicans.

FEBRUARY 28—The first business of the Council today was the confirmation of the appointees for Railroad Commissioners. Gov. Church sent to the Council the following nominations: Brookings Agricultural College—Republicans, George Moorhouse, C. M. Durley; Democrats, F. P. Lalley, Hon. John D. Lawler, Grand Forks University—Republican, C. E. Heideck; Democrats, Hon. F. C. Donohou, James Twissley.

Rapid City school of mines—Republicans, A. J. Simmons, E. B. Harches; Democrats, Gustav Schussler, C. N. Gardner; Independent, John E. Brown.

Spearfish Normal School—Republicans, Hon. John Watsell and Albert Powers; Democrat, J. F. Simmons, of Jamestown.

Insane Hospital—Republicans, Lewis Lyon and F. E. Jones; Democrats, S. K. McGinness W. B. Arren and F. Hensenheimer.

Petitions were received upon various subjects and several new bills introduced. House bill No. 55, providing for issue of bonds by counties to take up outstanding warrants, was taken up under suspension of rules and amended by reducing the county treasurer's commission to one-half of 1 per cent. and was passed.

Council bill 125, fixing fees for legal publications and relating to the publication of proceedings of county boards was passed with slight amendment.

Council bill No. 205, making appropriation by bonds for Plankinton school, was passed after several amendments, the most important of which was the reduction of the amount from \$60,000 to \$30,000.

In the House the following bills were passed: House No. 92, providing for designated repositories for county funds; council bill No. 19, relating to marriage, and solemnizations thereof; house bill No. 182, relating to the supply of books, blanks for county officers; house bill No. 166 (substitute) relating to vacation of town plats; council bill No. 164, relating to the protection of game; house bill No. 235, authorizing organizing counties to issue bonds to build court houses and jails; house bill No. 236, to regulate telephones; house bill No. 185, for the compilation, publication and distribution of general laws of the territory; house bill No. 201, to establish free reading rooms and libraries.

THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION.

Bismarck dispatch, 24th—A reception to Gov. Church at the capitol tonight, was attended by nearly 1,000 persons, and was a marked success in every feature. The building was brilliantly illuminated throughout. Guests began arriving at 8 o'clock and continued in a steady stream for two hours, till they numbered at least 1,000. Precisely at 9 o'clock Gov. Church arrived. The guests were conducted into the executive office where each was introduced to the Governor by Secretary McCormack. First came members of the Council led by President Matthews, and next in order Speaker Crose, followed by members of the house. The Governor's guards,

headed by Capt. F. J. Call, were next presented. Then came hundreds of citizens accompanied by their ladies and many prominent visitors.

At 9:45 the grand march was led by Gov. Church and Mrs. M. L. McCormack, of Grand Forks, followed by ex-Gov. and Mrs. Pierce and territorial officers and their ladies. About 25 of the members of the legislature were accompanied by their wives. Gov. Church was assisted by Treasurer Raymond, Auditor Caldwell, Commissioner of Immigration Lauren Dunlap, Superintendent of Public Instruction A. Sheridan Jones, and J. A. Ward, the newly appointed auditor. Two bands furnished music, one being stationed in each of the great halls. Many of the ladies were in full dress. Dancing began in earnest at 10 and was kept up without intermission till 2 o'clock. Many guests from Mandan and Ft. Lincoln were present. Grand Forks, Fargo and Jamestown were represented by many of their prominent citizens. The occasion was one which will be long and delightfully remembered by those who participated.

Gov. Church had a pleasant word and cordial grasp of hand for all and entered thoroughly into the spirit of the occasion.

IN NORTH DAKOTA.

Col. P. B. Groat, general emigration commissioner of the Northern Pacific, after a fortnight's sojourn in Northern Dakota returned to St. Paul, last week. According to his statement the damage done and sufferings experienced in that section have been greatly exaggerated. In speaking of this Col. Groat said:

"Of course people out there have had some tough times. You see they experienced last summer the worst drought ever known in that section. Then right on the heels of that came this winter and you may be sure that it was a tight rub. I don't think, however, that much more stock has been lost than in an ordinary season, and no one lost but those who had not provided food or shelter for their animals. Cattle could have gotten along with very little food, but they needed some sort of protection against the weather. Where they had it they are all right, but of course a good many of the settlers were not prepared to help their stock, and have suffered considerable loss."

Replying to a question concerning the sentiment of that section about the writer, Col. Groat said:

"I heard of no discouraged or disgusted settlers. On the contrary, they are all full of hope because it is almost a certainty that a big wheat crop will follow these heavy snows. It has always been the case, and they are counting upon it now. We have been preparing to distribute seed wheat to those who are in the worst shape, and expect to see things shape up well in Northern Dakota when the spring is fairly opened."

ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.

William Rea, an Englishman and one of the most successful wheat growers in the Red River valley, whose farm is near Fargo, takes issue with those who advise the farmers to engage in stock raising in that section. He claims that there is large profit in growing wheat at 65 cents per bushel, more than in any other production, and that stock growing should be left to the next generation, when they have the money to fence in the lands. In his view the trouble with many farmers is that they do not learn the methods best adapted to the soil and climate, but stumble along. His remarks about stock and wheat have special reference to the Red River valley. In many other sections he would prefer stock to grains. He has lived on the banks of the Red river many years, and his diagnosis of the case is that, although there is an unusual depth of snow, there will be no damaging flood this year at the break up of the river.

ONE MAN'S GAIN.

The Towner Tribune cites the case of three mechanics in a large manufactory at St. Paul four years ago. They had good situations and were putting a little money aside every year to secure homes for their families. Their attention was attracted by accounts of inducements to locate in Dakota. One of them got up courage enough to branch out, although he had to borrow \$20 to get to Dakota with. He went down to the recent carnival, met the other two and compared notes. The two had kept steadily at work, built residences by the aid of building societies, and in two or three years more expected to have them paid for. They thought they had done well. The Dakotian reported: He had worked his way to the extreme north and made a pre-emption. He had made his living off of this for two years and a half and paid \$200, when the land was worth \$1,000. He had also a homestead and tree claim valued now at \$2,000. His stock and implements, all of which he had earned and paid for, were worth \$1,000. He could dispose of his Dakota interests for \$4,000, but in another four years they would double in value. He is satisfied that his was the wisest course.

BOOMS.

There are some Dakota towns that still suffer from the bursting of booms that a few years ago carried property

to absurd heights. In one of these, which has about 1,600 population, two railroads and a fine agricultural country, a man about five years ago took \$5,000 and bought an interest in a livery and built a dwelling. He did a fair business for a couple of years—people, he says, would hardly look at anything smaller than a ten-dollar bill and could not spend money fast enough. The past year he was glad of a chance to sell his property at 25 per cent. of what it cost him. Those towns that have had a moderate but steady growth as the country settled up are the most fortunate. In the town referred to those who sold out before the collapse made large money—in some instances \$20,000 or \$30,000, but it was at the expense of those who didn't sell. At present property in most of the boom towns is below its actual worth, and it is a good time to invest.

PROSPECTIVE MATTERS.

Major McClure, of Pierre, is still in Washington, and sends home word that he is sanguine the bill to open the reservation can be got through before March 4. The Pierre papers show the urgent need of that place for extension of civilization west of the river. Should the interstate commerce law, as some now apprehend, diminish the great amount of railroad building contemplated in Dakota this year, it would be a sad disappointment, especially in the new sections with out railroad connection. Delegate Gifford sends word from the secretary of the interior that the difficulty over the title to the lands upon which the town of Lakota is located will soon be settled and patents issued. The holders of lots will not be disturbed in their rights. The farmers in the west part of Walsh county are organizing a new mutual insurance company, on account of dissatisfaction with the failure of the county company to pay the heavy hail losses last year in full. The difficulty seems to be that many of the insured fail to pay up their notes.

DAKOTA COAL.

It is believed that the time will soon come when very little eastern coal will be used in North Dakota, and all sections will use the coal found so abundantly and in such a wide scope of country, 200 miles, more or less, west of Red river. It is lignite, varying in quality, but makes the fuel more satisfactory as persons become accustomed to it. On the line of the Northern Pacific it has pretty much taken the country as far as Jamestown, and on the roads north is being tested, with favorable reports at Devil's Lake, Grand Forks and other points. The chief obstacle on the way of its use as yet is the high railroad tariff. Coal is believed to exist in Day county, and a big bonus is to be offered parties who will make the investigation. Mixing hard and soft wheat and making the whole hard is an old scheme, but the latest device in Dakota towns is to mix soft coal with hard and sell it for hard. There is complaint of this in several towns.

MATRIMONIAL MATTERS.

The sisters, Misses Farrel, teachers at Cresco, Ia., came out to Park River last fall, and found employment. They now are wives of some of the best citizens of the place. It is easy to find good husbands in most the Dakota towns, and there need be little fear of exhausting the supply. Some young men in Towner county, who advertised in a Chicago matrimonial publication, are now receiving application by the hundred. They advise all the young ladies to come to Dakota and take good chances. One of the old bachelors of Deadwood, a leading citizen, was recently married with the Jewish ritual. The feature most gratifying to the community was that the engagement was announced months in advance, as soon as the betrothal took place, as is customary with the Hebrews. That would be a popular practice for all parties.

LOVE'S LAUGH AT YEARS.

Eddie Bogardus, a bright boy of 17, left his home in New York and came to Dakota to make his fortune. He rented a farm in Beadle county, and the man he rented the farm from had a fourteen-year-old daughter. The children one day took it into their heads to marry, and in hauling a load of wheat to town the girl got onto one of the sacks, and when they got there and unloaded the wheat they looked up a minister, but on telling him their ages he refused to perform the ceremony. They went to another preacher, and in a few minutes had each become four years older—21 and 18—and were married, bought some candy, and went home happy as Dakota people.

FARGO NUGGETS.

The revival under the conduct of Rev. Dr. Taylor, the salvation evangelist, has so overcrowded the Methodist church that one or two of the other churches have been induced to hold meetings, and special religious interest is reported in them. The burned shops of the Northern Pacific railroad here are to be in condition to resume work in April. The bonus of \$15,000 for the erection of a first-class hotel on the site on the burned Sherman, is so nearly made up that its success is regarded as practically assured. It is expected work will commence on it early in the spring. It

is reported that the Minneapolis & Northern railroad has secured right of way in the north part of the city, crossing the Red river just above the Manitoba bridge. It is understood the road will be built here in time to ship the next wheat crop. It will run down the river north to Grand Forks. There are about 150 cars of freight handled on the Northern Pacific at this point per day of late, which is said to be an unusual number for this time of year.

POSTAL FACILITIES.

Washington special: The Second Assistant Postmaster General is rapidly preparing for the advertisements for bids for carrying the mails over the star routes of Dakota for the coming fiscal year. The increased number of new postoffices in the territory necessitates an entire change of schedule on many routes, and the expedition of those routes which remain unaffected by this increase. It is the avowed intention of the post-office department to greatly facilitate the service during the coming year in order to meet the demands of the increasing business of the empire. New communities are springing up all over Central and Northern Dakota, and the South is not backward in the matter. As the population grows, business thrives with it, and the postal facilities must keep pace with the march of trade.

The Third Assistant Postmaster General, who has charge of the finances of the department, says that the increased sales of stamps and stamped envelopes shows almost barometrically that the business of Dakota is increasing more rapidly than any other portion of the Northwest. He can tell from the daily orders of the postmasters of the country what the nature and extent of business is, and can foretell quite accurately what is likely to happen to the business world. He says that Dakota's business is increasing in a regular and solid manner, and that these are indications of great prosperity there. The Second Assistant, holding in his hands the reins of all the horses who carry mails, and wielding the lash of the drivers and contractors, feels the growth of business and the demands which are to be made upon the department, and is preparing to meet them.

No changes are made in the railway mail service without the personal knowledge and consent of Postmaster General Vilas. He closely scrutinizes every dismissal and new appointment, and is known to be extremely conservative in the matter. The late general superintendent, Col. Jameson, who has been connected with the department for twenty-one years until last week, says that he has never known any Postmaster General to be more conservative and just in such matters. He believes that the service will continue to be as efficient as it can be, and that Dakota, as well as the rest of the country, will be well and faithfully supplied with fast mails.

VALUABLE SNOW SHOE CLUB.

The winter exhausted the resources gathered by some of the men holding claims remote from towns. In the south part of Emmons county, in a small community, provisions were nearly gone and the snow was too deep to allow teams to be driven to town. Four young men who held claims, but had no domestic attachments to mourn their loss, volunteered to go twenty miles on snowshoes to La Grace, in Campbell county, and secure supplies. They made the trip successfully and returned dragging 1,000 lbs. of flour and other supplies on a sled made by fastening three pair of snowshoes together. They braved the blizzard and severe cold—and now any young ladies would do well to take them for husbands.

ADVENTURE WITH WOLVES.

It is related of Conductor Ditch of the Missouri division of the Northern Pacific, that when his train lately became fast in a snow drift in Billings county, West Dakota, he started with a lantern back to the station, and was surrounded by ten or more fierce buffalo wolves. He kept them off a little time with his lantern, but they became more demonstrative and threatened to make a meal of him. Fortunately he found a telegraph pole with many knots and he went up it like a circus performer, and held on to the wire like grim death until the flash of his light was seen at the station, and a posse came to his relief and drove the howling and baffled wolves away.

BLIZZARD WORK.

The Webster Reporter relates that during a recent blizzard two men wandered about for an hour in the immediate vicinity of the railroad depot, often within fifty feet of it without seeing it. When they found the depot one of them had his hands frozen. It was a genuine blizzard. The local papers give details of the death in the blizzard of Miss Dunn the school teacher, in the north part of Hand county. She left the school building in the storm to walk home, as usual, but lost her way. Her remains were found about five miles from the house.

THE WINTER.

The Campbell Courier at LaGrace is fifty miles from a railroad, and for the first time in the recent blockade of its

four years it was reduced to printing on wrapping paper. Judge Bennett, who settled in the north part of Barnes county early enough to be the father of the first boy born there, states that he has never seen a winter so severe as this, but his sixty-four head of cattle are doing finely.

MILITARY.

At the normal school at Madison the young lady pupils have a military organization and drill for exercise. The young men want to enlist, but are not eligible. The Redfield Sun thinks that four of the best companies of the Dakota militia, with the best band, will be sent to the national encampment at Washington in May. A military company is being organized at Webster and will apply for admission to the D. N. G.

EMMONS COUNTY.

The Williamsport Record, makes the county, statement that Emmons county will have two railroads in operation in time to move its crops of this year. They are the Milwaukee and Orway & Bismarck. This is important to settlers, as the county now has no railroad.

HERE AND THERE.

L. H. Chase, who died recently, was the oldest citizen of Hand county, lacking but a few days of 84. He cast his first vote for Gen. Jackson, and thought Dakota was a paradise compared to his native state of New Hampshire.

At the recent dedication of the Methodist church at Webster it was reported that the debt unpaid was \$1,117, which must be made up. The audience subscribed \$1,400, which shows a liberal church and prosperous community.

Mitchell has a young lady dentist, who is indorsed by the leading citizens, and the number of bad teeth among the young men is said to be surprising.

A farmer in the Black Hills is said to have made \$1,900 in onions grown on an acre and a quarter of land. He sold 450 sacks.

The Descent of Man.

"A few years ago," says Mrs. A., "I had a servant who hated men. She was a spinster about 40 years of age, and she seemed to cherish a settled aversion to the brothers of the human family. One day she asked for my library ticket to go to our village library for a book to read. I recommended two or three books which I thought she would find within her capacity, but she found that they were all out, and she chose a book for herself. It was Darwin's 'Descent of Man.' 'Why did you pick out this book, Biddy?' I asked her, in surprise. 'Sure, ma'am,' she replied, 'it says it's about a daycent man, and if there's one daycent man top of ground I thought I'd like to be radin' about him; but it ain't about any man at all, ma'am, it's all about monkeys, sure.'"—Boston Record.

Meanness in Social Life.

Ladies who would faint if accused of pilfering do not hesitate to rob their neighbors of cooks and nurses. Ladies who would be morally offended if charged with meanness or envy covet the good servants that their friends enjoy, and adopt no end of tricky and mean ways to secure them for themselves. Everything is fair in love and war and in housekeeping is the motto of many a dame who passes for a model of deportment and the best of wives and mothers.—Jewish Messenger.

THE MARKETS.

St. Paul Feb. 25

GRAIN—	
Wheat, No. 1 Hard.....	76 @ 76
Wheat, No. 1 Northern.....	74 1/2 @ 75
Wheat, No. 2 Northern.....	73 @ 73
Corn, No. 2.....	35 @ 36
Oats, No. 2 Mixed.....	27 1/2 @ 28
Oats, No. 3 White.....	28 @ 28 1/2
Barley, No. 2.....	48
Eye, No. 2.....	43
Flax Seed, upland.....	95
Baled Hay, upland.....	8 00 @ 8 50
Baled Hay, timothy.....	9 75 @ 10 50

PROVISIONS—	
Flour, patent.....	4 25 @ 4 40
Flour, straight.....	4 15 @ 4 3
Flour, bakers.....	3 40 @ 3 6
Butter, creamery.....	25 @ 2
Butter, dairy.....	20 @ 22
Cheese.....	19 @ 20
Eggs, fresh.....	13 1/2 @ 14
Potatoes.....	19 @ 20
Dressed Beef, steers.....	8 1/2 @ 8
Dressed Hogs.....	5 75 @ 6 00
Veal.....	5 @ 6

LIVE STOCK—	
Steers.....	63 00 @ 3 80
Hogs.....	5 00 @ 5 30
Sheep.....	2 50 @ 4 00

Minneapolis Feb. 28.

WHEAT—	
No. 1 Hard.....	76 @ 76
No. 1 Northern.....	75 @ 75 1/2
No. 2 Northern.....	73 @ 73 1/2

FLOUR—	
Patent in sacks.....	4 30 @ 4 50
Patent in barrels.....	4 30 @ 4 5
Patent at New England points.....	5 25 @ 5 35
Patent at N. Y. and Penn. points.....	5 15 @ 5 25
Bakers.....	3 40 @ 3 60

Chicago, Feb. 28.

GRAIN—	
Wheat, cash.....	72 3/4 @ 75 1/2
Corn, cash.....	33 1/2 @ 35 1/2
Oats, cash.....	23 @ 23 1/2
Flax seed, cash.....	1 00 @ 1 05 1/2
MESS PORK.....	16 00 @ 16 10

LIVE STOCK—	
Cattle.....	63 15 @ 3 50
Hogs.....	5 50 @ 5 75
Sheep.....	3 50 @ 4 70

Milwaukee, Feb. 28.

WHEAT—	
Cash.....	73 3/4 @ 74 1/2