

## DAKOTA DOINGS.

### Cows Gathered From The Most Reliable Sources.

#### IN SEVEN COUNTIES.

The Fargo Republican of the 22nd published the following information regarding the progress of seeding in Cass, Ransom, Barnes, Trill, Kidder, Richland and Lamoure counties, furnished by Supt. Smith, of the Northern Pacific Elevator Company.

In Cass county not much seeding probably one-eighth, has yet been done, owing to unfavorable weather and moist condition of the ground in some sections. There will be an increase of about 10 per cent in the acreage of wheat and probably a larger per cent in oats.

Trail county reports the ground in excellent condition, with seeding progressing rapidly. About 10 per cent is now sown and this will be about the per cent increase over last year's area.

Ransom County—Fifteen per cent sown with the ground in good condition will be at least a 10 per cent increase in area.

Lamoure County—Land in good shape and every body busy seeding. Acreage will be much larger than last year.

Barnes County—Ground never in better condition. Acreage a trifle larger than last year.

Kidder County—Acreage will be increased about 20 per cent. Ground in splendid condition and work progressing rapidly.

Richland—Seeding will be nearly finished this week; acreage 10 per cent larger than last year.

Stutsman—Ground very dry and will require heavy rains to produce an average crop. Seeding well under way; acreage about same as last year.

Benson County—One-fifth of the crop through; ground in good condition; acreage 25 per cent greater than last year.

Foster County—Seeding fairly begun; ground in good condition; increase of acreage 15 per cent.

Sargent County—Acreage increased 25 per cent; ground in good condition and seeding progressing rapidly.

Nearly all correspondents note the fact that farmers are unusually careful in the selection of seed this year. Most all seed sown will be Saskatchewan or Scotch Fife.

#### PETITIONS TO CONGRESS.

There is a move on foot in Benson and Eddy counties which has for its end the opening of the Devil's Lake Sioux reservation. Petitions to the next congress and a memorial from the territorial legislature praying this are in circulation throughout the counties above named and are being signed. The reservation embraces about 220,000 acres of the richest and most tillable land in the territory and is occupied by about 1,800 Indians. As a result of the care of Maj. McLaughlin, long in charge, and of Maj. Cramie, the present agent, the Indians are peaceable and to a considerable degree civilized—having good schools and churches and being generally supplied with teams and agricultural implements. Their progress has been such as to put them easily in the lead of all semi-civilized Indians in the territory, and their reputation in this respect is well known. For this season it is apparent to all, and especially to the white settlers around the reservation and to those who would be only too glad to occupy claims there, that this immense tract of land is entirely too much for the occupation of those Indians who are farming it the same as their white neighbors. The land, if sold, could retain all or more than they would greatly benefit them and they could possibly cultivate or utilize. Outside of the Northern Pacific land grant nearly every quarter section of good land for a hundred miles in any direction has been taken up and is held by actual settlers. This garden spot of North Dakota remains unoccupied and its miles of fertile land unused. The necessity for the opening of this reservation is one that strikes home to the sense of justice of every man who visits North Dakota and who comprehends the situation. The opening of the reservation would add a powerful impetus to the further settlement of the country along the Jamestown & Northern railroad and bring a crowd of people hither. The matter is in charge of competent individuals and every post-office and country store within a radius of twenty miles of the reservation has petitions which are being signed by every male voter of the vicinity.

#### CHANCE FOR STOCK GROWERS.

By a careful investigation of Central Dakota prospects for this season it is found that in many places stock raising is being carried on in connection with wheat growing some large farmers in this section even lessening the acreage of wheat and turning their attention to stock raising. It is argued that while one season's loss of grain seriously cripples the average farmer, there is no reason why a stock farm should not be a source of profit year after year. A number of St. Paul capitalists own large tracts of land in

the vicinity, and are every year adding more stock to the large herds already pasturing here. They have incorporated themselves into the Dakota Land and Live Stock company, with the intention of buying up all available land and place thereon large herds of cattle. The Aberdeen News says: "Rockwell Sawyer, president of the Farmers' Trust company, says that Dakota, to the surprise of many, will be found to be one of the finest stock raising countries in the world." There is no reason why Dakota, which does not have near the snowfall (especially south of the forty-fifth parallel) of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, should not be as large a stockraising country as Texas. L. H. Hagerty, president of the Friesland Dairy and Stock farm, situated on the edge of West Aberdeen, has now over three hundred head of stock, most of which are blooded. Several others have begun stock raising, in preference to wheat raising, the profits of which are larger, surer and more adapted to this part of Dakota.

#### SAID AT JAMESTOWN.

A public meeting was held last week to take steps to secure the north Dakota territorial Fair this coming autumn. The prospects for success are thought to be favorable. Jamestown has only to provide grounds, buildings and water, and the committee on place, it is said, will decide upon Jamestown. W. E. Green, Wm. M. Lloyd, Jr., J. C. Welch, Anton Klaus and J. J. Eddy were appointed a committee to secure guarantees that the above conditions would be met. The committee is sanguine of success and will present their guarantees at the next meeting of the agricultural board to be held in Fargo on the 28th inst, when the place will be decided upon. Seeding is progressing and one-half of the sowing is already done. Plenty of rain has put the ground in the best condition. The meeting held by the W. C. T. U. last Sunday night was attended by nearly half the population of the city. The address of the president, Mrs. D. L. Wilber, rivaled the very best efforts of Miss Willard. Rev. J. H. Hartman has returned from a lecture tour down the Red River Valley. He reports the farmers busy seeding all along the line of his travels, but that not as much wheat will be seeded this year as last is an impression that everywhere prevails, although equally as much breaking will be done.

#### SUMMER SPORTS.

Steps are being taken for the organization of a driving park association at Gary. Sheriff Millard and other sporting citizens are interested in the enterprise, and will push it to a success. Gary is getting to be quite a stock center, and now numbers among her home horses some of the fastest flyers in the West. Oriental, Darceau, Jim McGregor, Maj. Logan and Dick Herrod are all registered horses and owned in this place. The object of the association is to organize and hold a June term of races at this and other towns in the vicinity. Purses of from \$1,500 to \$2,000 will be raised, and some of the fastest flyers in the country are expected to be present. The towns comprising the proposed circuit have not yet been named.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA PRESBYTERY.

The presbytery of central South Dakota closed its session at miller last week. There are thirty churches in the presbytery, with twenty-one church edifices, four new ones having been erected in the past year. There are four parsonages, three of which were erected last year; there has been contributed \$12,827 for church purposes. One hundred and forty-two members have been added by profession of faith, 127 on certificates. There is now a total membership of 1,100. There are Sunday schools in connection with all the churches, with a membership of 1,570. The woman's presbytery held their annual session on Saturday and elected Mrs. Tyner, of Altoona, secretary and treasurer for the coming year.

#### AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

At Brookings the board of regents of the agricultural college have closed their session. Plans for the new building to be erected this season were examined. There were three competitors, one each from Chicago, Des Moines and Minneapolis. Those of Joralemon & Ferrin of Minneapolis were accepted, and have been taken to Puro for the governor's approval. The basement will consist of shops. The first floor will be used as a chapel and reception room with a seating capacity of 500 and the upper stories will be used as a dormitory. President McLouth and family have arrived from Michigan and will remain here permanently.

#### UNCLE SAM'S MINE.

The latest advices at Deadwood from the Uncle Sam mine are to the effect that a large body of high grade gold ore has been encountered, and that the outlook for the mine is more encouraging than ever before. For a year past the Uncle Sam has had bad luck though it has for four or five years been looked upon as one of the most promising mines in the Black Hills. The outlook now is that before long the whole 60 stamps at the mill

will be cropping, and that the Uncle Sam will be able to reward its owners with the dividend for which they have waited so long.

#### ACQUITTED AT HURON.

Huron Cor. 22nd: Nathan Freeman, the young man who shot and killed Joseph Kessler here last August, was acquitted to-day. The case has been on trial in the district court since Tuesday, and excited great attention. The case was splendidly handled by the attorneys on both sides. The jury was out 17 hours. When the verdict was received Freeman's mother was present, and as the words "Not guilty" were spoken she was nearly overcome with joy, and exclaimed, "My boy is free." and grasped him in her arms. The verdict gives general satisfaction.

#### OMNIUM GATHERUM.

Springfield's last saloon has closed its doors.

The Carthage band cleared nearly \$40 at their recent ball.

J. H. Halmen has been appointed postmaster of Goddard.

Bismarck's city council has granted a charter for an electric light.

A signal service flag station was established at Mitchell, April 25.

A franchise has been granted to a street car company in Grand Forks.

Sioux Falls pays its city attorney \$800 and its city clerk \$1,000 per annum.

At Sioux Falls \$10,000 has been subscribed towards a \$30,000 board of trade building.

The Methodist church of Bridgewater has just received a bell which weighs 900 pounds.

Lee Mun, the Chinese laundryman of Groton, died from the effects of too much opium.

The steamer Terry is at Piere unloading about twelve carloads of freight for eastern shipment.

The recent rains have done untold good in Miner county. Wheat is up and looking finely.

Postoffices have been established at Buffalo Center, Buffalo county and Fodvang, Marshall county.

May is now very scarce at Aberdeen and none for sale. Dealers can find no place in the vicinity to ship from.

Plans for the Redfield college are to be perfected by May 13th, and work on the new court house will commence soon.

Fourteen head of cattle belonging to James Pester, a farmer living near Clear Lake, perished during the late storm.

At Huron, John Godfrey, charged with intent to commit criminal assault, was found guilty and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

Bismarck agrees to donate to the Aberdeen, Bismarck & Northwestern railroad right of way into the city and forty acres and a block of land.

Fargo's new savings bank elected P. B. Smith, president; O. J. J. D. Baston and R. A. Overpeck, vice presidents; J. B. Spalding, secretary and treasurer.

A dozen men employed at the Milwaukee yards at Mitchell digging a well struck Wednesday for \$2 per day instead of \$1.50. They claim the work is dangerous.

In Wells county the commissioners offer to furnish the farmers poisoned wheat to feed to the gophers. The boys get no sport out of that mode, and do not approve of it.

Sargent county was to have had a term of court April 25, but Judge McConnell has deferred it to July, as the new county seat at Forman has not provided a suitable court room yet.

A change will be made in the First National bank of DeSmet on May 1st, by the resignation of Walter N. Carroll, cashier and a director. P. Lawrence, of Arlington, will be the new cashier.

Two big oil companies have recently carried competition so far in some South Dakota papers as to give away five-gallon lots. The business, however, grew too rapidly to continue these figures.

The people at Tyndall, in Bon Homme county, having never seen a boom, are trying to work up a little one. It has about 600 people, and has secured the county seat, probably "for good."

At Mitchell, on the 25th, Jesse Fitch, foreman of the Milwaukee yards, was arrested, charged with stealing \$60 from the ticket office Sunday night. He admitted his guilt and went to jail.

The citizens of Salem, in McCook county, have raised \$5,000 to buy and equip a first class race track. A base ball ground is also laid out, and it is expected will be used by clubs all over the South and the adjacent states.

Mrs. Elizabeth Boucher, who was convicted at the last term of court at DeSmet of manslaughter in the second degree, on Wednesday gave birth to a child. The sentence of the court was a fine of \$200 and cost, which has not been paid.

Farmers in Bon Homme county have nearly all of their small grain in the and wheat and oats are up, and since the April showers began to visit them the grass and vegetation are pushing forward rapidly. The prospects of a good crop season are very flattering.

## MEXICAN NOTES.

Cuanauia is a typical Mexican village in the temperate region, about 4000 feet above the sea, in the state of Morelos, which adjoins the state of Mexico on the south. It is reached by a railway—eighty miles in seven hours—which climbs out of the valley eastward, and then runs south and west, making an almost exact half-circle to its destination. In Mexico the railways must run where the mountains permit.

The first part of the way lies over the flat plain, through the chinampas, or little patches of truck-gardens, over narrow canals and ditches, through overflowed ground with tufts of marsh-grass, and between the two lakes. The whole region is alive with the teal ducks, which rise from the lagoon and whirl away in flocks as the train passes. On the slightly elevated roads donkeys laden with vegetables (the patient beast which a witty woman calls "the short and simple animal of the poor"), Indian women, also bent to their burdens, short, with flat faces, brown legs, small feet, and small hands—the aristocracy of the soil—and Mexican laborers in ragged serapes and broad straw hats, file along toward the city. Soon abrupt elevations in the plain are reached, picturesque heights with churches, and the foot-hills are entered.

The journey grows more interesting as we ascend, the adobe villages have a more foreign character, and the mixed population becomes more picturesque in costume and habits. The train is made up of first, second, and third class cars. The Mexican men in the first-class, yellow half breeds, are gorgeous in array, wearing enormous and heavy high crowned, broad-brimmed hats, loaded with silver and gold bullion, trousers braided down the seams or thick sown with coins or buttons of silver, every man with a pistol ostentatiously strapped on his waist, and many of them carrying guns. These gentlemen are going to hunt at some hacienda in the hills, and at the stations where they alight there is great scurrying about getting into rickety carriages, mounting heavily comparisoned little horses, which fidget and curvet. There is an amusing air of bravado about it all.

The third-class cars have four parallel benches running from end to end, and are packed with a motley throng—Indian-looking Mexican women in blue ribbons, plenty of children and babies, men in soiled serapes and big hats, everybody eating some odd mess. At all the stations the train makes a long halt, and the sides of the cars swarm with hucksters, mostly women and boys, offering the sapotas and other tasteless fruits, *tamales* and other indescribable edibles, ices (flavored and colored snow) pink drinks faintly flavored with limes, and pulque. The *tamale* is a favorite composite all over the republic. It consists of chopped meat, tomatoes and chile rolled in a tortilla. The tortilla, perhaps it is necessary to say, the almost universal country substitute for bread, is a cake made of maize, and about the size of a large buckwheat cake. Its manufacture is one of the chief occupations of the women. In almost every hut and garden one can hear the grinding and the patting of the tortilla. Seated on the ground, the woman has beside her a dish of soaking grains of maize. In front of her is a curved stone, and upon this she mashes the maize with a stone roller held in both hands until it is a paste. This paste she moulds and skillfully pats into shape, and lays upon a piece of sheet-iron to bake over a charcoal fire. Too often it is like Ephraim—"a cake not turned."

At and before we reached Amecameca, an elevation of over 8000 feet, the twin snow mountains rose in view, and thereafter loomed it over the landscape in all our winding way. From Amecameca the ascent of Popocatepetl is usually made, and the cone shows very grandly across the ravine from its elevation. This is the village of sacred shrines and noble groves, much resorted to by pilgrims and excursionists. At the sacred festival in May as many as 40,000 worshippers assemble here. At Ozumba, where the road begins to descend, we breakfasted very well for fifty cents, in a rude shanty, on eggs, rice, beefsteak, three or four other kinds of meats and stews, sweets, pulque, and black coffee. The pulque is best in these high regions. It is a viscous milk-white fluid, very wholesome and sustaining, and would be a most agreeable drink if it "tasted good." In fact it tastes, when it has been a few days fermented, like a mixture of buttermilk and sour cider. But many strangers become very fond of it. The older it grows the more intoxicating it is. As the reader knows, probably, it is drawn from the maguey plant, called by us the "century," which grows on these elevations to a great size, and is the cleanest-limbed and most vigorous and wholesome looking product of the region.

When it matures it shoots up a stout spike ten or twenty feet high from the centre, bearing brilliant orange flowers. When the plant is ready to tap, the centre stock is cut out, and the sap collects in the cup thus formed. It

is dipped out, or sucked out by a tube, and when first drawn is mild, cool, and refreshing. In about three days it begins to ferment. As it is often carried to market on the backs of natives in pig or goat skins, it gets a disagreeable flavor. The maguey plant has many uses. It is eaten out up and preserved like melon rinds. Its long tough fibre is very extensively used in making ropes and cordage. The end of each leaf terminates in a hard, sharp, black thorn. Break off this thorn and strip down the fibres attached to it, and you have a capital needle and thread for coarse sewing. The muleteers use it to mend their saddles and broken harness straps. What encouragement is there to industry when nature furnishes in one plant drink, food, needles and thread, and a rope for lariats? . . .

It is difficult to give an idea of a village so foreign to general experience, Oriental in so many of its aspects, and semi-tropical in its vegetation. Its main streets are regular, continuous blocks of one-story adobe houses and shops—the latter like those in an Italian village—and present mainly blank walls to the passer-by, through the doors of which one looks into a court or a garden. There is a formal plaza, with the municipal buildings and shops on three sides, and the principal church on the other, none of them remarkable; but the plaza has fountains, sweet shrubs, trees, and flowers, and a band stand. The minor streets are simply monotonous rows of adobe walls, some are narrow and roughly paved, but half the town consists of lanes, dusty and unpaved, bordered with gardens and huts, and overhung with the foliage of fruit trees and with vines. It is all novel, however; the odd little shops—bakers', butchers', barbers', jewellers', all on a small scale and primitive—and the queer costumes, bits of colors in the walls, groups of yellow children, a dog riding a donkey, pretty girls in the door-ways, women in ribosas, men in white, always with the enormous hats: some strange sight continually catches the eye.—CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER, in *Harper's Magazine for May*.

#### Boulanger's Early Life.

According to the London Figure Gen. Boulanger's mother was an English woman, who, when she married M. Boulanger (the General's father), was a beautiful girl scarcely out of her teens. At that period M. Boulanger was an avoué, that is to say a solicitor, at Rennes. But shortly after his marriage he decided to sell his practice and migrated to Nantes, where he became an Inspector in the service of the Compagnie d'Assurances la Bretagne. It was at Nantes the present War Minister of France was born, and those who remember the mother speak of the striking resemblance which her distinguished son bears to her as she then was. Without being actually poor, the Boulangers were certainly far from rich. There was in the family, to use an expressive French phrase, "more bread than butter," and so, when young Boulanger was sent to Saint Cyr, his parents could only give him very little pocket money. Even when he left Saint Cyr earlier than usual, thanks to the need of officers to fill up the gaps caused by the Crimean war, he had no margin for extravagance, and he has since laughingly admitted that many a time when invited out to dine or dance he was obliged to make his dejeuner off "un chausson de pommes" in order to pay for the kid gloves (fresh-butter color) which he wore at the evening festivities.

He made his military debut in the Italian campaign of 1858-6, and was both wounded and decorated. So severely was he wounded, in fact, that he was made a Professor at Saint Cyr, and, though severe as a master, the Sunday evening receptions he and his wife gave at their little house near the railway station are still pleasantly remembered by many of the cadets of those days. His young wife, who had, of course, gained her knowledge from his English mother, was quite an adept in brewing tea and "grogs" a l'Anglaise, while her two little daughters, Yvonne and Mimi, were favorites among the guests. In 1870 Gen. Boulanger, who had rejoined the active army, was in garrison at Nantes, but was fortunate enough to reach Paris with his regiment just before its gates were finally closed. After the war he went to Tunis, and his recent career is too well known to need repetition. It is satisfactory to learn, however, that he is a firm friend of England. The day may come when his father's English marriage may appreciably affect the course of current events.

#### Foolish Fears.

"Yes," said Mrs. De Hobson, "Clara had an excellent opportunity to visit Europe last year in company with some friends, but I couldn't bear the idea of having the ocean between us."

"It seems a pity, Mrs. Hobson," responded the caller, "a European trip does give such a tone to the society young lady."

"I know it does. To those moving in the high circles that we do it is almost a necessity. I s'pose," concluded Mrs. De Hobson, half regretfully, "that I should have let her went."—*Puck*.