

DAKOTA DOINGS.

News Gathered From The Most Reliable Sources.

LAND CLAIMS DECIDED.

In the case of the appeal of John A. Stockbridge from Commissioner Sparks' decision of May 29, 1885, holding for cancellation his pre-emption cash entry made April 21, 1882 of a certain tract in the Duluth district, Minnesota, Assistant Secretary Muldrow affirms the decision.

Edward D. Wolfe appealed from the decision of Commissioner Sparks of Oct. 23, affirming the action of the local officers in rejecting his final proof, offered Sept. 15, 1885, at Devils Lake land office, Dak., and Mr. Muldrow affirms said decision.

In the case of William Nicholson vs. Martin Duffy, as presented by the appeal of Nicholson from Sparks' decision of June 2, 1885, dismissing his appeal against the timber culture entry made by Duffy, Oct. 25, 1880, at Mitchell land office, Dakota. Assistant Secretary Muldrow affirms Sparks' decision.

NORTH DAKOTA FAIR.

A contest for the location of the first fair of North Dakota Agricultural Society has been decided in favor of Grand Forks by a vote of 5 to 2 for Fargo and 1 for Hillsboro. Grand Forks furnishes the grounds and buildings and a bonus of \$5,000 and takes all the receipts. Hillsboro offered an absolute bonus of \$1,500. Fargo offered no cash bonus. The date of the fair was fixed from the 13th to the 16th of September inclusive. General interest is manifested in the organization.

A trotting circuit was decided upon today to organize and join the American association. Meetings are to be held as follows:

Grand Forks—June 7, 8 and 9.
Hillsboro—June 15, 16 and 17.
Fargo—21, 22 and 23.
Purses will aggregate \$6,000, divided equally between the towns, and distributed as follows:
First day—3:50 class, \$250; 2:28 class, \$300.
Second day—2:34 class, \$300; 3:00 class (Red river valley horses), \$200.
Third day—2:40 class, \$300; free for all, \$350; running, one mile, \$15 entrance and \$500 added.

UNFORTUNATE EVENTS.

Ted Jones had a leg broken while digging a well at the Milwaukee round house in Mitchell, Monday, by a chunk of wet clay falling on it.

Sioux Falls Special: Sparks from a passing train ignited the grass in the yards of the Tuthill Lumber company, during the high wind, which immediately fired some piles of lumber. The fire was extinguished after a few hundred dollars' damage had been done.

The son of William Ferguson, of Pembina, had his neck instantly broken by falling from a wagon Tuesday. He died immediately.

Wolf Fink, a Pole, was enticed from his place of business at Lead City, and while he was out his place was robbed of \$2,500 in jewelry. Five men have been arrested on suspicion.

Jamestown Special: Halstead's steam laundry was partially burned, loss, \$300; insurance, \$200. The main building was saved but badly damaged.

ARBOR DAY.

The first man to issue an Arbor Day proclamation in Dakota was Secretary Teller, when he was acting Governor in Gov. Ordway's absence three years ago. It cannot be said that, either then or since, the day was generally observed, though school children have been taught to plant trees upon the school grounds. Citizens have taken more pains perhaps, in view of the agitation of the matter, to adorn these grounds than would otherwise be done.

Nearly all of the forest trees planted on the Brookings agricultural college grounds last year are in good condition, but the evergreens are not doing well.

Mayor Edwards, at Fargo, issued a proclamation in accordance with the Governor's request, directing the closing of all city offices between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. May 5, Arbor day, and recommending that the fire department and police assist in planting trees on the streets and in the parks, and the citizens abstain from business, except work of necessity. The clergy and the members of the Grand Army of the Republic and all secret societies were requested to assist in the good work.

AT CASSELTON.

An association of members of the Masonic Lodge of Casselton will soon erect a brick building 25x180 feet, two stories high, on the lot recently bought by Mayor Frank Lynch on Fourth avenue, between Front and Third streets. The upper story will be used for a Masonic lodge and the lower story for general business purposes. Wallace Grovener will continue a brick front from the postoffice block east to the corner of Second street, making 125 feet of

brick front on front street; 350,000 brick will be required; part of them have arrived. Steps are being taken to organize a Second National Bank at Casselton.

CONTRACTS SECURED.

At the letting of contracts for Indian supplies, just made at St. Louis, Asahel Kyes of Yankton was quite successful. He was awarded contracts for supplying beef to Indians as follows: Yankton agency, 250,000 pounds at \$3.07 per cwt and 250,000 pounds at \$3.11; Crow Creek agency, 400,000 pounds at \$3.03 per cwt and 400,000 pounds at \$3.11; Santee agency, 60,000 pounds at \$6.24 per cwt. Mr. Kyes also secured the Sisseton and Crow Creek flour contracts, the corn contract for Pine Ridge and several minor contracts. Captain Mc Vay, of this city (for the Excelsior mill company), secured the corn contract for Sisseton agency and the oats contract for Lower Brule agency.

A GOOD STORY.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: A good story is told of a former Dakota legislator named Wilbur F. Steele. It seems that Steele takes no stock in woman suffrage, except when he has to. On one occasion a woman suffrage bill was before the house and a vote was called for. When the clerk called Steele's name he rose with the dignity of a Demosthenes and began: "Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I cannot support this bill, but—" At that moment a well dressed woman bent over the gallery rail and exclaimed "in a loud voice: 'W-l-l-b-u-r-r!'" He glanced upward, then turned and said: "Mr. Speaker, I vote aye." The woman was Steele's wife.

JAMESTOWN ASYLUM.

Building operations at the Jamestown insane asylum will begin early in May, the board of trustees having met and adopted the plans of Willett & Vashley, architects. The plans include two full ward buildings, which will make four when completed, a large engine room and coal house, a kitchen and amusement hall and chapel to cost \$9,000. Construction to the amount of \$158,000 will engage the attention of the trustees this season.

THE INSURANCE PROBLEM.

The convention of Dakota insurance men at Sioux Falls brings to light a combination by ninety-six outside insurance companies to run the Dakota companies out of the field. This is a strong combination, but Dakota insurers will not forget that if it succeeds they will afterwards be at the mercy of the ninety-six outside companies and will suffer for having contributed to that success.

AN INSPIRATION.

Grand Forks Plaindealer: If you want your town to improve itself. If you want to make it lively, make it. Don't go to sleep, but up and work for it. Push. Get in. Advertise it. Talk about it, and talk favorably. If you have any property, improve it. Paint your houses; clean up your back yards. Make your surroundings pleasant, and you will feel better and your property be worth more dollars in the market.

BROOKINGS COLLEGE.

The plans of a Minneapolis firm of architects have been accepted for the addition to the Brookings agricultural college. 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 two upper stories will be used as a dormitory.

IMMIGRATION.

Extensive immigration from Pennsylvania has begun to arrive in the central part of the territory.

Immigration is quite active at Aberdeen but principally Russian immigrants. They seem to be pouring in by the carload, and go to Campbell and McIntosh counties.

TARGET PRACTICE.

General Ruger has designated August and November for required target practice by troops in the department of Dakota for pistol firing. In August practice will be four days each week and in November three days each week, the latter month to be entirely mounted.

BROWN COUNTY.

Petitions to the district court for a special election on the removal of the county seat of Brown county are being circulated. Public interest is largely engrossed by this question and every indication shows that the largest vote ever polled in the county will be cast at this election.

HEALTHY GROWTH.

Miller, in Hand county, has a healthful growth and although but five years old numbers 1,200 souls. Among the many improvements there is a fine opera house, lately erected at a cost of \$10,000.

DECORATION DAY.

Preparations are being made to celebrate Decoration day at Aberdeen in quite an extensive manner. The G. A.

R. here has issued invitations to neighboring parts to join them, and it is expected a large crowd will be in attendance.

MAY SEVENTEEN.

Brookings Scandinavians are making extensive preparations for the celebration of the independence of Norway. Several hundred dollars have been subscribed and prominent speakers from abroad will be there.

THE SPRING IMPETUS.

Sioux Falls has organized a board of trade.

Huron will be ready for free delivery July 1.

Real estate business is getting lively in Redfield.

Miller's artesian well flows a thousand gallons a minute.

Armur is to have a three story and mansard roof hotel.

A building and loan association is to be organized at Arlington.

There are something like fifty buildings now going up in Watertown. An additional telegraph wire has been put in between Fargo and Grand Forks.

A brick yard has opened at Brookings and 30,000 brick per day will be turned out.

Iroquois wants a painter and paper hanger, a dentist and some one to build a mill.

Brookings will vote soon on bonding the county for a new jail and a high school building.

The Commercial hotel at Brookings has been sold to Palmer Bros. of White Oak, for \$7,000.

Six hundred more patents have just been received by the United States land office in Huron.

The Turner county poor house, a structure 26 by 30, two stories, is being built at Marion Junction.

It is a foregone conclusion that the city of Aberdeen will vote for a city hall costing \$15,000 at the special election of May 15th.

Marion Junction Odd Fellows are completing their hall and when through it will be among the best owned by the order in the territory.

A lodge of Sons of Veterans will be organized at Brookings this month, and a ladies' drum corps has been organized in connection with the Women's Relief corps.

Volga's citizens held a mass meeting Saturday evening to consider the propriety of building a town hall. The majority decided in favor of the proposition.

Quite a little boom has struck DeSmet. Twelve lots were sold Monday, several of which will be built upon soon. There are fair prospects of a large hotel being built this spring.

There is great rejoicing in Ward county over the news that the land in that vicinity is about to be opened for entry. This is a measure for which the people have looked long and anxiously.

Under its water works contract Watertown is to be supplied from Lake Kampekska. The city secures seventy hydrants, two horse troughs, three ornamental fountains and water for the city offices, for \$3,650 per year.

Work has been commenced on the Judd-Lewis-Rudolph block on Fifth street, opposite the court house in Canton. The three ground floors will be 22 by 70 each, with plate glass front and other metropolitan improvements.

AMONG THE FARMERS.

Indications are that Douglas county will raise a bountiful crop.

L. M. Hartley recently started from Madison for Iowa, with a drove of 260 head of cattle.

The outlook for the farmers in Brule county is now better than for five years past, and all are happy.

Mouse river cattle are in fine condition, and the loss during the past severe winter has been nominal.

The ground in Codington county was never in better condition. Everyone is predicting a prosperous year.

Aside from flax the seeding in Brookings county is about finished. The acreage of flax this year will be much less than last year.

A much smaller acreage of flax will be sown in Moody county than heretofore. It is too exhausting on the soil, hence the decrease.

Most of McCook county's farmers are through seeding and the rains will give the grain a fine start and an abundant harvest is looked for.

Seeding is now well along toward completion in Dickey county, and the work is being prosecuted under the most favorable conditions.

Crop reports from thirty-two out of forty townships of Hand county show a less area of wheat this year than last. The prospects for a wheat crop are far ahead of any previous year.

Moody county farmers say that no more favorable auspices for an abundant crop have occurred for years. Nearly if not quite all the seeding of small grain has been done.

Minnehaha county farmers are beginning to learn that there is more money in raising stock than wheat, and are improving their stock and getting it in much better shape than formerly.

COUNTRY LIFE AND WORK.

A YOUNGSTER'S POEM.

[The appended note and verses were received by a business-man in this city from his small sister in Ohio. She is just 11 years old.]
Dear Fred: I thought I would write you a few lines, sending the poetry I made up this afternoon. I made it up all myself:
There was a little boy who was eight years old,
He went out doors and caught a bad cold,
He coughed and coughed and coughed all night,
And gave his mother a terrible fright,
They sent for the doctor, but he was in bed,
And they thought by morning their son would be dead.
They felt so bad they cried and cried,
But it did no good, for their little son died.
I went to the funeral, poor little child,
His mother acted as though she was wild,
Now she is feeble and old and gray,
But she still remembers that one sad day.
Norwalk, O. Grace Bowens.

THE ARTFUL MAIDEN.

About this time the pretty girl
Thinks of the men she's jilted;
Her mind in fancy does revert
To flowers long since wilted.
She thinks she'd like a diamond ring,
Or necklace made of corals,
And so 'tis policy to bring
An end to all her quarrels.

To all she's snubbed she's penitent—
To all she's very pleasant,
Apologies by scores are sent,
And each brings in a present.
—Rambler.

PRACTICAL FARM HINTS.

The loss of fertility in the soil depends entirely upon the kind of crop growing thereon, says the Philadelphia Record, and the soil is improved or impoverished in a certain period of time corresponding with the available and inert matter it contains and the growth of the plants which remove the fertilizing materials. Some crops enrich the soil in one respect and impoverish it in another by utilizing a greater proportion of some kinds of plant food while rejecting others, thus causing a gradual accumulation of some particular substance which is not required for growth. This is shown by the growth of clover, which adds nitrogen to the soil, though removing other elements. The loss by soils does not depend upon the amount of plant food removed, but upon the value thereof, and the loss does not really occur by growing the crop upon the land, but in removing it from the farm to the markets. When milk is produced the fertilizing element is in the skim-milk and not in the cream, and when the manure is scattered on the land and the milk fed to calves and pigs the loss is small, as butter is really produced from the air, through the crop. Butter being composed mostly of carbon, which is derived from the air by plants in the form of carbonic acid gas, does not remove any of the substances existing in the soil. It has been estimated that 800 pounds of butter, when sold off the farm, carries away only 50 cents worth of plant food, and the carcass of an ox or horse \$9 worth of plant food, while a crop of wheat, valued at \$200, causes a loss of nearly \$60 worth of plant food. If all the crops be fed to stock on the farm and the manure carefully saved, the loss is in proportion to the amount and kind of material sold, which may be modified according to the form into which the salable article has been changed. Cheese and milk take away the most valuable elements, yet these articles do not command as high prices as the market as butter, which costs but very little in the shape of fertilizers to be applied should correspond as nearly as possible to that which is sold rather than to that which is produced in order to avoid loss of fertility. When crops are sold the nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and lime are removed, but when the sales are made in the shape of animals the potash remains mostly in the manure. Nitrogen and the phosphates are essential under all systems, and every pound of fertilizers applied is simply storing it in the soil to be converted into some other form best adapted for market, whether animal or vegetable.

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GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDING.

The fears that grass and clover will be killed by frost if seed be sown too early are most imaginary. It very rarely happens that even clover is injured by frost, though the growing plant is extremely tender. If sown when frost is on the ground, clover seeds are, of course, dormant until it thaws, when they are slightly covered by the mud that lies on a newly-thawed surface. This protects the seed from the direct rays of the sun, and it will not sprout until the soil is warm enough for roots to strike into. If it falls on a hard-dry surface, the seed swells with the moisture of rains and contracts when a cold day stops growth, but without serious injury. This may occur several times with March-sown clover seed, and, after all, the young plant will be found in May only slightly, if any, larger than that sown the middle of April.

MILK FOR POULTRY.

Hens should have all the milk they will readily eat. No kind of food, unless it be eggs, is better adapted to egg production. Sour milk mixed with bran will not fatten them, but if given freely the dishes in which their food is kept will need frequent cleaning to prevent them from becoming offensive. Fowls having a range will do well enough with one feed a day, as this will encourage

activity in scratching and picking up when they can. This one feed should be given at early daylight in the morning. They will have a ravenous appetite then, and can be given a large feeding without injury. If fed frequently through the day fowls learn to stand around waiting, and soon become lazy and good for nothing, besides being more liable to disease.

FROM ONE TICK TO ANOTHER.

In emptying feathers from one tick to another, leave an opening of a convenient size in the tick to be filled, than rip, with great care, an opening of the same size in the one to be emptied, and baste the two firmly together before the feathers are disturbed. They can then be shaken into their new position and allowed to settle for a little while, the openings detached and the pillow closed. With care, the whole process can be accomplished without the escape of a feather.—Country Gentleman.

GENERALITIES.

Don't turn your cows out to pasture until the grass gets a fair start.

Mr. Terry tells readers of the Country Gentleman that he never was troubled with potato scab until he began to plant deeply.

George P. Lord, of Wisconsin, keeps 100 cows on 300 acres of land and has not put up a ton of hay in years. He feeds corn stalks and oat straw.

W. F. Massy, in American Farmer, reports a silo of clover just opened as sweet as new mown hay and better for milk production than corn ensilage.

Try the new Japanese hop for an ornamental climber. It is an annual coming from seed and not a perennial, like our own hop, which is multiplied usually by dividing roots.

T. B. Wakeman, of Green Farms, Conn., a trustworthy man, declares that he has raised from 120 to 140 bushels of shelled corn to the acre. And yet people speak of the fertile West and sterile New England.

Dr. Hoskins thinks that South Carolina rock furnishes about the cheapest form of phosphate. It may not feed crops the first year, and, therefore, he would apply it in advance. He would apply moderate dressings for three years annually.

Big milk yields do not always "wear out" cows and kill them prematurely. Eurotus, the famous Jersey that gave 778 pounds of butter in eleven months and six days and had a fine calf within the year, is still in good health at the age of 16 years.

In "Agricultural Science," Mr. G. H. Whitchee makes a report of some experiments with copperas as a fertilizer, from which it appears that an application of thirty-two pounds to the acre increased the yield of corn by sixteen bushels per acre or 22 per cent.

The newspapers were a great help to the successful Wisconsin institutes last winter. They not only kept them before the people by calling attention to them, but they published the brightest essays and gave good reports of the discussions, and thus extended their teachings to many readers who were unable to attend.

The once despised pacing blood is now found in many of our most noted trotters. A pacing cross is always of value in a saddle horse, not that the pace is a good saddle gait, but because he easily acquires all the saddle gait, has more command of his legs, is less liable to stumble and is usually more easy gaited, safe and speedy.

The Cross Eyed Clerk.

During the late Christmas holidays a large firm in B— employed as an assistant clerk a young man who was exceedingly cross-eyed.

The special duty assigned to him was to act as a watchman, and prevent the speculation of all sorts of fancy articles that were lying about the counters for exhibition at the time.

One day a half grown boy came into store, and after looking around, prying first one thing and then another, among which were some very nice socks, he finally started to go out of the door.

At this moment the new clerk touched him on the shoulder, and inviting him to come to the back part of the store, said to him, politely, "Oblige me by giving me at once the socks that you have in your back pocket."

"How do you know I have any socks in my back pocket?" demanded the boy, in a bold tone.

"I saw you put them there," said the clerk, very gently.

The boy looked up into the young man's face in utter amazement. "Are you looking at me now?" he asked, earnestly. "Do you see me this very minute?" he asked, still more earnestly.

"Of course I do," replied the clerk.

"Good Lord, mister!" cried the boy, with a blanching face: "here's your socks." And with a bound he was out the back door over the fence, and away, having learned a lesson concerning all-seeing eyes which it is to be hoped he may never forget.—LUCKY UNDERWOOD MC CANN, in Harpers Magazine for May.

Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria is reported to take the part of his daughter-in-law in her quarrels with her husband, Crown Prince Randolph.