

# DAKOTA DOINGS.

## News Gathered From The Most Reliable Sources.

### MAY TERM.

The May term of the territorial supreme court is now in session at Yankton. There are a number of very important cases on the calendar from all parts of the territory, and it is expected the term will be a long one. There were five judges present, at the opening of the term, Chief Justice Tripp occupying the central chair, with Associate Justices Palmer and Spencer sitting on the right hand, and Justices Francis and McConnell occupying chairs to the left of the Chief Justice. Associate Justice Charles M. Thomas has not yet arrived, but there is a vacant chair on the left awaiting him. Judge Spencer occupies a seat on the supreme court bench for the first time, while this is also the first appearance of J. H. C. Young as clerk of the supreme court. Over a hundred attorneys are in attendance from various portions of the Territory and Minnesota.

### RAILROAD NOTES.

**Aberdeen Special.**—W. E. Powell and M. Mercer, emigration agents of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, were in Aberdeen, and from what was learned from them it is almost certain the Milwaukee road will greatly improve the facilities there during the summer. A new brick depot will be the first move, and the agents have received notice that lower freight rates will go into effect within a few days. Langdon & Co., of Minneapolis, are now grading on the Aberdeen, Bismarck & Northwestern road, now being near Leola with the subcontractors. Almost the whole surface between there and Bismarck which is still ungraded is covered by men now working under them. L. J. Shields has charge of the work, and will try to have the grade finished by fall. The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba has not yet begun grading west to Pierre from Aberdeen, although Pierre voted them \$25,000 city bonds.

### RAILROAD COMMISSION.

The territorial board of Railroad Commissioners have decided to make Fargo their headquarters, and have secured Capt. Quinn of Bismarck for Secretary. They have paid a visit to the Minnesota board to consult about the operation of the warehouse law. The Commission think the law a good one, and that it will protect the farmers from irresponsible shippers. They have received reports of the number of elevators on each railroad and considerable complaints of the connection between the Northwestern and Northern Pacific at Oakes.

### EDMUNDS COUNTY.

The furnishing of seed grain to the farmers by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road is a boon of inestimable value to Edmunds county. Heretofore seed could only be procured at burdensome figures, and as a result the most reasonable terms would make it cost the farmer from \$1.30 to \$1.50 per bushel. The rule adopted by the company—that of returning a bushel and a half of grain for every bushel of seed procured—will prove to be far less expensive than if the grain had been purchased from elevator companies or private individuals.

### SUPREME COURT.

Several important cases are in progress before the supreme court sitting at Yankton. Among these are the Barnes county school district case, which involves the questions of fraud and legality in \$65,000 of school orders and warrants; Myrick vs. Bill, an old case which is now before the supreme court the second time; the Stutsman county bond case, involving about \$11,000, and the tax case of Wallace vs. the County of Stutsman, which goes to the supreme court on an appeal from judgment in favor of the plaintiff for \$36,000 at Bismarck a short time ago.

### GUN CLUB.

A gun club has been organized at Jamestown, with J. L. Chambers, president; Dr. R. G. De Puy, vice president; O. H. Hewitt, secretary, and George Wylie, treasurer. The membership is drawn from the prominent people of the county. They have adopted a constitution and by-laws, and propose to hold weekly meetings and regular shoots. Among the objects of the club will be the preservation of game by a forced obedience to the territorial game laws in those parts. Committees on grounds and traps and birds have been appointed. The first shoot will be held immediately upon the arrival of the traps and birds.

### BROOKINGS COLLEGE.

Sealed proposals for the erection of a dormitory building for the Dakota agricultural college will be received until 10 a. m., May 31st, at the office of the secretary of the board of regents

at Brookings, Dakota. Plans and specifications can be examined at the office of said secretary, or at the rooms of the architects, Jorammon & Ferrin, Boston block, Minneapolis, Minn. The bids will be opened at the office of the board at the college in Brookings May 31st.

### ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.

**Fargo Special:** A day or two ago the skeleton of a man was found by two men from Minnesota, about a mile from Caledonia on the bank of Red river, near a hut that had evidently been his home. In this in some of his old clothes were found a large roll of greenbacks in a bag, also gold and silver in sacks, in all about \$5,000. The case is a great mystery to the people, but it is supposed that the remains are those of one of the robbers known to have built huts in the Caledonia jungles, somewhat noted in connection with the name of Cole Plummer. The coroner will investigate.

### THE OXON BEVERAGE.

A somewhat novel suit has been brought in Miner county. Miss Jennie Wilson a bright and pretty school marm, sues Max Gotthelf for \$10,000 for breach of promise. He admits the engagement, but alleges that in a prolonged interview with her on a moonlight evening he discovered that the fair one used morphine as a beverage, thereby endangering her constitution and health. She denies the charge, but admits that she is extravagantly fond of raw onions, and that her ex-lover has not the refined power of discrimination necessary to sustain his allegation.

### 500 GOPHER TAILS.

If Maj. Quinn, the new secretary of the railroad commission, is good authority Hon. F. M. Shook, the member of the legislature from Benson who acquired so much note from his eloquent advocacy of the measure upon which he staked his legislative fame, the bill offering a bounty for gopher tails, has gathered and this week shipped 500 of these appendages to Gov. Church, with the suggestion that they may to him "a tale unfold" of the needs of the farmers in this relation.

### ALEX. ANDERSON'S HARD LUCK.

Alex. Anderson of Sanborn County, must be a man of many sorrows, according to the Woonsocket News. The prairie fires in the early spring burned him out and he sold his cattle to get means to build a small house and barn. The windstorm last week demolished these, and it is related that a small cyclone took his wife up some thirty or forty feet and gently returned her without injury. The good lady, however, has no desire to repeat the experience.

### THE TROOPS.

Major Bell, of the seventh cavalry, is enroute to Ft. Buford, from which place he will take two companies of cavalry to the field for service in the construction of the extension of the Manitoba roads. The troops will keep in the van, and while there is no knowledge of an intention on the part of the Indians to interfere with the building of the road across the reservation, it has been thought best by the company as well as by the government to have the troops in the field.

### A COURT DECISION.

In court at Rapid City, a decision has been rendered which settles the title to the largest water power in the Black Hills. The parties to the case were the Estrella del Norte mining company and the Dakota water power company. The decision was in favor of the latter company. This settles a long fight. The Dakota water power company is at work in improvements on its property, the estimated cost of the work now under way being \$150,000.

### YANKTON BRICK.

Henry Wagner, owner of the brick yards located in east Yankton, is at work with a force of seventeen men upon a contract for 140,000 brick for parties outside of Yankton. This force of men makes 16,500 brick every ten hours, and Mr. Wagner thinks he will have to keep an increased force going all summer to supply the demand for brick. The fires in the kiln have been started and the delivery of brick already begun.

### NATURAL GAS.

Since the second discovery of natural gas in Summit township this Spring, five miles north of Blunt, parties in the east have been corresponding with the owner of the find, a farmer, and further developments are looked for soon. Three wells, all in a certain locality in Sully after having been sunk 125 feet or thereabouts, have struck a strong flow of natural gas, sufficient, it is said, to light and heat a city of several thousand.

### RAILROAD PROJECTS.

It is reported that the route of the old Forest City & Watertown road has been changed, and that Bowdle, in Edmunds county, is its objective point. Whether

this be true or not, it is certain that the originators of the enterprise have practically succeeded in their efforts to induce eastern capitalists to take hold of the enterprise, and those who claim to know state that it will be completed to Bowdle this fall. The length of the proposed road is fifty-six miles.

### WROTE TO THE WRONG COUNTY.

The register of deeds of Brookings county is shocked over a letter from an eastern shylock asking if he could send him the names of some loan agents who could place several thousand dollars in such a manner as to net him (the shylock) 25 per cent. The shylock evidently wrote to the wrong county, as he was informed by return mail that no such loan agents lived in Brookings.

### SCHNEIDER'S CLAIM.

John Schneider wanted to enter land in McIntosh county, but was a minor. To obviate this difficulty he induced Louise Fisher to become his wife, making him the head of a family, and they secured claims. They are so pleased with the situation that they will not probably ask for divorce.

### ALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

In a bantering mood a bachelor at Bridgewater, in one of the South counties offered a friend ten two-year-old heifers to find him an acceptable wife. The friend found a nice girl at Alexandria who had come out to Dakota for matrimony, and a marriage was soon effected, to the great satisfaction of all three parties.

### BROOKINGS JAIL.

The commissioners of Brookings county have decided on plans for a jail to cost \$8,000 and a special election will be held in June to vote on a proposition to levy a 1 1/2 mill tax for three years to pay for the same. The criminals from that county are stored in the jails of other counties, and the storage last year cost the county \$150 more than the poor of the county for the same.

### MITCHELL TOURNAMENT.

The fire department of Yankton has selected a running team to attend the tournament at Mitchell next month, which is expected to carry away its share of prizes. This team has been in steady practice for six weeks, and by the 14th of June it will be able to make it interesting for all contestants.

### MINNEAPOLIS & PACIFIC.

Judge Becker, attorney for the Minneapolis & Pacific railroad, states that it has been decided to extend that line at once from Richland county west to Fairman, thirty miles, in Sargent county, and have it in operation in sixty days. It is believed it will extend to Fargo and perhaps north, this season.

### SPRING IMPROVEMENTS.

The city council has granted a charter to Huron citizens for a telephone exchange.

Carthage feels the boom and wants the Duluth road from Watertown to Mitchell.

It is expected that an eastern capitalist will begin the erection of an opera house in Carthage in a few days.

A party of surveyors are surveying a line to connect with the Northern Pacific, extending westward from Crookston, Minn., to Trail county, Dak., crossing the Red opposite Hillsboro.

The court house square at Alexandria has received improvements the past week in the way of trees and an evergreen hedge that will make the grounds as well as the court house the special pride of every citizen in Hanson county.

It is expected that grading will commence this coming week on a new branch of the Manitoba from Wahpeton eight miles on the Dakota side of the river and cross into Minnesota, where a town will be built, and run on that side to Moorehead.

Several fine residences are going up at Canton this spring. Among the enterprising citizens who are building them are M. L. Syvenid, G. R. Isaacson, J. H. Kean, Albert Hopkins and others. Four new brick stores are also being erected.

The Voaks grading outfit, consisting of 100 teams and men, left Ellendale Tuesday for the Beaver creek valley to work on the Aberdeen, Bismarck and Northwestern. The Manitoba has its rails across the James river near Ludden, and will complete the line to Ellendale in three weeks.

Alexander McCrostie is putting down an artesian well on his farm south of Huron. The well is now about 700 feet deep, at which point a flow of water was struck that has steadily increased. Mr. Crostie proposes to sink the well as deep as the city well if necessary to obtain a flow of good water.

Charles Karoher, a Jamestown painter and contractor, and Henry Langdon have gone to Ulen, Minn., where they will commence work on the first of thirty-two elevators which Mr. Karoher has contracted to paint for the Northern Dakota Elevator company. Eighteen of the buildings are in Minnesota, the remainder in Dakota.

## COUNTRY LIFE AND WORK.

### VIK'S SONG.

De mass ob de sheepfol!  
Dat gard de sheepfol' bin,  
Look out in de gloomerin' meadows  
Whar de long aught rain begin—  
So he call o de hrelin' shepa'd,  
"Is my sheep, is day all come in?"

"O, den" says de hrelin' shepa'd,  
Day's some day's black and thin,  
And some day's po' ol wedda's  
But de res' day's all bring in,  
But de res' day's all bring in."

Den de mass ob de sheepfol!  
Dat gard de sheepfol' bin,  
Goes down in de gloomerin' meadows,  
When de long aught rain begin—  
So he le' down de ba's ob de sheepfol',  
Callin' so', "Come in, come in."  
Callin' so', "Come in, come in!"

Den up 'ro de gloomerin' meadows,  
Tro de col' nigt rain and win',  
And up 'ro de gloomerin' rain-pat,  
Whar de elect' tal' pie'cin' thin,  
De po' los' sheep ob de sheepfol',  
Day all comes gadderin' in;  
De po' los' sheep ob de sheepfol',  
Day all comes gadderin' in.

This exquisite poem, regarded by many as among the most perfect in the language, so beautiful in sentiment, which the dialect enhances, is of disputed authorship. It has been credited to Mr. Joel Chandler Harris (Uncle Remus) but that gentleman has denied that it is his. It is found in Sally Pratt Maclean's "Cape Cod Folk" with the following introduction: "One night when all the house was still a dark figure stole noiselessly into the room where the children lay asleep. The slowly waning light of the summer evening revealed its sorrowful attitude, the despondent droop of the thin, black hands. It was Vixy. She sat down and proceeded to sing in a voice that crept into the children's slumbers like a lullaby from Dreamland, so airy, though so mournful, was the strain."

### THE SWINE PLAGUE.

The losses from hog Cholera in Indiana alone for the past year are estimated to amount to fully \$3,000,000. And the destruction from it in the other pork producing states is reckoned to be equally extensive, nor is the great seriousness of the losses disposed to be questioned in any quarter. Senator Van Wyck made a proposition when the bill for the extirpation of the cattle disease was up before the senate, that the legislation in regard to that contagion should include legislation for relief from hog cholera also. But those most competent to speak in the matter oppose any such plan, for the reason that pleuropneumonia is a foreign disease which had not yet widely spread itself in this country, and, therefore, can be effectually stamped out and kept out by the employment of prompt and positive measures. The design is to prevent the spread of this contagion to the large cattle ranges, where it would almost inevitably establish itself beyond the power of eradication. More than that, it is a disease that is thoroughly understood, and it is definitely known how to proceed to overcome it.

The swine plague is not so well understood, and therefore cannot be proceeded against practically until a more extended experience and much wider and more careful observation have enabled us to designate the practical measures proper to be taken in contesting it. They are trying to stamp it out in England now by quarantine and slaughter, but with no very promising results. Experiments are likewise being made there with inoculation, but even should these prove a success the practice cannot be made a general one among farmers for obvious reasons. So it is still a matter of pure conjecture to know what is the effective thing first to do, and afterwards how to do it. The utmost of all present knowledge respecting hog cholera is very far from containing the elements of a theory for combating it successfully.

### TOMATOES AS A FIELD CROP.

The tomato has wonderfully improved in quality since its first introduction as a novel curiosity some forty odd years ago. It is not altogether that taste has changed since those days, though that, as well as the difference in the fruit, will account for the great quantities now used, not only in their season but canned or made into preserves with a liberal amount of sugar. Many prefer them thus prepared to figs, and tomatoes are undoubtedly the more healthful of the two. There is no kind of fruit more easily or quickly grown, and, unlike most garden vegetables, the tomato does not require very rich soil. It is well adapted to field culture on rather poorer land than is required for a large potato crop. Nor is it necessary to success to get the crop ripened very early. The early market is and will be supplied from the South, though the first ripened Northern tomatoes generally bring better prices than those coming on when the market is flooded. But of late years there is nearly always a good demand for tomatoes at the last of the season, when even the green ones are salable at a fair price for pickling. Tomatoes yield rather more bushels per acre than potatoes on the same soil, and will almost always bring as much or more per bushel.

### OATS AND PEAS.

No two kinds of grain can so well be grown together for feed as oats and peas. Each, if it does not help, at least does not seriously interfere with the other. The oat straw, being stronger, helps to hold up the pea vines, and they ripen near enough together so that there is no loss in harvesting both at the same time. Out green they make a capital feed for soiling milch cows, and a little later may be fed to growing hogs, which

will make better pork if entirely fattened on these grains than they will on corn. Considering the small amount of labor needed a crop of oats and peas is perhaps the cheapest mode of fattening hogs. If required the hogs will do a large share of the harvesting, and that with comparatively little loss.

### DIGESTION.

It is seldom possible in feeding animals to obtain a complete digestion of all food. The undigested portion is generally larger when a rich ration is given, that is, when we strive for rapid production of flesh, fat or milk, than when the fodder is just sufficient to maintain the animal. In the former case, too, the residues of digestive fluid and worn out intestinal membrane are greater, owing to the greater activity of these organs and the greater quantity of juices necessary to digest richer and more abundant fodder, so that from fattening or milk cattle we get not only a utilization of fodder material and conversion into valuable product, but an increase of manurial value in the excrement, while in the case of maintenance fodder the manure is the only return and is of poor quality.

### RANDOM NOTES.

Cattle that are infested with lice will not fatten no matter how well fed they may be.

The clover field is the place to raise the pigs until time to pen them up for the corn feeding.

Make the nests of sitting hens shallow, so that when she steps on the eggs they will roll to one side and not be broken.

A tract of 11,000 acres of mountain land in Jackson and Transylvania counties, North Carolina, was lately sold for \$7000.

When a brood sow proves a good and careful mother, keep her, and do not discard her for a lighter and younger one because the old is large and heavy.

Do not pasture the grass too early or too persistently. Allow it time to make some growth. Trampling upon the grass just after a rain is very injurious.

The best grain food for a young colt is ground or whole oats. A feed of oats morning and night, with free use of pasture, will keep the colt in good growing condition.

There will be plenty of insects this month for poultry to catch if they have their liberty. Those confined in yards should have ground meat scraps as a substitute.

There is no necessity for a filthy hog-pen. If cleaned out twice a week the manure can be composted and will keep in better condition, while the health of the swine will be materially promoted.

The asparagus for table use allow to grow about six inches tall and cut it off even with the ground. White asparagus is good for market, but not very good to eat. Cut before the top begins to look seedy.

Grass is the foundation of success in farming. It assists during the process of rotation to improve the soil, and enables more and better stock to be kept. The farmer who succeeds in securing a good hay crop has won half the battle.

Evergreen hedges should be trimmed before they shall have made heavy growth. It is not injurious to trim them somewhat late, but the work should be done before they shall have become heavy, so as to save cutting away as much wood as possible.

Wood's Hambletonian has sixteen sons and daughters that have trotted faster than 2.30. He is bay, and his dam an unknown mare "said to be a Morgan," was a roan. So potent is her blood, however, that she has controlled the color of more than half of her son's get. Ten of the sixteen in the 2.30 list are roans.

Why would it not be a good plan in building a new house, instead of excavating a cellar at considerable cost in which to store things, for the purpose of carrying them up stairs again when needed, to put on a level with the kitchen a cold storeroom, built on the principle of the refrigerator cars?

Get the sow and pigs out to grass as soon as possible. The little pigs will eat grass when three weeks old. The warm sun helps them to grow. It is healthy for them to root and eat worms, grubs, roots and even the earth. The store hogs will do well on grass alone. When dry weather comes on have a fresh clover pasture for them, and later on sweet corn to cut up.

Professor Lantz, of Kansas Agricultural College, lately cut down a cottonwood twenty years old that had a girth of seventy-five inches two feet from the ground, and furnished two and three-fourth cords of fire-wood. The annual rings were generally three-fourths of an inch thick, making a yearly increase of one and a half inches in diameter. In 1874 and 1875 there was a great drought and many grasshoppers, and the rings for these years were much thinner than for the years before or after.

In the shed or out-kitchen of every farm-house ought to be a closet or box or other receptacle for clean, dry shoes or slippers for the farmer and his men and his boys to put on when they come in from spreading fertilizers or plowing, or any such work among adhering soil. When not at work the foot wear, if not polished, should at least be clean and neat, particularly to wear to the table.