

DAKOTA DOINGS.

News Gathered From the Most Reliable Sources.

AMONG THE FARMERS.

A man at Fargo recently made a 350 pound Switzer cheese.

Hughes county took the fourth premium at the Mitchell fair.

Wild geese have left the region of Bismark in large numbers.

Lake county took thirty-seven premiums at the recent territorial fair.

Groton has five elevators and expects to ship over 2,000,000 bushels of grain this fall.

Several Russians in Bon Homme county are said to have made fortunes by sheep raising.

The territorial stock breeders' association will hold its annual meeting at Jamestown in November.

The roller mills of Clear Lake have more orders for flour than can be filled. The capacity of these mills is 200 barrels per day.

C. C. Neff, living about fifteen miles southwest from Huron, had forty tons of hay destroyed by prairie fire a few evenings ago.

Farmer McBea of Tindall has succeeded in raising a fine crop of peaches. A number of them have been sent to Washington for exhibition.

In Aberdeen prices of wheat are in some instances five cents higher than card prices and wheat is being hauled some days over twenty miles.

E. Roben has put down an artesian well for John Hollander, a mile and a half from Huron that is 262 feet deep and flows 80 barrels of clear soft water per day.

Iroquois can boast of wheat market the fall. Competition among the grain buyers is so sharp that they pay, most of the time from two to five cents above market price.

Carrington farmers claim that the elevators have formed a combination with railroads whereby they cannot receive within several cents a bushel for their wheat what it is worth in other markets.

Those portions of the territory which suffered from drought to the damage of crops last summer, report the ground in better condition for fall plowing than for four years past. The late summer rains thoroughly saturated the ground, which is regarded as an assurance of a good crop next year.

Complaints of a failure to receive cars of wheat shipments by private buyers and shippers were heard by the railroad commissioners at Carrington and Skyeton Friday, and at Cooperstown Saturday. Mr. Griggs, of the commission, says the former cases have good grounds, and that in every instance the commission will do all possible to straighten matters out.

R. R. NOTES.

A huge water tank will be erected at Clear Lake at once by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern railway.

The grading on the Manitoba from Watertown to Huron is about completed, but it will probably not be ironed until early spring.

The surveyors on the Pierre, Aberdeen & Black Hills railroad completed the survey as instructed by President Hill, and some grading will be done at once.

The Northwestern has recently surveyed a line from Tracy to Dempster, a small town on the Sioux Valley line, and from that place west to the Missouri running parallel with the Winona and St. Peter and Dakota Central lines.

The Minnesota & Dakota road will set its stakes and begin grading from Sherbrook to Mayville next week. It will run through the middle of the ten-mile indemnity limit lands of the Northern Pacific. The road will be built to Fargo and also to Duluth.

Word has been officially received that Watertown will be made the end both of the passenger and freight division of the Manitoba railroad. This will be of more direct benefit to Watertown than any of the other railroad advantages which she has.

R. H. Brown who has just finished his first year as attorney for the Chicago and Northwestern road for the Dakota division, in that time disposed of claims against the company to the amount of \$28,000 at a cost to the company of a trifle more than \$600.

Tracklayers on the Duluth & Manitoba crossed the Pembina river at noon Tuesday and reached Pembina that evening and the international boundary line Wednesday. Pembina is older than St. Paul, and Tuesday for the first time a railroad engine crossed her borders.

The Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad company has issued a circular giving instructions to agents to allow cars loaded with agricultural implements to be stopped for partial unloading at a charge of \$5 for the service. Another circular authorizes the passing of one man each way with one, two or three cars of live stock.

FIRES.

Prairie fires have begun their work of destruction in the Huron locality,

D. C. Noff lost forty tons of hay last week by a neighbor attempting to burn a fire break around his claim shanty.

Mark Ward recently had a dwelling house a few miles north of Kimball destroyed with all its contents by fire, which was supposed to be a case of incendiarism, as there had been no fire in the house for five hours previous.

Fire started in Ed Johnson's blacksmith shop and residence at Elkton. The building was saved but a large amount of clothing and valuables were destroyed. The fire was set by a four year old son of Mr. Johnson, who was playing with matches.

The fine country residence of Theos David, of the territorial board of agriculture, six miles north of Mitchell, caught fire from an unknown cause and burned to the ground in a short time. The family had barely time to escape with their lives, losing their clothing, furniture and everything else of value in the house. Loss \$10,000; insured one-half.

P. O. NOTES.

Postmaster commissioned: Ayr, D. Francis; Cavalier, J. W. Bechtel; Calvin, Mrs. L. J. Standish; Edgley, E. D. Kenworthy; Windsor, A. A. Clothier.

Fourth-class postmasters appointed: Dexter, A. Cutting; Oldham, P. E. Murphy; Custer, S. M. Booth; Mount Vernon, M. Dougherty; New Salem, M. Schultz.

Free mail delivery statistics for the month of September at Huron show: Letters collected, 5,597; postal cards, 992; papers, 280. Delivered letters, 6,644; postal cards, 1,206; papers, 4,400. The total collections were 6,869; deliveries 12,250.

AMONG THE CHURCHES.

Rev. Father Von de Viere has been appointed to the pastorate of the Catholic church of Flandrau.

Rev. Frank Doran, of Grand Forks, has been presented with a fine gold watch by his admiring parishioners.

Rev. Mr. Garvin preached his farewell sermon at the M. E. church in Highmore Sunday night. He left October 15th for Tennessee to locate.

Rev. M. Dyckman, who has just returned from a year's sojourn in Europe was given a grand reception by the Presbyterian church of Tower City.

SCHOOLS.

The library of the Y. M. C. A. at Fargo has lately received over 100 accessions.

The Black Hills M. E. college is to be located at Hot Springs, which gives land and \$10,907 in money.

A union institute for the teachers of the west Missouri country, comprising the counties of Morton, Stark, Oliver and Mercer, was held in the city of Mandan, commencing on the 17th of October and continuing for a period of one school week.

EXCURSIONS.

Three heavily laden passenger trains reached Mitchell bearing excursionists from the east to look over Dakota.

Two heavily loaded harvest excursion trains reached Dakota over the Milwaukee. Many land seekers left the trains at Canton to circulate throughout south Dakota, and the trains moved on toward Huron and Aberdeen.

DEATHS.

Millard A. Fentress, a very popular young man living near Canning, died suddenly on Friday of typhoid fever. He was 28 years old.

Edward and Thos. Moran, aged about 28 and 26 respectively, were found dead in bed at a Chicago hotel suffocated by gas. They came from Armadale, Dakota, and were en route to Canada.

DAKOTA SYNOD.

The Dakota synod of the Presbyterian church convened in Scotland. It includes all the territory south of the forty-sixth parallel, embracing over 100 churches and seventy ministers; also two colleges and one academy. Rev. W. M. Blackburn, D. D., president of the synodical college, the Perrie university at Perrie, preached the opening sermon. The synod continued in session over Sabbath and was favored with the presence of Rev. James A. Worden, D. D., of Philadelphia, secretary of the Sunday school work of the Presbyterian church in the United States.

NOT GUILTY.

J. W. Fowler, adjusting agent of the St. Paul fire and marine insurance company, after adjusting some losses near Westport, in Brown county, started to go to Aberdeen, when a prairie fire was discovered near the road which finally destroyed several wheat stacks. Being the last man along the road he was arrested, but acquitted at his trial there being no evidence against him.

LAND SALE.

An important land sale was consummated at Clear Lake a few days since. T. F. Hanley, agent of the Eastern land and investment company, sold 320 acres near town to Wisconsin parties. It is their intention to engage extensively in the stock business, breeding, buying and selling. A good price was paid for the land.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The ancient Mexicans made pictures with the colored plumes of humming-birds, after the manner of mosaic.

Mary—"In one respect I care more for corn than I do for you." George (surprised)—"Why, pray?" Mary—"O, corn will pop."—*Boston Budget.*

Teacher—"Have animals a capacity for affection?" Class—"Nearly all." Teacher—"Correct. Now, what animal possesses the greatest affection for man?" Little Girl—"Woman."—*Omaha World.*

The Illinois Humane Society, organized at Chicago in 1870, has a good record. During the last six years it has investigated 13,744 complaints, extended help to 5,463 children, and saved from abuse over 8,000 horses.

A Kentucky sheep-breeder advertises that, living near three towns, he has concluded to discontinue his contest with dogs, and therefore offers the remnant of his flock of thoroughbred Southdowns for sale.

There is a mending bureau in New York City where bachelors and neglected husbands take their shirts, socks, cuffs, and whatever is in tatters, and can have them made whole again. The only way it used to be possible to get this work done was to fee the washerwoman for the purpose, or to take the work to one of the charitable institutions that still make a specialty of employing their inmates at this work.

A watch has been invented by the Swiss watchmakers solely for the use of blind people. A small peg is set in the center of each figure. When the hour-hand is approaching a certain hour the peg for that hour drops when the quarter before it is passed. The person feels the peg is down and then counts back to 12. He can thus tell the time within a few minutes and by practice he can become so expert as to tell the time almost exactly.

"A colony of rats," says the New York Sun, "were driven out of their resting place in the cellar of No. 58 Fulton street, Brooklyn, Tuesday, by the collapse of the foundation of one of the pillars of the Kings County Elevated road. With bale-sticks and bung-starters the occupants of the saloon overhead managed to exterminate nearly one hundred. It will cost the railroad about two dollars a rat to pay the damage done by the water which flowed in the cellar."

"I should think you would adopt safety couplings for your freight trains," remarked a gentleman to the superintendent of a railroad, as a brakeman with a leg mashed off was carried by on a shutter. "Why so?" asked the superintendent. "Because you cripple so many brakemen by the old method," was the reply. "Not much," said the superintendent. "This railroad only pays an eight per cent. dividend, while my stock in a cork-leg factory pays a dividend of forty-two per cent. Do you think I want to go to the expense of purchasing safety couplings in order to throw the cork-leg factory into bankruptcy? You must be crazy!"—*Newman Independent.*

THE TERRIBLE APHIS.

A Little Insect That Could Starve Out the Human Race in One Year.

"Do you see that speck on this slide?" The reporter closely examined the glass slide of the microscope. The eye, unaided by the lens, could distinguish absolutely nothing.

"Now look through this tube." The reporter gazed through the long tubes of the big binocular microscope. On the slide there was plainly to be seen, instead of a single speck, a collection of monsters, who were crawling around on the glass uneasily, as if out of their natural element.

"See their long legs, peculiar eyes and ferocious appearance," observed the entomologist in whose up-town office the research was being made. "These are aphides or plant-lice. The aphis only weighs one one-hundredth of a grain. Its life is short and its habits are destructive in the extreme to all kinds of plants, particularly those which are reared in-doors."

"What is so remarkable about them?"

"I was coming to that. They are among the most fecund creatures in the world. They breed with almost miraculous rapidity. I will illustrate. A heavy man will weigh in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 grains, two billion times as much as an aphis. Well, in ten broods, if nothing were done to destroy them, how much do you suppose the offspring of one of these minute creatures would weigh?"

"I have no idea."

"Of course we have no way of absolutely determining that matter, but judging from the increase of a single aphis in a given length of time, and estimating what would be accomplished in ten broods, we estimate that they would weigh as much as 800,000,000 men weighing 280 pounds each—or one-third the human population of the globe."

"Lucky their increase is checked."

"I should say it was. They would destroy in one year every particle of vegetable matter in the world, and create a famine equalled only in its destructiveness to the deluge itself."—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

THE SWALLOW FAMILY.

A Few of the Habits Peculiar to the Swift Winged Chirpers.

Most of the swallows of Europe and America belong to the genus *Hirundo*. They are all noted for their speed. When after their food, which generally consists of insects, they fly after them with remarkable skill and grace, going at the rate of a mile a minute. They often drink while flying over a stream at a high rate of speed, and they often wash themselves by taking a sudden plunge. They live on the wing more than any other bird, and it is claimed, feed their young in the air. Although quite graceful when on the wing, they are directly the opposite when on the ground, being very awkward and clumsy. This is caused by their wings being long and the legs short. The old belief that swallows foretell rain by flying low seems very logical. As their food consists of insects they would be liable to fly where insects are most abundant. Insects fly very low in damp weather, so it seems that it can not be very unwise to say that they foretell rain by flying low. It has been estimated that they eat 1,000 insects a day. This is a large number and seems too much, but the claim is made by those who have made the matter a study. Their nests are generally made of mud and clay, but throughout the South the people make them boxes. This is done more for protection than any thing and the novelty of the boxes warrants a description. The farmers cut a long smooth sapling, often being sixty feet long. He nails cross pieces on these saplings as on a telegraph pole. To each of these cross pieces he will add, say eight large gourds, which in their wild state in the South grow to be very large. He cuts these gourds so that the birds can get in, and before two weeks have past the gourds are filled with swallows. They always receive the best attention and protection, for they not only kill insects, but they are a foe of the hawk. No hawk ever appears where there are swallow boxes, for if he did, he would receive a good drubbing. The best known species of the swallow in the world is the chimney swallow. It is about six and one-half inches long, its back a bluish black with a band on the chest, and the throat ruddy. It generally has a white spot on the inner web of each tail feather except the two innermost. The tail is very long and forked. As the name indicates, it frequents chimneys, but it also builds its nest in old walls, shafts of mines and among the rafters of barns and sheds. The nest is very peculiar, being cup shaped and made of earth and straw, lined with feathers. This is attached to a wall or roof and makes a very strong nest. The parents are very attentive to the young and defend them bravely. They have two broods, but the second is sometimes left to perish, not being able to quit the nest in time of migration. The males are very courageous and are very sweet singers. The analogue of this species in America is not the one called the chimney swallow, but what is known as the barn swallow. It is seven inches long and thirteen inches between the tip of the wings. It inhabits nearly all parts of America, appearing in the Southern States from February to March. A few reach the New England States by May. Its nest is made of moist earth mixed with grasses and is attached to rafters of barns and buildings. The nest is about eight inches long and six inches in diameter. They have been found weighing as much as two pounds. Incubation lasts thirteen days, both sexes assisting, and both occupying the nest at night until the young are hatched. This is the species that so often collects together in large flocks on telegraph wires, barns and sheds and they keep up a continual chirping all the time. They start for the South about the last of August or the first of September, selecting some fair morning. They do not fly very high, and follow the course of rivers. The cliff swallow is about five inches long and twelve inches in alar extent. Its crown and back are steel blue, and are separated by a gray collar. The chin, throat and sides are of a dark chestnut, but the breast is white. The cliff swallow is found all over America, and is often called the republican swallow. The nest is generally built under eaves and cornices, where it is partly sheltered from the rain. The nest is made of earth and sand, and is lined with straw and grass. The sand swallow, which is the smallest of all, generally builds its nest in tubular gullies along the banks of rivers, often running them back three feet. The swallow, it must be admitted, does more good than harm, and it seems that it should be protected.—*Springfield (O.) Times.*

Perils of the Deep.—Wife (in the cabin, anxiously)—"What's the trouble on deck, Charlie?" Yacht-owner—"The jib-sheet is lost overboard." Wife—"Well, why don't they come and take one from the state-room?"—*Tid-Bits.*

The only things we desire to know are those which will benefit us.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

The Duke of Westminster is brother-in-law to his own daughter.

Joy Wo, a California Chinaman, has a name suitable for all occasions.

There are ninety-five libraries in the city of New York, yet, according to the *World* only ten or twelve are open to the general public, or about 100,000 books out of 1,400,000. Boston and Cincinnati are much in advance of New York in the matter of free circulating libraries.

George Meredith, the author of "Dian of the Crossways," is a handsome man between fifty and sixty. He has iron-gray hair and a most expressive and interesting face. He is large and tolerant of nature, genial and unaffected, and to the last degree witty and brilliant in conversation.—*Boston Globe.*

Mr. Laurence Hutton writes with a very heavy stroke, leaving considerable superfluous ink on the page. At one time when he was going over some manuscript at a friend's house, and dropping the sheets on the floor as he finished them, the friend's little girl came into the room. "Take care, Pop," said the lady, "don't step into Mr. Hutton's manuscript, or you will wet your feet."—*Argonaut.*

Hogarth was so little thought of in his day, except by a few such admirers as David Garrick and Mr. Lane, that he could not find purchasers of his pictures, and as there was no place of exhibition but the sign-painters' market in Harp alley, Shoe lane, which he was above resorting to, he invented a sort of auction of his own and also raffled some of his works.—*Public Opinion.*

It is said that the late Alvan Clark, the most eminent manufacturer of telescopic lenses in the world, never saw a lens ground. It was his business to take the lens which others had prepared and give it the exquisite finish, without which it would be useless to the astronomer. In this work he had surpassing skill, although it is understood that his sons inherit the peculiar delicacy of touch essential in determining the perfection of a lens.—*Public Opinion.*

A gentleman the other day laid a wager that he would get an autograph out of Lord Tennyson, who is remarkably close in the distribution of his sign-manual. The gentleman in question sat down and wrote a polite note asking the noble lord which, in his opinion, was the best dictionary of the English language—Webster's or Ogilvie's? That will fetch him, thought the man who set the trap. Did it? By the next post came a half-sheet of note-paper, on which was carefully pasted the word "Ogilvie," cut out of the correspondent's own letter.

HUMOROUS.

The Laplanders are said to be dying out. Possibly, possibly; but ask some handsome young man before you accept the report as a fact.—*New Haven News.*

"Oh, you bad boy," said his mother, angrily, "how did you come to be so careless as to tear your pants?" "I fell so quick I didn't have time to take them off."—*Texas Siftings.*

A pickpocket now and then gets in his work on the proprietor of a seaside hotel, but the instances are too rare to give the guests of the house any great consolation.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Not that Kind of a Match.—"Maybe you did make a good match." She flung back in angry scolding; "But not a match that will get up And light the fire in the morning."—*Harper's Bazar.*

Uncle John—"Why, my girl, you've grown like a cucumber vine! What progress are you making towards matrimony?" Clara—"Well, uncle, I'm on my fifth lap."—*New Haven News.*

"Say, maw," said a studious little African, "ef Chiny am straight down fro on de oder side, and we are all whizzin' roun' and roun' on disher barf, what am de reason dat we neber gits dhar?"

Wife (looking over bill)—"Do you remember, my dear, how many brook trout you caught on your fishing trip last Saturday?" Husband—"There were just twelve of 'em; all beauties! Why?" Wife—"The dealer has made a mistake. He only charges for half a dozen."—*Life.*

"Yes," said the man from Biggs-ville, "we are having an old-fashioned boom. Four railways heading our way, street car company organized, new stock-yards—" "New stock-yards?" "That's what I say." "How large are they?" "O, they're small yet. I'm using 'em for a hog-pen just now."—*Lincoln Journal.*

A former foundryman of Rochester was in the habit of giving his men an annual picnic at the lake beach, where the men enjoyed the luxury of a bath in the limpid waters. A visitor from the West one winter called upon an employe of the foundry—an old friend—and, after mutual greeting, said: "Why, Jim, how black and grimy you look." "Yes," replied Jim, "I missed the excursion last summer."—*Rochester Union.*