

DAKOTA CLIMATE.

On the third instant the writer hereof left Wells, on the Southern Minnesota Railroad, one hundred and ninety miles south of Bismarck, and nearly five hundred east, coming directly to Bismarck, stopping one day only in St. Paul and Minneapolis. In Southern Minnesota the ground was not wholly bare nor was the frost out so that crops could be sown even on the highest lands where the ground was prepared last fall. The streets at St. Paul were icy in many places, and the ground generally covered with snow. At Pine City there was about two feet of snow, increasing to three feet at Aitkin, which is in the heart of the Minnesota pines. At Brainerd there was still good sleighing, and had been since the middle of October. At Detroit Lake we found the snow about the same as at St. Paul, at Fargo, about like Wells, at Jamestown, no snow, at Bismarck, farmers plowing and sowing, some having broken prairie on the fourth inst. The weather was as charming and warm as May in Minnesota. On the ninth inst. the Missouri River was open at Bismarck, the Mississippi only to Winona. At Bismarck during the past winter there has not been to exceed eight inches of snow; the ground has been bare half of the time; there has not been three weeks of sleighing, and every citizen at Bismarck will testify that stock have lived and been kept in fair condition on the prairies and river bottoms near Bismarck, during the entire winter, without hay or grain. The writer spent January and February in St. Paul, and compared nearly every day the weather reports from Bismarck, received by telegraph, with the weather reports in St. Paul, and Bismarck was uniformly from five to twelve degrees the warmest. People who are inclined to think this a cold country because north, should remember that as we go west the climate is modified so much so that five hundred miles further west plowing and sowing is usually done in March, and sometimes in January and February, while a thousand miles west of Bismarck, is found a rainy season instead of the Northern winter.

Those inclined to pity we poor Dakotians should save their sympathies for the residents of frozen New England, for frigid Minnesota, or icy Nebraska.

No Taxes.

No tax was voted at the recent town meeting in Bismarck, for none is needed to sustain the organization, there being no public improvements demanded or needed. The streets are in as fine condition as Third Street in St. Paul is since it was paved, and the town is not in debt, therefore no money was required on these scores. The only taxes which are liable to fall on the people at Bismarck, are for county and territorial purposes. The schools are sustained wholly from fines and licenses, the people not having been taxed one dollar for these purposes yet. The commissioners are showing a commendable spirit of economy and do not allow or authorize a bill without close scrutiny. These facts will tell greatly in our favor in the future.

The Missouri River freights have at last been awarded to the Coulson Line instead of the Kountz Line, but the government reserves the right to ship by other steamers. This will probably result in dividing the transportation to some extent and making Bismarck the headquarters for both lines of boats. The award to Coulson is not a defeat of the Northern Pacific as has been represented.

The Northern Pacific Railroad has not been blockaded an hour during the past winter; the track from Jamestown to Fargo, one hundred miles, abandoned in November, was opened on the 16th of March, with only twenty-four hours labor.

Regular mails commenced running to Bismarck on the 1st inst, the route agents running through to Bismarck from Duluth.

THE TOWNSITE.

The townsite imbroglio must be settled soon in favor of Bismarck or it will be settled against it; if not settled soon, the townsite will be removed to a railroad section, and the track changed to accommodate the new locality. The railroad company can not afford to wait much longer; they want the matter settled so that men may come in and make investments; may come in and make permanent improvements; so that they may put up permanent buildings. They want the townsite where it is; the location suits them, and should the matter be settled soon, it will remain here, but new complications constantly arise, and it is in worse condition now than ever before. The Puget Sound Company claim it under the pre-emption law, and it has been supposed that the Puget Sound Company expect to obtain title through him. Edmund Hackett claims it under the pre-emption law, Michael Tipple and Geo. Joy also claim it under that law, and of late the corporate authorities have claimed it, as they hold, under the townsite law, for the benefit of the entire people. Now, one of these parties is right—the remainder are wrong. One has a valid right—the others have not. Each of these claimants have their friends, who are sure their man will win, and as to who will win is a matter, possibly, for the courts to decide, involving endless litigation and an enormous expense.

Every citizen, who, has invested in building, and nearly two hundred have, have an interest in seeing this matter settled at once—a direct pecuniary interest.

In an article which appeared in THE TRIBUNE, March 14th we favored the claim of the Puget Sound Company, not because we preferred that they should have the townsite, but because we were fully convinced that they will succeed in the end in holding it. At the time the article was written we did not know of the Joy claim, nor of the Peoples' application. Had we known it, however, our view would have been unchanged, our advice the same.

Either the Puget Sound Company is entitled to it under the townsite law, or it is not entitled to it. If the claim was not taken as a townsite by them in June, 1872, it was taken by pre-emptors, and was subject to the pre-emption law, in July, when Messrs. Hackett and others claim to have "squatted" on it, and in that case the one who can prove conclusively that he was here first, will be able to hold it, and those coming on afterwards are trespassers, and have no more right to organize a townsite company and take it, than they have to take possession of Mr. Pyle's lumber office for their private use. And should either of the pre-emption claimants gain possession of it, they can hold as their property, every dollar's worth of improvements that have been made. House owners would not even have the right to remove their buildings without consent. Should they agree, before proving up, to deed to the persons claiming lots, the ground claimed, with or without consideration, they will have placed themselves in exactly the same position that the opponents of Mr. Penuell claim he is in, presuming he has agreed to deed the whole to the Puget Sound Company.

It is alleged that Mr. Sweet is acting for himself and not for the Company, but he claims to be acting for the Company, and the Company admit he is acting for them. THE TRIBUNE is authorized by Gen. Manager Mead, to say that the interests of the Puget Sound Company and the railroad Company are now identical; that Geo. W. Sweet is acting for that Company, and if his townsite filing is allowed, the property will pass into the management of the railroad Company; that the railroad Company will stand between the people and Geo. W. Sweet, and guarantee them justice.

This being the case, THE TRIBUNE insists that it is to the interest of every householder in Bismarck, to have the Puget Sound Company, which is now the same thing as the railroad Company, get the townsite, and the time is coming when those who now dissent from our position will agree with us.

We have from Gen. Howard, the Land Commissioner, assurances as to what the policy of the railroad Company will be in the matter of lots. The lots now occupied will be sold at from \$100 to \$300, other lots to be laid out will be fifty feet front and will be sold at from fifty to one hundred dollars.

If this thing is settled in the way proposed it will be cheaper to buy the lots on which the buildings stand than to move the buildings, if it is not so settled.

The Town Meeting.

At the town meeting on the 7th inst., the following gentlemen were elected for the offices named:

- Chairman of the Supervisors—C. W. Freede. Supervisors—Ward Bill, P. Maloy. Town Clerk—R. D. Gutgesell. Town Treasurer—J. A. McLean. Assessor—George Joy. Justices of the Peace—I. C. Adams, D. W. Foster. Constables—John Millett, T. Madden. Overseer of Highways—M. R. Forture. Pound Keeper—Robert Scott. Two hundred and eighty votes were polled. The town meeting passed off quietly, with none but good natured strife.

All those who are in want of a new suit of clothes, a nobby hat or a new neck tie, or anything in the line of shirts or nice dress goods, should wait until Raymond & Allen's mammoth stock arrives, which will be in a very few days.

The Amateur Minstrel performance for the benefit of the catholic church fund last night passed off very pleasantly. There was a large attendance and the performance, considering the circumstances, was good.

A land office is certain to be established at Bismarck this season, so Delegate Armstrong writes. The territorial division bill was recommended favorable by the committee in both houses.

Gen. Hazard indignantly denies that he refused a pass on the Northern Pacific road.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Ludington was again re-elected Mayor of Milwaukee.

The first boat of the season arrived at Winona, on the 6th inst.

The Massachusetts Senatorship question remains as formerly stated.

The Post Office Department has disposed of 100,000 postal cards.

Ingersoll was elected Governor in Connecticut by a plurality of 4,826.

Bankruptcy proceedings in the Sprague case have been discontinued.

New York dispatches indicate that the President may veto the Currency Bill.

Lyman P. White was elected Mayor of Brainerd, by upwards of one hundred majority.

The saw mill of J.M. Payne & Co., at the Junction, recently destroyed by fire, is being rebuilt.

Boss Tweed is suffering under strict discipline and his friends think it will kill him. He can't stand grief evidently.

Governor Davis, Minnesota, has appointed George B. Young of Minneapolis, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The New York Legislature adopted almost unanimously a recommendation of Gov. Dix, strongly opposed to inflation.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Col. Wood, Lt. Col. Whistler, and Majors Seges and Hough, promoted from the grade below.

The eight hour system is abandoned by Master Mechanics in New York, and they refuse to employ men who will not work ten hours a day.

In the prayer crusade region, in Ohio, the Democratic ticket was almost uniformly successful. This was true at Cincinnati and Dayton, particularly.

The financial question is at last settled in Congress, and in favor of inflation. This is a good thing for the West, in the immediate present, but statesmen may well fear the result.

Jay Cooke & Co., have accepted first mortgage bonds for the advances made by them to the Northern Pacific Company, and the Company is now left with only a nominal debt to provide for.

McCarthy, the Chicago Divine who kicked up such a row in Chicago, and was kicked out of the synagogue stage to a reporter that preaching was not his best job. He has concluded to come west.

Mr. Welch who made serious charges in relation to Indian matters against Wilder, is likely to come to grief. The latter gentleman has commenced suit for \$100,000 damages, and can prove innocence.

The contest for Mayor in Minneapolis resulted in favor of Wilson, by a plurality of 386 votes over Brackett, Thompson the regular Republican nominee had only 415 votes, Brackett 2,147, Wilson 2,583. This result seems to be more of a victory for Brackett, though defeated, than for anybody else.

The Avant Courier, reports the Bozeman Yellowstone Expedition below the mouth of the Big Horn where it had determined to build a stockade. About the 15th of March the expedition was attacked by about twenty Indians, three of whom were killed. A party is forming at Bosman to join the expedition.

Personal Mention.

John A. Stoyell has gone to Yankton.

J. R. Jackson has gone below to wood up.

J. J. J. J. has gone below for a few days.

Lt. A. E. Smith of Fort Lincoln returned Friday.

Col. Custer, brother of the General, has gone east.

Hon. Geo. F. Potter left Fargo for Washington Friday.

Alonzo Plummer brought sunshine to THE TRIBUNE office Friday evening.

R. W. Chase has been looking around town for a day or two with an eye to business.

Jas. G. Marsh and wife, of Warren county, Pa., brother of R. R. Marsh, arrived on Friday's train.

C. W. Darling, Fuel Agent of the N. P., was in town yesterday; also S. B. Rodgers, operator at Jamestown.

J. S. Carvelle, it is reported, has commenced suit in the District Court to gain possession of the Judge of Probate's office.

W. E. Campbell, of T. B. Campbell & Co., St. Paul, was in town two days this week. This firm don't object to the Northern Pacific trade.

Capt. J. W. Raymond and wife have gone east. The Capt. for goods and Mrs. Raymond to visit her fathers family, Gen. Leasure, in Pennsylvania.

Sutton Winston left for the East Thursday. You may expect new goods when Winston is heard from.

J. D. Broadwell is appointed Register of the land office at Pembina vice Brasher resigned.

Mrs. Major Sperry, of Belleview, Ohio, wife of the Berthold Indian Agent, Mrs. Grannis and child and Mr. Snyder and family, of Waupon, Wisconsin, and Mrs. Morgan, of Jamestown, New York, are stopping with Deacon Mann waiting for the first boat to Berthold. The gentlemen of the party, including a brother of the Agent, have gone forward by team. They are already enthusiastic friends of the country, and some of them will give Gen. Hazen a tilt.

Improvements.

The writer hereof left Bismarck four months ago, returning April 8th. He is surprised at the improvements which have been made on every hand, not only in buildings erected last season, but in the way of new buildings, already completed or in the course of construction. THE TRIBUNE has neither time or space to give a list of these improvements, this week, but it will afford us pleasure to note the progress of the town and vicinity from time to time.

To an occasional visitor at Bismarck last year, the improvements at the Capitol Hotel, made during the winter, will appear most striking, as well as pleasing. New floors have been laid, additional rooms made, and the house newly papered and painted. Everything is neat and tasty and a stranger can not help being satisfied. The hotel erected by Peter Ostlund last summer has also been overhauled and put in good shape, and Mr. Bailey, who kept the most popular boarding house in the city, last season, has assumed charge, giving Bismarck an additional first class house, conveniently located. The church improvements are noted elsewhere.

The improvements made by John Mason are worthy of more than a passing notice. Stepping in for a moment we noticed the floors as clean as water, soap, sand and labor could make them; the walls newly papered and painted; new show cases, silver mounted, Bauer's best, neatly arranged; a counter for Cigars, &c., nicely cushioned, and the bar arranged in a manner skillful and pleasing, presided over by the genial Theodore.

Fences have been erected on every hand; some to hold lots, others in the way of permanent improvements. A number of gardens are being planted and shade trees set out. Proctor has taken the lead in the matter of shade trees and has made creditable and substantial improvement in that direction, on his claim.

Farming at Bismarck.

It has been stated that this is not a farming country, and in a review of Gen. Hazen's letter, the editor of this paper sometime ago stated that he knew better. There are others who know better also, practical men some of whom raised good crops here last season, and who are willing to risk their time and money again.

The following named gentlemen, for instance, will plant the number of acres set opposite their respective names, viz:

- Oscar Ward and Son, 28; H. N. Holloway, 15; R. M. Douglas, 40; J. M. Ayers, 15; Col. Donnelly, 15; Col. Lounsbury, 10; Chas. McCarthy, 15; Henry Waller, 10; Mr. McNeill, 4; W. E. Cahill, 30; Messrs. Bonner and Demarsh, 30; Fred Girard, 40.

Many others whose names we have not learned will also put in from two to ten acres. And they will succeed, because every farming experiment tried here has succeeded. Col. Lounsbury is planting 200 raspberry plants, 100 currant bushes, a large number of Hyslop and Transcendent crabs, white willow cuttings, &c. The Colonel has engaged the assistance of William Cannon, one of the best horticulturists in Minnesota, to take charge of his farming operations and will no doubt make it a success.

Yellowstone Expedition Photographs.

The photographer who accompanied the Yellowstone Expedition, writes under date of March 6th:

I have succeeded after considerable delay, in obtaining from the Government, the photographic negatives I made last summer, on the Yellowstone Expedition, and will commence in a few days, the publication of the same, and will have for sale complete sets of these very interesting pictures. I have 100 stereoscopic negatives, from which I can print any number. The price per dozen will be \$3.00, or the entire set of 100, \$30.00. The 11x14 size consist first: View of Bad Lands near the mouth of Powder River, second, View of Bad Lands five miles above the mouth of Powder River, near the Yellowstone, third, ditto, fourth, Remains of a grave of five Indians, fifth, On the Yellowstone, near the mouth of the Big Horn, sixth, Is a superb view of Pompey's Pillar, (A painting is now being executed by Max Weyl, a Washington artist of note, from my photograph of this view), who was struck with his singular grandeur, seventh, Third Camp on the Musselshell, eighth, Every one who accompanied the expedition should secure a copy of this fine view of our beautiful camp on the Musselshell, eighth, On Baker's old trail between Pompey's Pillar and the Musselshell. A characteristic view of the country at this point, ninth, A squadron of Custer's Cavalry, Capt. Yates commanding. This is pronounced a successful picture in every sense of the word. Rarely, if ever, has a large photograph been made where all the horses and riders are so clearly defined as on this occasion. The 11x14 size are \$2.50 per copy, the set of 9 for \$12.00. Set of each of stereoscopes and the large size complete for \$26.

Every soldier who was on the expedition and every citizen interested in the Yellowstone country should send for copies of these photographs, enclosing the price indicated to Wm. H. Pywell, No. 625 D Street, Washington, D. C. Mr. Pywell refers to Gen. Custer.

Settlements.

Some two hundred claims have been taken in the vicinity of Bismarck, the past six months, nearly every claim in four townships having been taken, many claims have also been jumped. The country has already settled to a great extent, but there is room for more. Those who want either Government or railroad land in the vicinity of Bismarck should be moving.

County Commissioner's Proceedings.

At a regular meeting of the Board, held April 7th, A. D. 1874.—Present, J. P. Dunn, Chairman, W. H. H. Mercer and T. P. Davis.

The following resolutions were presented by T. P. Davis, and after due consideration were passed by the Board.

Whereas, The Co. Com. at their regular meeting held on the 6th day of April, A. D. 1873, deem an expenditure necessary, greater in amount than can be provided for by the annual tax, for the purpose of building a County Jail, and the sum required therefor being \$300,00, and whereas in order to raise said sum of \$300,00, it will be necessary to make a special assessment for that purpose. Now, Therefore it is moved and carried by said Board of Co. Com., that a special election be called four weeks from Wednesday April 15th, 1874, for the purpose of voting a special tax to the amount of \$300,00, to build a County Jail and that the County Clerk prepare the proper notice for the calling of said special election and have the same published in THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE, for the period of four weeks. Electors will vote yes or nay.

Moved and carried that the Apple Creek Precinct be attached to that of Bismarck for this special election, that the office of Thomas Van Eton be the place for holding the polls, and that Richard Lamborn, J. W. Fisher and Henry Dism be the Judges of Election.

Moved and carried that the house of W. H. H. Mercer, be the place for holding the polls in the Precinct of Woods Precinct, and that W. H. H. Mercer, Dan Williams and J. P. Taylor, be Judges of Election.

Attest: T. P. DUNN, Clerk. By Jas. H. BISHOP, Deputy.

John Mason.

This gentleman is one of our most enterprising and honorable citizens. Though not able to obtain title to lots he has invested nearly six thousand dollars in permanent and substantial buildings, buildings alike creditable to his taste and to the town. St. Paul does not furnish a better appointed billiard hall, a better arranged or better furnished bar. Donnelly or Saulsbury may have a more expensive mirror but they cannot excel Mason in other respects. His liquors and cigars are the best imported articles or rather the best imported articles are always kept in stock. Until lately all drinks have been twenty-five cents, the cheapest lager or the finest braudies, the cheapest American cigar or the finest imported article, but Mason has inaugurated a change and persons may now purchase cigars at from five cents to seventy-five according to their taste or circumstances, while the common drinks have been reduced to fifteen cents. Mr. Mason is open hearted, generous, just. His place of business is always quiet and orderly, no carousing, no loud talking, no gambling. He does a straight business and while THE TRIBUNE does not endorse the business it does endorse John Mason's manner of carrying it on.

Church Matters.

At the Mite Society meeting Thursday evening there was a fair attendance and a very good time was had. These meetings have been kept up all winter and a large fund has been raised for church purposes. The church was enclosed and made habitable early in January. It remains to be plastered and is about one half seated. The church and parsonage have been enclosed by a neat and substantial fence and the grounds prepared for a lawn. The Pastor, Rev. Mr. Sloan has labored unceasingly to beautify the premises, create and maintain an interest in the cause and has no doubt enjoyed himself more and accomplished more good than many an eastern pastor who has been inclined to sympathize with him. Though the Presbyterian organization is weak in number their cause is justly strong, at least their perseverance is commendable.

Attention is called to the new advertisement of Messrs. Raymond & Allen, who have added to their already extensive business, that of banking. Persons here wanting Exchange, or abroad having collections to be made will find them men of the right stamp to deal with.

Messrs. John A. Stoyell and J. Delamater having dissolved partnership the new advertisement of Mr. Delamater appears elsewhere. Mr. D. is a young attorney of recognized ability and worth, a man of integrity, who can be trusted under any circumstances. Eastern parties desiring to make investments here, will find it to their advantage to communicate with him.

Messrs. E. A. Williams, and H. M. Davis have dissolved partnership, and the new advertisement of Mr. Williams appears elsewhere. Mr. Williams is one of the oldest settlers here, having come in with about the first party of men engaged on the railroad work; was elected in 1872 to the Territorial Legislature, and has taken a prominent part in affairs here since.

Clarke & Bill have engaged in the plow trade; Douglas ditto, and has also included wagons.

Mrs. Brownson keeps house on Col. Harry Brownson's homestead one mile north of the village.

N. P. Clarke one of the shrewdest financiers in the west who has large interests here arrived Monday.

The friends of Chris Gilson say he will go to the Black Hills with his party if the whole Seventh Cavalry interferes.

Pat Galligan is building a verandah and is repainting his establishment.

Five thousand dollars worth of clothing expected new in a few days at Raymond & Allen's.

The Fort Lincoln theatre opened Thursday night. Four hundred persons were present.