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The Bismarck Tribune.

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THE TOWNSITE.

The case was decided in the General Land office Nov. 13th as stated last week.

The decision gives the city all its claims—the Hackett quarter, the Proctor quarter, the Hannafin eighty and the Jackman eighty, all go to the people.

Plummer also wins in the contest against Jackman who is left with only "two lots" in the first ward of the city of Bismarck "on which substantial improvements have been made."

Sixty days are given the respective contestants in which to appeal their cases. It is fair to presume they will appeal. Some of them certainly will.

It is believed by the attorneys and others well informed who are interested in the case that the decision will be confirmed by the Secretary of the Interior. Decision on the appeal should and undoubtedly will be had within the next four months. If it is in favor of the city then warrants deeds may be given by the city and the case will be practically settled.

But the difficulty will not then be all ended. There are still conflicting interests to harmonize. There are persons who have leased the lots occupied by their improvements while some have jumped lots which others have paid for. The parties should fix these things up among themselves. Questions of law may come up, which, unless there is a disposition to yield somewhat, may be carried through our local courts into the supreme court, involving delay and clouding the title. Legislation will be required to enable the corporate authorities to take in the Williams eighty which the decision authorizes them to enter.

Finally an immense fund can be created out of the proceeds from the sale of this property. Let us see that our resources are not squandered. Husband the principal as Minnesota husbands its school fund and let only the interest be used, and that only, for public improvements.

There is much to do and much that must be done to make life pleasant and Bismarck a desirable home. Our water supply is now brought from the river in carts. This fund will be great enough to give us and keep in repair the Holly system. Buildings for the use of the city and school houses remain to be constructed.

We have no great debt hanging over us even. Let us keep even, so far as current expenses are concerned, and incur debts for necessary improvements only.

Bismarck can be made a model town in its financial management and situation, and in its public works and surroundings, if those who are to shape its destiny in its infancy are wise, and the contest which has hung over it for three years past can be made to prove its greatest blessing.

We have full faith in the people and believing they realize the advantages they have gained are confident that they will support such men and such measures and will realize to them the greatest benefits.

Senator O. F. Ferry, of Connecticut, died at his residence in Hartford a few days ago and is succeeded by Ex-Gov. English. Senator Ferry was a conservative republican, and was elected by a union of Democrats and anti administration republicans, over the gallant and brilliant Gen. Joe Hawley who was the nominee of the Republican caucus.

CHIEF CLERK AVERY CONVICTED.

St. Louis, Dec. 4.—Ex Chief Clerk Avery was yesterday found guilty of conspiracy to defraud the revenue. Sentence was deferred and his counsel will move for a new trial.

OTHERS OF THE RING CONVICTED.

Two whisky ring convictions were reported yesterday from Milwaukee and two from Indiana courts.

NAVAL PREPARATIONS CERTAINLY MEANT FOR SPAIN.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The Cabinet yesterday considered General Babcock's request for a court of inquiry. The detail will probably be made by the Secretary of War to-day.

GENERAL BABCOCK DEMANDS AN INVESTIGATION.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The President's message was yesterday approved by the Cabinet, and manifold copies are being prepared for the press, ready for the day of delivery, which will depend on the organization of the House. The message is larger than any of Grant's previous messages; little is known of its character.

Another Abortion Murder.

Chicago, Nov. 3.—The body of the woman taken from Graceland Cemetery, barrelled and sent to the express office addressed to a town in Iowa has been identified as that of Mrs. Emma J. Adams, wife of a prominent hardware dealer at present in New York. The body was buried Nov. 20th and exhumed under direction of Doctor Wilder last Wednesday. The officers are not able to find Wilder. The affair has created great excitement; murder by abortion is suspected as the body of an infant was barrelled with the woman.

Convicted.

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NAVAL PREPARATIONS.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—A Tribune Washington special says the cause of naval preparations is Spain's neglect to carry out the Polo Fish protocol, requiring the punishment of the persons connected with the Virginia massacre, protecting, instead, the authors of that massacre. Late Madrid advices say the new Ministry will proceed to try Burrell and other officers concerned.

MURDER OF CHRISTIANS.

New York, Dec. 3.—A private letter from a lady in Delamona says two hundred thousand destitute Christians and refugees from Turkish Provinces are in Austrian territory. Her husband saw in a Turkish town the headless bodies of Christians (mostly women) lying about the streets, with hogs devouring them, and saw numerous bodies of women and children floating down the river Save, massacred by the Turks.

MORE CONVICTIONS.

Two whisky ring convictions were reported yesterday from Milwaukee and two from Indiana courts.

H. J. King, of Mich., has been appointed Indian agent at Leech Lake Minn., Vice Major Whithead, removed.

Hartman's majority for Governor of Pennsylvania is 11,621, or 7,000 less than his majority in Philadelphia. The prohibition vote of the State was about 12,000.

GEN. SHERIDAN DESCRIBES THE GOLD FIELDS.

And Files a Recommendation in Relation to the Indians.

GEN'L POPE AND SCHOFIELD ALSO THE INDIAN BUREAU HEARD FROM.

Wm. Hoffman Tendered the Commissionership.

NAVAL PREPARATIONS ACTIVELY CONTINUED.

NEW IRON GLADS IN COMMISSION AND RECRUITING REVIVED.

Another Official Thief in the Clutches of Bristow.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Commissioner Smith's annual report recommends that Red Cloud and Spotted Tail's agencies be removed to the Missouri river, and that the squaw men be driven from the reservations. He also recommends that the Indians be required to labor as a condition of receiving food.

COMMISSIONER SMITH'S REPORT.

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INVITED TO REMAIN.

It is again rumored that Secty. Chandler has invited Commissioner Smith to remain in the Department as his private secretary having in special charge the business coming up from the Indian bureau.

DEAD.

Benjamin H. Avery, Minister to China, died at his station recently.

SHERIDAN'S REPORT.

Sheridan's official report describes the country south of the Yellowstone from the Cheyenne to the Black Hills west to the Big Horn, perhaps to Clark's Fork as gold bearing. He also at some length describes the soil, climate, water courses and timber as being favorable to agriculture and cattle raising. He recommends for the Indians small reservations and gradually compulsory labor for adults and compulsory education for children, and that the Indian Bureau be transferred to the War Department.

POPE AND SCHOFIELD.

Generals Pope and Schofield in their report strongly urge the transfer of the Indian Service to the War Department, and the President will probably so recommend in his message.

ACQUITTED.

New York, Dec. 1.—John Scantil was yesterday acquitted of the murder of Donahue on the ground of insanity and ordered committed to the Utica Insane Asylum, by the Judge much to the surprise of the friends of the prisoner and his counsel.

STILL ACTIVE.

New York.—There is no let up in the activity at the navy yards. New iron glads have been ordered in commission and recruiting is revived, but no official explanation is given of the mystery. Some connect it with a New York and California scheme for annexing Northern Mexico.

SERIOUSLY ILL.

Chicago, Dec. 1.—U.S. Senator John A. Logan is seriously ill of rheumatism of the brain.

ARRESTED.

Ex-Supervisor of Revenue, D. W. Munn, was arrested to-day and trial begun for defrauding the revenue.

RETIRED.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Judge Advocate General Holt retired, on his own application, is succeeded by his assistant Wm. McKee Dunn.

WM. HOFFMAN.

of Ohio, was yesterday tendered the Indian Commissionership.

BURNED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 2.—Ward's Duluth Steamer Phil. Sheridan, was burned Tuesday near Buffalo. The crew escaped.

OUT IN THE GARDEN BOILING SOAP.

The good old time for boiling soap has come again. The robins tell us so. They know all about the matter; and when they tune up with their playful notes from tree-tops and fence stakes, then is the time—the golden soap boiling days—when boys or men drive the stakes and fix the kettles, set the leach tub, and prepare the kindling-wood.

"Good morning, Mrs. Dinkelson. I told Peter to put our soap kettle out here near yours so 'twould be handy in case of accident. How's yer lye this morning, Mrs. Dinkelson?"

"Oh, purty well. I'm glad you fixed yer kettle over here; it's more sociable, at least, it 'pears to me so. How's yer grease?"

"My grease is first-rate—better nor the lye, I 'speat. Did you ever put lime in the bottom of your leach? I told Peter to, but he hadn't got no lime, so he just chucked in some sticks and straw and old rags and a few egg shells, all smashed up. How much grease you got this spring?"

"Well, I don't 'zactly know, Mrs. Spiker; there is about as much as we allers has—and I don't know as there is, nuther."

"I wish you'd jest ster mine, if I don't get back in time. I must go and tell Jane not to wipe them dishes with the new wipin' cloth; that's for company dishes, and Jane persists in doin' it with that ar' cloth, just because it's new. I'm mighty 'feared Jane'll never be like her mother!"

"I'll ster it, but hurry back." "Well, how was it?"

"Oh, she was usin' it, just as I 'spected. Now I'll ster while you fix the fire. Ain't it nice to have our kettles clus together, so one fire'll bile both on 'em. It saves wood, and we can get around out of the smoke more easier."

"I allers thought it was a great convenience, 'specially when one has got good neighbors, as we have."

"So do I. Do you put ham-rines in your grease, Mrs. Dinkelson? Peter'n I both think it don't come so quick when there's rines in it. Peter's sort of scientific, and 'lows it's the smoke of the salt-petre; but I don't know."

"I allers keep the rines, Mrs. Spiker. There's so much good grease the other side the rines, it pays to keep 'em. And our folks is such hogs for ham! Mrs. Skypsey keeps everything, and she has nice soap, too."

"Well, I don't care for the Skypseys; I knowed 'em when they borrowed soap, and never paid it, nuther. She's mighty stuck-up now, since her husband's bought a horse and buggy. It's a good thing everybody ain't proud."

"That's so, Mrs. Spiker. Now, there's Jinkins. He ain't worth more'n my old man, but he makes b'lieve he's got more'n ten thousand dollars. An I can't bear his wife—nasty, stuck-up thing, with a boughten petticoat!"

"That's so, Mrs. Dinkelson. An' if there is any one thing above another that is despisin', it's a boughten petticoat. Better save the money; she'll want it some day."

"Indeed, she will. But Mrs. Boggles just knocks Mrs. Jinkins! She's the most extravagantest woman I ever did see. Me and Jedediah has often noticed her doin's. Any woman that's too good to bile soap is just a nasty, stuck-up thing; and you know how it is yerself, Mrs. Spiker. I wouldn't miss soap-bilin' for nothin'! It's so sociable to have a real good visit, with nobody to bother us and listen to what we say! And, oh! have you heard of Dekin Jonesby, and what he did to Sally Smiggles?"

"La, me! no! The nasty man! I allers suspected 'im of 'im. I never knowed any good of them Jonesbys, and I know it. What did he do?"

"Oh, dear! it's too awful to tell. But I'll jest tell you! You see, Sally Smiggles went there to do the spring sowing, and one day Mrs. Jonesby was down town, galdin' about just as she allers is, when the Dekin cum hum. He let on he didn't know his wife was out; but I know better, and so do you! I jest 'spected what was up, so I run in to borrow a little salt-ratus, all in a hurry, and they were both in the clothes-press! I rushed right in on 'em, but I was a little too soon; they went to fumblin' in the rag-bag. 'Oh!' says I. 'Hello!' said he. 'I just run in for some salt-ratus,' sez I. 'It's in the butt'ry,' said he. 'What yer doin' in here?' sez I. 'Huntin' some linen for Miss Smiggles,' says he. 'Huntin' linen! Yes, I guess it was! An' he looked just as innocent—the deceivin' wretch! I'm so glad I don't b'long to that church! I'd be afraid of him—the wretch!"

"And Sally Smiggles was in there with him, was she? I allers mistrusted it in her eye!"

"Yes, indeed she was; and she'd her work in her hand, just on purpose to fool me; but I've jest been a girl myself, and they can't fool me. I'll tell

her mother next Sunday, if I see her." "Well, the girl cum honestly by it. Her father used to act just so careless with me, even for a year arter I married Peter. But I knowed him. He used to set on his own door step every night a whittlin', and when I'd go by he'd say, 'Good evenin', Mrs. Spiker; won't you call?' and I used to go by every night, just to see if he'd do it!"

"Oh, goodness! it's all runnin' over! Stir it, quick!"

"It's nat' time! Skim it!" "Oh, there goes Dr. Buzley!"

"Goin' down to see Mrs. Spriggles ag'in. It ain't all sickness, and I know t. A man never stays as long with a sick woman as with a well one. He on't stay long when he comes to see e! And he hadn't better. I hate those doctors, who are allers makin' examinations of good-lookin' women."

"So do I; and it's good enough for 'em!" "Have you and Mrs. Brown made up yet?"

"No, we hain't, and I ain't goin' to. It's a pity if our cat can't go over there rights to see her cat, without Brown's shooting a double barrelled gun at him! Better keep their cat in the house!"

"That's just what I told Mrs. Rigby." "What did she say to that?"

"Oh, she acted like a fool, as usual—just because she ain't got no husband, and 'twas a pity all the cats wa'n't killed, she's awful techy about these things."

"Hello, it's bilin' over ag'in!" "It's them ar rines—that's what's the matter!"

"Them rines, is it? Then all I've got to say is—Dern the hogs!" "Dern the hogs! is it?—ludin' to me, I s'pose! Then you ken jest bile yer own soap, and h'ist yer kittle out'n here to onst!" "Erick" Pomeroy.

Semi-Weekly Mail Service.

It is now known that semi-weekly service having been ordered on the route between Bismarck and Fargo, the mail will hereafter leave and arrive twice a week. This was brought about through the active influence of Judge Kidder, Governor Pennington and Secretary Hand, all of whom most heartily recommended it. The service was ordered Dec 22d. On the 18th the 2d assistant Post Master General wrote Governor Pennington as follows: "The petition forwarded by you asking for an increase of service on winter route 35,048, over the line of the Northern Pacific R. R. is received. Negotiations are now in progress, with the R. R. Co. with a view to the resumption of mail service. Should this fail the subject presented by you will receive consideration and an effort will be made to meet your views, notwithstanding the great expense to the service."

The Governor, as well as Judge Kidder, Secretary Hand, and others, holds himself in readiness to aid the people of Northern Dakota in any way he can, so, though we are isolated, we are not in danger of being neglected.

The First Townsite News.

There are those who will remember the first stirring townsite news from Bismarck. It was in the shape of a letter from the Crossing, published in the St. Paul Press early in 1872, and detailed the able manner in which certain citizens got away with the land grabbers in a race for the townsite at the Northern Pacific crossing of the Missouri river. This detailed the beginning of the struggle and would have gone far toward confirming the story of Major Wood, as told in the townsite content, had it been put in evidence. We all remember the statement of the Major as to how the party headed by Jackman actually took possession of the exact location of proposed crossing, through information Jackman or Courchill had gained while in the employ of the Engineer Department of the Northern Pacific, crowling their opponents back and forcing the location of the coming city over a mile from the river, instead of on its banks. But now after a struggle of over three years, third parties—the people—have come in with their claim and have walked off with the persimmons and have only to regret that they did not ask for more.

Lee Travis is now sole proprietor of the Helena (Montana) Daily News, which has been immensely improved under his management. The News is small, but it is chuck full of live and interesting matter.

An anonymous letter was received Saturday in relation to the townsite matter. The writer should have given the editor his name to entitle his communication to attention.

IMPERFECT PAGE