

LOCAL AFFAIRS

WAR DEPARTMENT

Signal Service, U. S. A.

DIVISION OF TELEGRAPHS, AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE, BISMARCK, DAKOTA TERRITORY.

Table with columns for State of the Weather, Wind, Rain, Snow, etc. for various locations including Bismarck, Ft. Rice, and Standing Rock.

It don't pay to kick every one in your path.

B. M. Boyle left for the east with Major Seip and will spend some weeks in Washington.

John A. Stoyell has been appointed deputy U. S. Attorney by Attorney General Pierson.

The marriage of John O. Bates to Miss Lima Vance, at Yankton, occurred on the 1st inst.

The Lincoln Minstrels will give an entertainment at Mason's Hall, Bismarck, on the evening of the 23d inst. Their programme will be out to-morrow.

Major Dickey has gone to Beaver Creek to spend the remainder of the winter. He and Gus Gilbrath are running a trading post there and from all accounts are doing a lively business.

Lt Weston, of the 7th Cavalry, has been promoted to Captain and Commissary of Subsistence vice Capt. Barriger, who succeeds to Maj. Taylor's position. The death of Maj. Taylor was announced in our last.

The Fort Rice Minstrels will give their first entertainment on or about Dec. 18th, at the Opera House, Fort Rice. Judging from their programme, a rich treat is promised. They may be expected at Bismarck at an early day.

Oh, the blizzard, the beautiful blizzard; freezing a fellow from ear top to izzard; making a face as blue as a wizard, chilling the life-blood that flows from his gizzard; blowing, snowing, cold as a lizard; get up, and get out of this, beautiful blizzard.

C. F. Hobart arrived Monday from Standing Rock. They reached the herd five miles above Fort Rice with the saw mill and laid up over Sunday, and in the meantime got stuck in the mud. They came to that point on the 14th.

Sagier's dog undertook to make mince-meat of J. W. Plummer's leg Saturday and Plummer soon put him in line condition for sausage-making. The dog bit him in the leg and pulled him by the boot leg nearly to the place he succeeded in getting away from him.

The Bismarck fuel company commenced operations Tuesday, setting up their steam saw on section 17 about two miles from town. They deliver dry cottonwood, stove length, for \$1.75 per cord. They expect to put up about 5,000 cords of wood during the winter.

Messrs. Wm. Pyle, H. M. Davis, and associates, have contracted for the claim of Mr. Fisher on section 82, and Judge Bowen is now engaged laying it out as an addition to Bismarck. There is, undoubtedly, money in it if properly handled, and these are pretty good men to handle it. Clear title here and no contest.

Those who have been buying water by the cord have been made to realize their mistake. It has melted on their hands almost every day during the past week, and the ground is almost wholly bare. None could wish for better weather.

Judge Bowen and Archie McCurdy returned from Turtle river, Mandan Lakes and Painted Woods Saturday, from a week's hunt, bringing in ten deer. N. J. Collins and Henry Ward returned from another tramp with eight more. The venison commands a ready market at 10c per pound.

Major H. G. Pease, commander of Fort Lincoln, left for the east Wednesday taking a rest in one of Seim's stages. The Major will visit New York, Baltimore and Washington while absent. Mrs. Seip intended to accompany him but the ladies at the Fort held a sort of an indignation meeting, and any rate induced her not to make the trip over the plains in winter.

L. P. Hildebrand and family who abandoned their proposed trip to the Black Hills and then returned to make their way over the country to Fargo, enroute to Chicago, have returned finding the road almost impassible. The trip from Bismarck to Fargo, which is being made in four days by the stages, is full as bad as would be the trip from Bismarck to the Black Hills. The distance is the same.

The chances for the promotion of Gen. Custer, before his return, seem favorable. He is second on the list of Lieutenant Colonels, and the retirement of Colonel during the winter seem probable. His promotion would take him from the 7th Cavalry and from this locality. His leave has been extended two months. The General's visit to New York seems to be for the purpose of investment.

The Bismarck Tribune gives currency to the rumor that the Mayor of that burg got on a little jamboree a few days ago, and after vainly endeavoring to convince his better half that he was boss of the establishment, was ultimately ejected and then locked up in the calaboose where he pined alone during the dreary hours of the night.

Jackman and Hanftan have been having photographs made of their "butly ing lots" which the corporate authorities have so far succeeded in gobbling for the city, and expect to prove by them that the land claimed is not occupied by townsite improvements. But, then, both claims lie in the first ward of the city, and Jackman was alderman.

"All the world is full of babies, Crying, signing, and wailing; Lending on their little bodies, Seeking for the empty air; Do they see the stric before them, That they sob and tremble and Oh, the helpless frightened babies— Still they come, and still they are!"

The Indian Commissioner in his recent report concurs in the recommendation of the Black Hills Commission, Gen. Sheridan, Sherman, and others, to take possession of the Black Hills country and treat with the Indians afterwards; at least, this is the drift of their recommendations. This course will undoubtedly be adopted by the Government.

We are coming, Uncle Sam, Lee hundred million strong; We are coming to make 'em Frisco All same as Hongkong.

We will work here cheap, Boat white man alee way, And make poor white loonee For chow-chay city all day.

Among the numerous parties on the way now to the Black Hills is the irrefragable Major Pease, who leads the recent advance of civilization on the headwaters of the Yellowstone. Seventy-five people left a Minnesota town a few days ago for the Black Hills. They will follow the trail of the Ross party from this point. News from Ross' party may be looked for about Jan. 1st, as one of the teams will return.

A Successful Operation.

Dr. Porter performed an operation yesterday on a lady living at Apple Creek, who was suffering from dropsy. The operation is called "tapping," and consists in puncturing the abdomen and inserting a tube by which the fluid is allowed to run out. In this case the amount of water was enormous, twenty-four pints escaping in a short time, much to the relief of the patient, who before the operation could hardly breathe.

The Black Hills excitement is running high at Bismarck, and several of our leading citizens are talking of going among them. Mayor McLean, the object of his going would be to look the ground over in order to take the land and prepare for the black hills trade of next summer, which will be a big thing for Bismarck if Congress will allow the occupation of the country by miners. One hundred thousand people will move on the Black Hills next season if permitted to do so, and at least one third of them will come this way if Bismarck is prepared to supply them.

The Masquerade Ball to be given at the Capitol Hotel, Friday evening promises to be the most brilliant affair of the season. A general invitation has been extended to the officers and ladies at the Fort. The 7th Cavalry band will be in attendance. The Capitol Hotel affords ample accommodations for a large party, and mine host Marsh knows how to prepare a good supper and provide for the entertainment of his guests. Parties coming unprovided with masks will be furnished them at the hotel. Those receiving invitations should not miss this opportunity of passing an evening of rare social enjoyment.

The Register, Col. J. H. Richards, has completed the Burleigh County tax levy for 1876. The total amount of the tax levy is \$352,700. The tax is 16 mills, and in addition a road mill for \$100,000, a school mill of \$100 against all electors. The 16 mills are distributed as follows: For Territorial purposes, 0.3 mills; for county purposes, 4 mills; for county sinking fund, 5 mills; for payment of interest on bonded debt, 2.4 mills, for school 1 mill and road 2.4 mills. The total amount of the tax levy is \$6,455 70, distributed as follows: Territorial tax, \$705 40; County tax, \$1,410 80; county sinking fund, \$1,765 50; interest on bonded debt, \$882 75; road tax, \$589 05; road poll tax, \$487 50; school tax, \$882 70; school poll tax, \$325. In addition to this \$591.77 delinquent taxes from last year remain to be collected. The tax last year was 15 mills on the dollar; this year, 16; but last year no school tax was levied. The bonded debt of the county is a little upward of \$5,000, on which the interest is about \$500, so it will be seen the levy is large enough to meet it promptly. The county tax and county sinking fund will probably be used to retire county orders, and in that case \$3,174.39 of this tax will be available for retiring this "currency." The school tax amounts to \$677.70, and the question now arises why not have a school? An incorporated city and no school for nine months! A little over one thousand dollars—\$1,016 55—will be available for road purposes, giving funds enough to supply material for bridging Burnt and Apple creeks, which certainly ought to be done at the expense of the county.

Farming in Kidder County. R. E. Harst, writing to the Bismarck Tribune from Crystal Springs, says: "Seeing the farming interests of North-western Dakota advocated in your worthy journal, I write to say that the only farm opened in this county is owned and managed by Sam Williams. He has about 12 acres under cultivation at this point, which is about half way between Jamestown, on the James river, and Bismarck, on the Missouri. The result with him is indeed satisfactory, being eleven hundred bushels of potatoes, one thousand heads of cabbage, one thousand bushels of turnips, and beets, onions, cucumbers, pumpkins, squashes, cabbages and other garden stuff in almost unlimited quantities. Williams, judging from the condition of his farm, is an experienced farmer and has the utmost confidence in the productivity of the country. He has been here since 1872, and in the following winter was caught out on the prairies in a blizzard and came near losing his life, and did lose the greater portion of his feet, yet he sticks to the country, works hard, and is satisfied with life and with his surroundings."

Mr. Barret speaks of the winter travel on the route between Bismarck and Jamestown, and sums it up for the month of November as follows: Going east 11 teams and 17 persons; going west 9 teams and 18 persons. Mr. John Hunter going east a few days ago reported that he saw herds of antelope in the neighborhood of 15th siding, west of Crystal Springs a few miles above about 8 miles from Crystal Springs an animal which proved to be a buffalo.

The other day a Vicksburg father, finding it necessary to reprove his son, gently said: "Don't stuff victuals into your mouth that way, my son; George Washington didn't eat after that fashion." The boy accepted the reproof without comment, and after pondering for awhile, he remarked to himself: "And I don't believe George Washington licked his boy for putting a bit of whisky in the shed when he was sent after a horse shoe, either."—Vicksburg Herald.

A full-blooded English settler of Thomas W. Lane of the United States postal car company, while hunting at West Roxbury, Mass., last week, brought to his master a large pocket book, containing \$425 in currency, and some valuable papers, belonging to Mr. Langley of Cambridgeport. The dog now wears a \$50 silver collar as a reward for his sagacity.

Henry Wilson never made a dollar of money until 21 years of age. On attaining his majority his master gave him a yoke of cattle and six sheep which he sold for \$84. "On time," and with seven cents savings constituted his fortune at 21. Subsequently he went through college, became a teacher, an orator, editor and statesman.

A promising young shaver of five or six years was reading his lessons at school one day in that deliberate manner for whichurchins of that age are somewhat remarkable. As he proceeded with the task he came upon the passage, "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from guile." Master Hopeful drawled out, "Keep—thy—tongue—from—evil—and—thy—lips—from—girls."

The newspapers which nominate Morrissy for president should put up Schenck for vice president. This would harmonize faro and poker players, and thus consolidate two large and important interests.—Chicago Times.

From Prof. Pease's Notes on the Yellowstone in 1865, preceding page 100. About this time many changes were made in the command of the army of the Potomac. General Lee's army was assigned to the command of a brigade of Michigan cavalry, under Killpatrick as Division Commander. He continued to serve under Pleasanton until the latter was succeeded by Sheridan, soon after which he was assigned to the command of a division of cavalry. He took part in all of Sheridan's battles, with many others that were not his. He was promoted to the rank of Brevet Major-General for his gallantry and skill at the battle of Cedar Creek (Sheridan's Ride), and to a full Major-Generalship for the final battles around Richmond. General Oster was in the advance when Lee surrendered, and has ever in his possession the white flag sent in by Lee when asking for a truce. He also has the table on which were written the terms of the surrender of Lee's army. This table was presented to Mrs. Custer by General Sheridan, who, in the letter accompanying the trophy, used the following language: "Permit me to present to you the table upon which were written the terms of surrender of the army of Northern Virginia by Gen. Lee to Gen. Grant, and to add that in writing about this most desirable event, I knew of but few individuals who were more so than your gallant husband." This letter was written and dated at Appomattox Court-House, April 10th, 1865, the day following the surrender.

The life of Custer will prove all the more interesting to teachers, when it is known that he was for some time a member of the fraternity, and, as he assured me, still retains a warm place in his heart for those who are engaged in that work, aside from his high regard for the honor and responsibility of the profession itself. General Custer was born in the town of New Rumley, Harrison county, Ohio, December the 5th, 1839, and is now, consequently, nearly thirty years of age. He obtained a common school education in his native district, and subsequently attended the high school at Monroe, Michigan, until he was in his fifteenth year, when he went to the Normal School at Hopedale, Ohio, and there he participated in many important battles and in nearly every important skirmish fought by the army of the Potomac or the cavalry of that army, except that of Fredericksburg under Burnside. This battle he expressed to me no regret at having missed. As we have before stated, it so happened that Rosser, who commanded a cavalry division on the Confederate side, and Custer, seemed fated constantly to run into conflict with each other. The most important engagement in which they were opposed to each other was on the 9th of October, 1862, during the battle of Cedar Creek. Here all the cavalry of the two armies were engaged. Rosser and Custer faced each other, each in command in line of battle. Rosser recognized Custer, but the latter did not see his opponent on that day to recognize him. When the Confederate commander, saw Custer advancing at the head of his command, and before the engagement became general, he called his brigade's officers about him, pointed out Custer to them with the remark: "There comes Custer; now let us break him up to-day." It so happened, however, that while Rosser and his officers were watching their antagonists movements, Custer pushed ahead, whipped a Kentucky column around to the left, and before Rosser was aware of it "boys in blue" charged him in front and on the left flank, driving everything before them, the pursuit continuing for nearly twenty miles. In this engagement Custer captured all of Rosser's artillery, all of his wagons and baggage, and large numbers of prisoners, including also his private wardrobe and a fine new uniform coat. Rosser being much taller than Custer, the latter sent him a message a few days after the battle that he was much obliged to him for the present of a new coat, but that the next time he would oblige him by directing the tailor to make a shorter in the waist!

Gen. Custer had nine horses shot under him during the war and one in an Indian fight on the Yellowstone, making ten in all. In two battles of the war, Gettysburg and Brandy Station, he was wounded in each, both being shot from under him, within three minutes of each other. When appointed Brevet Major-General, he was thirty years of age, and he was a full Major-General at twenty-six. He was the youngest officer in the army of his rank at the date of these two appointments. The General is addicted to none of the vices that so often disgrace the lives of the brave and daring, but is in all respects an unexceptional man as well as model officer. He neither swears, drinks, nor uses tobacco in any form.

Being but thirty-six years of age at this writing, he has to all appearance a long, honorable and useful life before him, although such a brilliant record as his is sufficient to crown any life, however protracted, as a grand and impressive success. His rank in the regular army is that of Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seventh Cavalry, of which regiment he is at present in command. He led the Black Hills expedition of 1874, accomplishing the trip to, and the reconnaissance of that hitherto unknown region and the return within the brief space of sixty days. His book, entitled "My Life on the Plains," and consisting of a series of letters to the Galaxy, is a work of thrilling interest.

Sifkins staked his all on the result of a game of euche the other night, and lost; throwing down the cards peevishly, he broke forth in the following pathetic strain: "Twas ever thus in childhood's hour, I've seen my fondest hopes take flight, and every time I played the left bower, some one took it with the right."

On the transfer of the army of the Potomac to the Peninsula, he was detailed for duty as an engineer, and assigned to the corps of General Sumner, when he laid out and superintended the construction of the earth works in the closest proximity to the enemy's lines at the siege of Yorktown. He served under General Hancock at the battle of Williamsburg, and was the first Union soldier to discover a ford across the Chickahominy, before which the army had been delayed for many days. He headed the stream across to the enemy's pickets. For this service he was brought to Gen. McClellan's notice, and while standing before him in his dripping clothes, he was assigned to the General's personal staff, and promoted from Second Lieutenant to the rank of Captain, and continued to serve in that capacity until McClellan was finally relieved from the command of the army, participating in all the battles fought under him. He was then ordered to join his regiment, reaching the army just as the battle of Chancellorsville was being fought. He remained with his company only on that day and the next, when Gen. Pleasanton, commanding the cavalry corps, detailed him as aid on his staff, and he participated in the numerous engagements fought by that officer until Hooker, in pursuit of Lee, had entered Pennsylvania and was relieved by Meade.

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