

Press and Dakotian
DAILY.

YANKTON, - DAKOTA,

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SIoux FALLS AND HER RAILROAD.

The public enterprise that is now attracting more attention than all others is the building of a railroad that shall accommodate the grain producing and lumber consuming region of southwestern Minnesota, and that section of Dakota lying contiguous thereto. It is an undoubted fact that the section alluded to stands in urgent need of improved facilities for reaching the great grain markets on the lakes, while it would be a decided stroke of economy to secure communication with the lumber manufacturing region of Minnesota. It is practically impossible to estimate the amount of money that would be annually saved to the inhabitants of the region referred to by the building of a railroad that would carry away their surplus produce and bring to them all the necessities of life which they are compelled to purchase. It is safe to say that 33 per cent. more than present rates would be realized to the producer for his marketable produce; and from 25 to 75 per cent. would be saved to him on nearly every article he purchases. But this is not all. With the present meagre facilities for converting the products of the industry of that section into money, there is no inducement to labor, and hence the growth and development of the country will be slow and tedious. A larger producing population could not be a benefit but a positive injury, because it would increase the product without correspondingly increasing its consumption. Under these circumstances, it is to the interest of those already inhabiting and cultivating the fertile prairies of Minnehaha and contiguous counties, to prevent the immigration of the farming class.

Thus it will be seen that if we study the interest of these pioneer farmers, we must recommend to the superintendent of immigration that he announce "no more farmers wanted," or we must encourage the building of a railroad into and through that section that will carry off the surplus and make profitable farming possible.

We are for the railroad every time. We do not want to see Dakota dwarfed. We wish to see her grow to her full stature and we are very anxious that her growth shall not be for a moment impeded, hence we advocate the building of this road as early a day as practicable.

The Press and Dakotian has already defined its position respecting the direction from which the road should come, and we are glad to know that our views correspond with those of nearly all intelligent men in the country to be benefited. While the north and south road reaching up from Sioux City might be a convenience, it could not be beneficial to anywhere near the same extent that an eastern road would be. To form a correct opinion of the relative value of the two roads to Sioux Falls it is necessary to look at the matter in this light. With a road running directly east or northeast, which would be the case with the Southern Minnesota or the St. Paul road, grain could be shipped from Sioux Falls at as low a rate as from Sioux City, hence it would be worth just as much at Sioux Falls as at Sioux City; but with a road running south from Sioux Falls to Sioux City, the Sioux valley farmer would be compelled to pay from 12 to 15 cents a bushel to get his grain into Sioux City, a point no nearer the great markets than Sioux Falls is. Now let the mathematician of the Independent figure up the actual loss this would entail upon the farmers not only of Minnehaha but adjacent counties who are to be interested in the new project. And while this useless tax of about 20 per cent. on grain shipped would come out of the farmer's pockets, a like useless tax on lumber and all needed supplies for household use, would have to be paid, which would annually aggregate to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Again, Sioux Falls would derive a great benefit from a direct eastern road while the Sioux City road would be a positive injury to her. By direct connection with St. Paul, the trade of the Sioux valley for 40, or 50 miles south as well as north of the Falls and an immense area on the west and northwest would be tributary to it; but a line running to Sioux City would drain at least one-half this trade toward the latter point.

Thus much respecting the interests of Sioux Falls in her first railroad project. In the opinion of this journal an eastern road would be cheaper if it cost a quarter

million than the southern road would be if it could be had for nothing. We are prepared to hear the accusation that Yankton has a selfish interest in this matter, and we see no impropriety in admitting the fact. Yankton would be largely benefitted by direct rail communication with St. Paul. No one disputes this, but this does not affect the correctness of our position with reference to the true interest of Sioux Falls and eastern Dakota generally. To them this matter is of the utmost and of lasting importance. Sioux Falls can be a giant or a pigmy; but involved in this question are still other interests of a hundred fold greater importance to the upper Sioux valley and adjacent country.

The Line of Succession to the Presidency.

New York Herald.
The death of Vice President Wilson excites much inquiry as to who would act as president in case the present incumbent of the office should die before the expiration of his term and until there should be a new election. The revised statutes settle the question as follows:
In case of removal, death, resignation or inability of both the president and vice president of the United States, the president of the senate, or if there is none, then the speaker of the house of representatives for the time being shall act as president until the disability is removed or a president elected.

Hon. Thomas W. Ferry, of Michigan, is now president pro tem, of the senate, and at the commencement of the next session will be entitled to call the senate to order and continue to act as president without the need of re-election. This is so because he was in the chair and adjourned the senate at the close of the last session. If the vice president had occupied the chair at the time of adjournment the senate would now be obliged to elect a presiding officer, instead of being at liberty to go into a new election or not, just as a majority of its members (or in effect, as a majority of the republican caucus) shall decide. Mr. Ferry was the choice of the last republican caucus by a majority of three. There is no provision made by the constitution or existing law for the contingency in regard to the presidential succession which might occur if the president and vice president should both die prior to the organization of a new house of representatives, and the senate be without a president pro tem, holding over from the previous session.

The question who should become president in the emergency of vacancies in all the four offices of president and vice president of the United States, president of the senate and speaker of the house, was, it appears, a subject of attempted congressional legislation in the excitement following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. The defects of the law of 1792 were, at that time as now, perceived. In view of a remote and improbable but possible contingency such as the law should cover it was proposed to amend the act of 1792 so as to provide that, in case of the four vacancies above specified, the chief justice of the United States, and after him the associate judges of the supreme court in the order of their seniority of appointment, should become president. A bill to this effect was proposed in congress. Indeed, some go so far as to assert that the bill passed both houses of congress and became a law, but there is no record of it to be found in the documents of congress for the past sixteen years. Even if it had been enacted, as is asserted, it would now be null and void for the reason that it was not codified into the last revised statutes of the United States, and being omitted therefrom would, under the law of 1873, stand repealed. There is no way now of supplying the defect of the law of 1792 other than by special act of congress declaring the line of succession to the presidency, and making it long enough to obviate the remotest probability of such an emergency as has been suggested by the death of Vice President Wilson.

Sunday Thoughts.

Heroes, like Fourth of July orations are often made to order. We are never more than half as miserable as we think we are. I would rather trust most men with my pocket-book than with a secret. It is more difficult to keep a friend than it is to reconcile an enemy. Success is too often the only real merit that can be found in a performance. Envy seems to be a disease that everybody has and everybody is ashamed of. If a man is only true to himself it will be very difficult for others to over-reach him. An affected fool is a great deal more uncomfortable to meet than a natural one. He who plays a poor hand well is entitled to more credit than he who wins with a good one. Weak men are the hardest kind to control. They have no more backbone than an angle-worm.

The most dangerous of all flattery is the very common kind that we bestow upon ourselves. Although love is blind it can't be fettered; it has enslaved thousands, but won't be enslaved itself. It is the intention that makes a thing good, bad or indifferent, without any regard to the result. Adversity puts weapons into a man's hands to fight back, while prosperity too often disarms him. Virtue and vice are so adroitly mingled in some constitutions that the man himself can't tell which is who. A success seems to be composed of three ingredients, to wit; good luck, energy and some more good luck. I don't care how cunning a man may be, he will find it is a great deal easier to cheat himself than it is other folks. Broken hearts are scarce anyhow, and there are more cures for them than most any complaint I know of. The man that undertakes to do two things at once will be pretty sure to spill one and slop over the other. Don't be discouraged if your children don't prove to be young miracles; plants of the slowest growth bear fruit the latest.

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