

The Bismarck Tribune.

BY LOUNSBERRY & JEWELL.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE.

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THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

Eight pages, containing a summary of the news of the week, both foreign and local, published every Friday, sent, postage paid, to any address for \$2.00; six months, \$1.25.

TO ADVERTISERS!

The DAILY TRIBUNE circulates in every town within one hundred miles of Bismarck reached by a daily mail, and is by far the best advertising medium in this part of the Northwest.

The WEEKLY TRIBUNE has a large and rapidly increasing circulation throughout the country, and is a desirable sheet through which to reach the farmers and residents of the small towns remote from railroad lines.

The general eastern agent of the TRIBUNE is A. F. Richardson, with headquarters at Room 65, Tribune Building, New York.

ILLUSTRATED EDITION.

THERE are about 5,000 acres of timber land in Burleigh county, and the Missouri is skirted with heavy timber through McLean county as well.

THE general manager of the Northern Pacific, upon information obtained from Duluth elevator men who received Missouri slope wheat, wrote agent Davidson at Bismarck, saying that the finest wheat received was from this region.

THE Missouri slope is well watered, creeks and rivers emptying into the Missouri every few miles on either side. The valleys of these streams are extremely fertile and afford excellent meadow lands. The table lands are best adapted to cereals.

THE Bismarck land district covers over half that portion of Dakota north of the 46th parallel, and contains more excellent land still vacant and subject to entry than any other district in the United States. The district comprises over 45,000 square miles.

It can be truly said that Bismarck is outside of the blizzard belt. While the late storms were raging with great fury both up and down the line, we were favored here with comparatively pleasant weather. But one slight blow has struck us this winter, and its severity was scarcely worthy of mention.

THE soil on the up-lands on the Missouri slope is an accumulation of vegetable and mineral matter from eight inches to five feet deep, resting upon a drift formation from thirty to fifty feet deep, every foot of which is richer in the elements of soil which makes farming successful, and therefore more profitable than the best land in New England.

ALONG the Missouri, Hart, Knife, Cannon Ball and Little Missouri rivers, the country is decidedly rolling, though not mountainous in any of its parts. The bottom lands along the Missouri are generally from a half a mile to twelve miles wide, and here the timber abounds. The table lands, however, are the best for grazing and grain, as the bottoms are formed by river deposits, making magnificent hay meadow.

A LARGE number of papers throughout the east have taken occasion to have oceans of sport over a recently published article in the TRIBUNE, in which we stated that Mr. Jones, living near Bismarck, struck coal while excavating a cellar for his house, and that when his fires need replenishing he simply goes down in the cellar, picks loose what coal he needs and carries it up. The story is true in every particular. And in this connection we may say that hundreds of families all over the land are living so near excellent outcroppings of good coal that it is almost a waste of time to hitch up a wagon to transport it to the door. Our locality is especially blessed with an abundance of excellent fuel, which can be secured with the most trifling labor. The scarcity of timber is not felt in the least.

THE lands contiguous to the Missouri river possess one invaluable advantage over those to the eastward of us in the fact that they are of a rolling nature, and dry out ready for seeding much earlier than the lands which lie flat and level. Our seeding season is always at least two weeks earlier than that of the Red river valley, and this gain of time enables us to plant more diversified crops than our neighbors east of us can do. When the farmers of the Red river and other valleys east of us begin their seeding in the spring, the grain in this locality is well out of the ground. Another advantage which redounds to the benefit of the settler is the fact that we have none of the large farms so common elsewhere over the territory. Where one settler in other localities owns and operates miles and miles of territory, our country is cut up into smaller farms and hence is far more thickly populated by the thrifty settlers whose labors and numbers bring us power and prosperity. One hundred and sixty acres is here regarded as a farm of ample proportions for any one settler, while in some localities there are scopes of country embracing many thousands of acres owned and operated by one person, who thus monopolizes the land to the debarment of others who would, if the land were on the market, come in and settle and build up the locality. This system of monopoly is a drawback to the country, and a

great hindrance to the prosperity of every locality in which it is practiced. Population brings power and thrift, and a scope of country which is cut up into small farms, each one of which is the home of a family, is always much farther advanced along the path which leads to power and greatness than is a portion of country where a few persons own and operate all the land. This system of small farming is one of which Burleigh and adjacent counties always boast with pride and satisfaction. The amount of ground under cultivation is fully as great as in the districts where large farming is practiced, the amount of grain raised is equally as great, and the increased population gives a prosperity unknown in other localities referred to.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

So many questions are asked by people in the east regarding Dakota, the following article has suggested itself:

Can I get government land near Bismarck?

Yes, within 20 miles northeast and same distance southeast; also west the same distance. You cannot make your selections in advance of your arrival. You can find out by correspondence what localities or townships have vacant land in them the date your letter is received.

What do I have to do when I arrive at Bismarck looking for gov't lands?

Go directly to the U. S. land office, call for the register, J. A. Rea, and ask him for a plat of a good township in Emmons, Burleigh, McLean, Mercer or Morton counties. That plat will show what is vacant and what is taken. Then look up the stage office or hire a team and drive directly to that township with the plat in hand. Look over several pieces, marking first, second and third choice. Return to the land office, inquire if those pieces are still vacant, and if they are decide which one you will take, go to a lawyer, get your papers made out for \$2, and present them to the register. You will then get a receipt for the government fees you pay and a description of the land you have entered.

How's the climate in winter?

It is cold, but not worse than it is in New York, and not half as disagreeable as it is in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It seldom thaws and never rains. It is bright, crisp and invigorating. The snow is not heavy; Atmosphere dry.

What is the surface of the country?

Rolling prairie as a rule, and occasionally level stretches. It is well adapted to the highest agriculture.

When do you plow?

The breaking season is from the middle of April to the middle of July. Breaking should be done while the grass is growing. When it begins to die in July it is time to quit.

When do you harvest?

In August. The harvest season is usually dry, making it possible to secure our No. 1 hard wheat in the best shape.

How soon do you have to get on your land after you take it?

Within six months, but the homestead law may be amended, extending the time to twelve months, providing the settler builds a good house and does some plowing during that time.

How much wheat to the acre can I raise?

From eighteen to thirty bushels, if you are a good farmer. The man who does his work well will get the best crop.

What do a yoke of oxen cost?

Good yoke, \$200.

What is the cost of a pair of good horses, harnessed and ready to hitch to a wagon?

About \$400.

What is the price of fuel?

Lignite coal at Sims, where it is mined, \$2.50 per ton; at other points, \$3, \$4 and \$5 per ton, according to distance from mines. You can find coal most anywhere in this region. Lignite makes a good fire and is extensively used. Wood is from \$1.50 to \$5 per cord.

How can I get most reliable information?

By subscribing for a live newspaper. Can I get a crop the first year?

Not a very good one. This soil should not be cultivated until the second season. The sod should have time to rot in its own way.

Have you good water?

Our water is good. Very little complaint is ever heard.

When do you have your rains in Dakota?

In April, May and June the principal rains fall. It is in these months we need moisture to make the first plowing of prairie sod easy and the wheat, oats, barley and vegetable crops grow.

What does it cost at the land office to enter a homestead?

Eighteen dollars.

Does the Missouri river cause lower freight rates?

It does.

Can I reach points up and down river from Bismarck by boat?

Yes, easily, and get your freight carried cheaply.

Have you churches and schools?

Plenty of them.

Is there a stage line from Aberdeen to Bismarck?

No, but we need one bad. It would pay.

Can you raise barley?

Yes, and we do. No better country in the world. More ought to raise it. It is both profitable and sure.

What does a farm hand get per month?

Thirty dollars and found.

What is a preemption?

A piece of land, 160 acres more or less that a settler takes from the government upon the condition that he improves and lives on it for not less than six months, before acquiring title. He can hold it however, for thirty-three months

if he see fit before paying for it. This law is most certain of being repealed by the present congress. Price per acre within forty miles of the railroad \$2.50 per acre; beyond that limit \$1.25 per acre.

Describe a blizzard?

It is a lively wind full of snow, more or less uncomfortable as snow storms always are. It is damaging too if the traveler is unprepared to wrestle with it.

When do you sow wheat?

As soon as the frost is out of the ground to the depth of two or three inches.

What can I build a comfortable house for?

From \$200 to \$600 according to the size.

What does a fair milch cow cost?

From thirty-five to fifty dollars.

Is your country a good cattle country?

One of the very best, in our opinion a man who goes into stock on a moderate

scale will do better than any other fellow in his line. Does produce bring good figures? First class. Our farmers have not yet got very deep into butter, eggs, poultry etc. The farmers who will make specialties of this kind of stuff, will make a nice thing. By all means come and go to raising chickens, and making good butter. How is the land on the Missouri north of Bismarck? Excellent. Paid Woods has settlers who have lived there for many years--before a railroad was built in Dakota, and they are loud in their praises of the country. McLean county, north of Burleigh is probably the most fertile region in Dakota. The soil is heavy and the crops for the past three years speak for themselves. Only a small portion of the county is yet settled. There is room for thousands of settlers. Washburn is the county seat, and a live town it is, to health, and the eye sparkles with a joyous brilliancy near which disease can never exist. When one leaves his house in the morning he cannot but pause a moment and drink in the life-prolonging air as the weary traveler allays his thirst at the bubbling, crystal spring, and as the lungs expand with the exhilarating atmosphere the eye sparkles and every nerve in the body quivers with renewed delight. The merry shouts and laughter of our children as they draw their sleds about the streets, or scamper here and there in childish sports, tell us that their little bodies know not the presence of disease or pain. Ladies can often be seen crossing a street with a lively, double-quick skip, and it is not because they are in a hurry, but because they feel bright and joyous and full of the vigor of health and are really running before they know it. Their sparkling eyes, cheeks tinged with the ruddy glow of health and agile movements, every one of which indicates that they know not the meaning of the word disease, attract the attention of strangers and tell them of the wonders of the climate with which our favored land is blessed. Dakota is one grand sanitarium in which the only medicines required are prepared in Nature's wondrous laboratory and dealt out to all with generous hand. It is an asylum for the sick and pain-racked people of the world where they can regain their lost health and build up their broken constitutions and skeletonized forms into perfect pictures of strong and healthful men and women. The only price charged for this wonderful healing balm is imposed by the railway companies which bring you here; the only prescription the Great Physician gives is found in every passing breeze; the only instruction given the patient is to hold up the head, throw back the shoulders and drink to the fill of the curative air.

Dakota Fuel.

In giving eastern people an idea of the advantages offered by Dakota, we have no disposition to mislead them. We are free to admit therefore, that disadvantages exist. Among these, we cannot overlook the fact of the scarcity of wood, and the consequent fact that fuel is dear. Hard coal is generally about \$13.00 per ton, but sometimes a little lower, and sometimes a little higher; soft coal, from \$7 to \$9; and wood from \$6 to \$9--Dakota Outlook, Yankton, D. T.

The above is true of all south Dakota and of most parts of north Dakota but a decided exception must be made in favor of the Bismarck land district in portions of which an abundance of native coal is found.

The emigrant seeking a new prairie home cannot over-estimate the importance of the fuel question. One hundred and sixty acres in this vicinity where good coal can be mined or where it can be bought for \$3.50 a ton, are worth twice as much as the same quality of land in central, southern or eastern Dakota, where coal is not found and where other fuel is exceedingly scarce. It is a well known fact that in the immediate vicinity of Bismarck and west of the river several coal mines are being profitably worked and new ones discovered almost every day. The report of the commissioner of the land office for the year 1883 shows that the Bismarck land office is the only one in the United States where entries of coal land were made. The agricultural land in this district is mostly gently rolling prairie with many streams of living water tributary to the Missouri



MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK BLOCK.

river, and in this district there may be found the best agricultural and grazing land remaining in the unoccupied public domain. Good water, cheap and inexhaustible fuel and rich lands are the inheritance that the Bismarck land district offers the home seeker. No other land district in the United States can offer the three inducements of good land, good water and good coal. The home seeker should think of this.

The cut on this page represents the new Merchant's National bank of Bismarck, built particularly for banking purposes, and one of the finest and most complete banking institutions in the northwest. This bank will open its doors for business on the 1st day of April, with a cash capital of \$100,000. The officers and board of directors are made up of conservative men of large business experience, and the cashier, Mr. Edward McMahon, formerly of Jefferson, Wis., brings to the bank the experience of an ordinary life time in the banking business. The building is of solid brick, heated by steam, and the interior is finished in cherry. The banking room is complete in every detail and is furnished with fire and burglar proof vaults and safes of the Diobald make, and of the same pattern and security as the safes of the first National Bank of Chicago. The new bank is considered one of the most substantial institutions of the Capital city, and as a financial acquisition is looked upon with pride by every citizen. A general banking business will be transacted and foreign exchange bought and sold. Collections will be made at all accessible points and promptly remitted for, and accounts of banks, bankers, merchants and others will be received on favorable terms. The block contains a number of stores and elegant suites of rooms designed especially for office purposes, which will be for rent April 1st.

Paradise Found.

Bismarck, the center of the universe, the pivot of the world and the capital of Dakota. If you want to find the lost paradise come to Bismarck and select a home in the land of golden grain. Choose where you will, you cannot find a country more favored with luxuriant loveliness or that will yield greater dividends upon your investment. For further particulars inquire of O. W. BENNETT, Dealer, in Dakota Dirt, Bismarck.

IF YOU want property sold quick, list it with O. W. Bennett.

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The best section, one quarter cropped three years, 5 1/2 miles east of Bismarck. Temporary house, barn, granary, well. Refer to Col. C. A. Lounsberry, Col. Wm. Thompson, Robt. Macnider, John A. Rea, Register United States Land Office, Bismarck.

J. F. WALLACE, Agent, Bismarck, Capital of Dakota.

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