

FOLEY TELLS TRAGIC DEATH OF OLD FORT POSTMASTER

Recalls Other Events at Army Post During Late Eighties

Medora, Feb. 7.—In my last letter, mention was made of the Lincoln postmaster. This man remained at Lincoln until the spring of 1887, when a post officer inspector came to inspect the office; when it was found that C had been paying himself a salary at the rate of one thousand dollars per year from cancellations. This was considered large for the number of residents. The inspector found, in looking over the accounts, that no record of cancellations had been kept. C was a man who stood high with the business men of Mandan where he was a bank director, and the owner of town property. While he was not, to my recollection arrested, he must have anticipated arrest or disgrace, for he at once disappeared and his body was afterwards found in the Missouri. It was reported that when the body was covered it was discovered that he was neither a man nor a woman.

While he was trying to recover the stolen money he offered a reward to any one who might give information, but when the money was recovered he gave the party who hunted up the evidence a five cent cigar; and a poor one at that. The day C was taken to the place where the money had been hidden, some one shot a fine cow belonging to the guide. So the party who hunted up the evidence was out a forty dollar cow, but ahead a five cent cigar.

During a conversation with the inspector he informed the writer that the only evidence against C was his failure to keep a cancellation record; and that all which the Government could have done would be to relieve him as postmaster.

All companies at Lincoln planted gardens and raised great quantities of vegetables, and melons of all kinds. The year '79 showed what the soil of North Dakota would produce when there was sufficient moisture; and this was one of the "Fat" years that Joseph described in Egypt many years ago.

Doctor Wolverton and Captain Poland were chicken fanciers and introduced to the West side the Plymouth stock and White Brams. In the early eighties there were few chickens in Morton county, excepting those at Lincoln. Poland introduced fine seed potatoes and many excellent vegetables. Many of the early settlers received their seed potatoes from the post gardens.

The country around Bismarck had the reputation of a great farming country; but farming was in its infancy in the year 1875. Henry Suttle on the East side and Ella Boley on the West side were among the early farmers of the Slope country.

Late in the fall of this year orders were received for the purchase of large quantities of onions and potatoes for the new posts of the far north; the object of the government was to make the fur-chasers near where grown to make a market for the produce and to save transportation. The Major was the one whose duty it was to make the purchases. He would visit Bismarck daily but never appeared to secure the goods and get them ready for shipment. One trouble was that the quantities of goods wanted were not in the country. The merchants did not want to miss the sale so they ordered them by wire, shipped from Saint Paul. It was suggested to the Major that as the boating season was nearly over haste must be made and that he better take me with him to Bismarck to assist.

We drove to Bismarck in a small phaeton which had been the property of Miss Ella Sturges, now Mrs. Pennington. On arrival in Bismarck it was found that the Major had engaged goods from various merchants, but none were ready for shipment. We put in two days getting the goods ready. Late the second day as we were about leaving for the

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If the Indians were once out of sight we would be surely lost. We were just outside of what was known as the "timber line" and this timber the Indians wanted to make before dark. For they knew once they were in sight of the timber, to Griffin the road was plain. When in sight of the timber which was nearly dark one Indian rode back and said "Catch him timber" and away he went at a rapid gallop. Choisy asked "What does he mean by 'Catch him timber'?" and I told him the trail to Griffin was just inside the edge of the timber and that I well knew where we were, he had little confidence in me as a guide for we did not find the road as soon as I expected, and the farther we went into the timber the more he doubted my ability to find the road, and when we did find it he would not believe that I knew where I was. It was some few miles to Griffin and when we reached the crossing of the Clear Fork, I asked him if he knew where he was. He replied "no, nor do I believe you do." While the horses were drinking the bugle for 3 o'clock roll sounded. I asked him: "Do you believe now?" His answer was: "Why did the Indians leave us?" I told him they were human like ourselves and wanted to see their families, which they would not have done that night had we stopped at Cooper.

After this digression I will proceed. The road reached Sentinel Butte by fall and this was the end of the track for the winter. Lieutenant William English, 15th Infantry, with a small detachment of troops were stationed there to receive and forward such government supplies as might reach the place.

There was established this year a cantonment at Glendive, which was commanded by Captain C. H. Greene and a detachment of his regiment, the 15th Infantry. This cantonment was abandoned in the fall of 1882, and the troops came to Lincoln.

This year Col. Otis was advised by a young physician at the post that he was suffering from diabetes. Otis was a very large man and a great eater and consumed large quantities of liquids, though not intoxicating. He thought as he had an incurable disease he better leave the post and prepare for the future. He asked for sick leave. To secure which the certificate of Post Surgeon Wolverton was necessary. Wolverton did not believe he had the diabetes and thought his symptoms were all the cause of quantities of food and drink taken. Post Chaplain Jackson interceded with Wolverton to get his signature to the certificate on the diagnosis of the younger physician. This Wolverton did and Otis went to Notre Dame, Indiana, where he spent nearly a year with the Brotherhood and came back a well man. Oh ye of little faith.

JAMES W. FOLEY.

GORE SUIT TO COME TO TRIAL

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Feb. 9.—The \$50,000 suit brought by Mrs. Annie Bond against United States Senator Thomas P. Gore, the "blind man eloquent," is docketed to come up for trial in the district court here this week. Few cases in the annals of the Oklahoma courts have attracted more attention than has this suit. Mrs. Bond alleges defamation of character, through an attack she alleged Senator Gore made on her in Washington last March. In depositions made before a justice recently, Mrs. Bond gave the testimony which forms the basis of her action. She testified that she went to Washington last March, taking the references of her husband, Julian B. Bond, who was an applicant for the office of internal revenue collector for the Oklahoma district. Her suit arises from alleged occurrences connected with the interviews with Senator Gore over the appointment. It is understood that Senator Gore will put in a vigorous defense to the charges made against him and will endeavor to show that the whole affair is a plot hatched by his political enemies to prevent his re-election to the senate.

The addition of Toronto and Erie to the Canadian league circuit will place that organization in Class B. The total population of the league circuit as now formed is close to 900,000.

Dave Altizer has decided to cast his lot with the Federals. As Davey was once a private in Uncle Sam's army, he is sweet on any kind of old war.

SETTLERS PEPLACING WISCONSIN LUMBERMEN

TIMBER LANDS WHICH HAVE BEEN CUT OVER ARE NOW BEING CONVERTED INTO FARMS AND FORMER HARDWOOD AREAS OFFERED FOR SALE AS TILLABLE SOIL

By Elmer E. Grummer, Vice Pres. Wisconsin Advancement Assn.

No state in the Union was ever better timbered than the State of Wisconsin, and no state ever had a more diversified crop of timber, and the lumbermen who purchased lands years ago harvested two crops of timber from the same land. It has now been several years since there was very much pine in the State of Wisconsin, but when the pine had been practically removed hard woods came into the market, so that as far as the lumber-business in the state was concerned there never was any lull, as when they had finished the first crop of pine they then were ready for the second crop of hard wood.

Now, the reason why I say two crops is that, while the hard wood was there, at the time the pine was it was of no value and up to fifteen years ago was not considered of any real value, by the lumbermen, as the writer personally knows of several tracts of excellent hard wood land which were sold by some of the largest lumber dealers in Wisconsin for \$1 per acre, with the hard wood still on the land, and these same lumbermen have since purchased the same land back at a price in the neighborhood of \$25 per acre.

Hard Wood Timber Scarce.

I noticed an article the other day that stated that the lumbermen were as wise as "Solomon" but I think the above statement shows changed conditions that even they cannot keep tab on, but today even hard wood timber is getting to be a thing of the past in our great state and the so-called lumberjack is looking for another location where to continue his work.

A few of them in the past years obtained homesteads of a quarter-section from the government and became "hay farmers." They would not keep any stock, as in the winter time it would necessitate their staying on the farm and would not allow them to follow their vocation of lumberjacking.

With the passing of the lumbermen from the state the lumberjack has sold out his little homestead and practical farmers from other states and southern Wisconsin have succeeded him. The question is often asked, "Why is there so much vacant land in the State of Wisconsin so near such good markets?"

Opposed to Settlers.

The answer to this question is that very little acreage in northern Wisconsin has, until recently, ever been placed on the market to the actual settler as no lumberman cared to sell to settlers in among his lumber land, as they found from experience that the settler in clearing his lands sometimes started fires which spread and destroyed his adjoining timber.

Then again, settlers were sometimes very unreasonable about letting companies haul logs across their land. The settlers meant schools and new roads, all of which meant more taxes, and the tax proposition was one which the lumber-

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Buy Land Readily.

It is no trouble to get people on this kind of land when they once find out about it. For example, The Murphy Lumber Company of Green Bay owned a large acreage in Forest County for years and did not sell one acre to any settler. Five years ago they sold out their holdings to a large company and that company placed the land on the market three years ago, and during the last three years have sold to over 300 people, and there are now about 175 new houses on this tract, all on forty or eighty-acre farms.

Eighty acres, however, is the popular farm in Wisconsin at the present time, as with diversified farming a farmer finds he cannot handle more than eighty acres while thirty years or more ago, if a man wanted a farm he always bought a quarter section (160 acres). Many of the foremen who are buying farms in Wisconsin purchase only forty-acre tracts. They generally have large families and through the raising of root crops and garden truck they make as much money off a few acres as some do on a very large acreage of hay or grain, but it, of course, takes more labor.

Few Companies Operating.

But to return to the lumbermen. At the present time there are but very few lumber companies operating in the state. Several went out of business the last year. A great many of these have disposed of their entire acreage of cut over

lands to parties who have placed it on the market to the actual settler.

There has been over one-half million acres of land sold in Wisconsin during the last few months, some on account of the lumbermen closing up their affairs, while others have changed their tactics and are now offering their lands for sale to actual settlers.

The Land, Log and Lumber Company of Wausau has disposed of about 50,000 acres.

The Merrill Lumber Company of Tomahawk has disposed of its large holdings.

The White River Lumber Company last year sold 60,000 acres in Bayfield County. This tract is now being sold to settlers.

Many other companies have sold large acreages.

Make Selling Contracts.

Then there are lumber companies, such as the Conroy Lumber Company of Marshfield, Foster-Mueller Company of Hiles and N. Ludington Company of Marinette, that have entered into selling contract with land dealers, so that their lands are now all on the market to actual settlers, and all these changes have taken place within the last few months.

With such transfers of large acreages, no better proof of the "passing of the lumbermen" in the great State of Wisconsin can be found. It is also safe to pre-

WOMAN DELIVERS CONVOCATION ADDRESS.

Iowa City, Ia., Feb. 9.—At the fifty-eighth convocation exercises of the State University of Iowa today the address to the graduates was delivered by Mrs. Anna M. Klingenhagen, dean of the woman's school of the university. It was the first time in the history of the university that the honor of delivering the convocation address was bestowed upon a woman.

WISCONSIN ROAD SCHOOL.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 9.—The third annual road school, conducted under the auspices of the Wisconsin Highway commission opened in this city today and will be conducted until Saturday. The program for the meeting has been especially arranged to meet the practical problems which present themselves to the county highway commissioner and foreman. In connection with the meeting there is an elaborate exhibition of road-making machinery.

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