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PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

THE NEEDS OF THE FIRE COMPANY AND THE PEOPLE.

The Council in Favor of Increased Protection—Water Works Thought to be a Feasible Scheme—The Burned out at Business.

WHAT THE FIREMEN WANT.
At last there is a movement on foot to give Bismarck complete fire protection. The citizens, to the number of twenty-five or more, met at the City Hall Friday evening for the purpose of devising some means to accomplish this end. Jas. A. Emmons was elected chairman and C. A. Lounsberry, secretary. Ed. Sloan, the efficient foreman of the fire company, stated the necessities of the company and showed that a tank and ten barrels of water would have saved Dan Eisenberg's building in the recent fire. The company needs, Mr Sloan said, a ten barrel tank wagon, and means of transportation in order to provide at least two charges for the chemical engine; they needed steel hooks, chains and roof ladders; they need an alarm and a watchman in constant charge of the engine night and day. He recommended the purchase of a steam fire engine at a cost of \$2,500.

SYMPATHY WANTED.
David Stewart, secretary of the fire company, said the firemen were also in need of more sympathy and greater support from citizens owning property, of the business men in town, he did not recall the name of but one who has ever attended the meetings of the company. The members of the company were of our best citizens; they are public spirited and ready, of course, to make any sacrifice, but they could work with more heart if those who have most at stake would show greater interest. At Bly's fire the clothes on the backs of two firemen, Sloan and Mayock, were burned and none ever asked if they could be of service to them in securing new suits. Sympathy even, being wanting, he wondered what incentive men had to work. Another fireman he mentioned who will be a cripple for months perhaps and yet none have expressed any sympathy for him or offered relief. He thought it unfair to leave the matter of relief to the company when the citizens generally were most interested. It was enough to ask them to give their time. He agreed with all. Mr Sloan said in relation to the

NEEDS OF THE COMPANY
and said more hose was needed. The chemicals used are destructive and the hose in use is liable to fail any moment. He urged the importance of some provision for water—if only a tank, and showed that the Eisenberg building would have been saved had the city been provided with a single tank of ten barrels of water. The city had provided a wagon but no tank—a bell for alarm but it was not put up, but lay in the depot for want of funds to pay the freight. The city was furnished buckets but no means of transportation for them. They were not disposed to grumble about the past but urged action for the future.

EX-MAYOR McLEAN
urged the advantage of a special tax to provide all of the means necessary for security against fire. He did not care whether the city had the right or not. He took the Jackson view that they should do it any way. He urged a special tax of ten or twelve hundred dollars, or whatever sum might be necessary. He urged that a good and true man should have constant charge of the engine and other property of the fire company—one who could and would give bonds for its safety. He urged provision for water and that in case of fire the first man at the engine house with a team should be given fifteen dollars and the second ten dollars. He urged the importance of steel hooks and chains, for iron hooks are little better than lead and the ropes are of no use, and he moved that a special tax be levied to provide all of these things.

ALDERMAN FISHER
stated the difficulties in the way of securing the things needed. That the charter limited the taxes to four mills and this was all spent before levied and is not collected yet. For one he was ready to do anything that can be done. The council had provided everything asked by the fire company excepting a tank and had spent eight or nine hundred dollars at the last meeting of the council, but the council can't hire help or purchase supplies without means. Alderman Marsh favored immediate action.

MAJ. WALKER
was anxious to learn the views of the city council. If a majority agreed with Alderman Fisher nothing could be done except to fight the fire when it comes with the best means at their command.

Mr Stewart believed the council had done all they were authorized to do without a vote of the people and he therefore moved that the city council be requested to submit to the people a proposition to issue bonds for the purpose of providing suitable fire protection. This was adopted and on motion of Maj. Walker a committee of five was appointed to make estimates and report to the council at its

next meeting. The chair appointed Maj. Walker, Wm. Thurston, Wm. Hollembaek, John A. McLean and J. P. Dunn such committee.

Mr. Lounsberry moved that a committee consisting of W. B. Watson, Robt. Macnider and Geo. H. Fairchild be appointed to inquire if city ten per cent. bonds

AUTHORIZED BY A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE to the extent of \$1,500 to \$3,000 could be negotiated in order to secure the things needed. The meeting then adjourned.

The city council met Monday evening and took further steps toward fire protection. They have employed a competent man, E. Sloan, to take charge of the engine and house; have purchased one of Dunkleberg's iron tanks which will be kept full of water all of the time and ready for business and have ordered everything that is believed to be needed. They also received a proposition from the Bismarck Reservoir and Water Works Company to put in a system of water works that would give complete protection and give water for all purposes if the council will grant the right to do so and aid to a limited extent. The council now have the matter under advisement and will probably act upon it on Monday evening.

AFTER THE FIRE.
Dan Eisenberg has fixed up a temporary store in the rear of Eppinger's clothing house, Fourth street, and has quite a cozy place. He has not yet decided what kind of a building he will erect on the old site, but he will probably wait until spring and build of brick.

J. H. Marshall is comfortably located in the 7th Cavalry saloon building on Fourth street, awaiting the completion of his new building.

Chas. Kupitz has a good place next to Comford & Molloy's livery stable on Fourth street, and is doing as well as ever, as he deserves.

Frank Geist will soon occupy his old stand in a new building larger than the one burned and with a large and first-class assortment of goods. Good grit, Frank. Busse & Smith will start up again in the restaurant business if the parties owning the lots can be induced to build immediately.

John A. Stoyell has the frame up for his office and another office adjoining.

Elder & Co. are occupying the building corner of Fourth and Meigs streets until Griffin completes their new building.

D. I. Bailey & Co's office is in Yegen's bakery. They are settling up their accounts and will soon start in business again.

Malloy Bros. have the Western House in good order again and the day of the fire accommodated eighty-two people for supper and lodging.

Christmas Tree.

The Christmas festivities of the M. E. Sunday school were held in the school house on Christmas eve. The room was well filled with happy children and visitors, and thanks to the liberality of the warm-hearted people of Bismarck, the display of presents was unusually fine. The exercises were short but interesting. The best feature of the entertainment was the unusually fine zithra playing of Mr Geist. After the distribution of gifts all joined in singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and were dismissed with the benediction. Col. Bull, as a manager and a worker, is more than a success.

A Misnomer and a Fraud.

Not the Young Man-not-Afraid-of-His-Whisky but the name applied to him for he never took a drink of intoxicating liquors in his life. Besides, though liquor is sold in one end of the building in which he has a large interest, that is atoned for by the free use of the hall above for the red ribbon club meetings while the water works company has its meeting in the back room. So if anybody should fall on Jimmy's whisky Col. Bull is on hand to save them and the water works people to supply a milder fluid.

Stamp Your Letters.

For nearly four years the postmaster at Bismarck has stamped, at his own expense, about all of the letters deposited in the office without stamps. So many of them, however, come in the same handwriting that it is getting monotonous, and though still disposed to feel and act kindly toward that portion of the public which is eternally blundering, hereafter letters deposited for mailing without stamps will be sent to the Dead Letter office.

Not Old Fogies.

Speaking of the Northwestern Stage Company, the *Deadwood Times* says:—"They are the owners of the best stage and express lines running into the Hills, and have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in this business, when the outcome was unascertained. They are the principal owners of the first silver mine in the Hills and one of the best in the world."

The Weather.

The thermometer reached 33 degrees below zero Tuesday night as shown by the signal office records. The ordinary mercury thermometers registered all degrees of cold. Some 40 below, some 48 and some an inch and a half below 48. The thermometer on the hill at Ft. Lincoln registered 42 below. The mean thermometer at Bismarck as registered by the Signal Office for the past week was 15° below zero.

COL. THOMPSON'S THEORY.

CAUSE OF THE INCREASE IN THE FALL OF RAIN AND SNOW.

The Causes of Rain and the Electrical Currents—Railroads and Telegraph Wires Conducive to the Increased Rainfall.

A PHILOSOPHICAL IDEA.
Rhapsodists who are well housed, surrounded with all the comforts of life, enjoying good health and blessed with a cheerful poetic disposition had, last week, an abundance of reason to exclaim, "Oh, the beautiful snow! Not so with the poor, the destitute of fuel, the outdoor laborer, the teamster, the hungry and the sick. To the unfortunate and needy such a snow storm is a terrible calamity; while to the fortunate and well supplied it brings no terror and may be regarded as a source of immediate pleasure and of ultimate advantage to the whole country. To the latter the wind howls horribly; the cold penetrates pinchingly and hunger hinders all hopes of happiness while the former mingles the jingling of sleigh bells with the whistling wind or drowns its roar by the eloquence of the lecture room, the music of an orchestra or the potency of the flowing bowl; his robes of fur and well filled stoves protect him from the cold, and oyster stews and relished dishes leave no room for hungry cravings.

This unprecedented snow storm is an additional evidence of the fact that settlement and cultivation increases the rainfall and improves the climate of all prairie countries. I have heretofore adverted to some of the reasons for this increase which is becoming more and more palpable here every year. I have mentioned the prevention of prairie fires, as standing grass radiates heat, produces cold and precipitates the atmospheric moisture in the shape of dew, hoar frost, rainfall or snow storms, while the old grass holds the snow from drifting; prevents the dry winds from sucking up the superficial moisture and contributes greatly to the retention of the water precipitated. I have mentioned prairie breaking as a means of letting the water soak into the ground and become localized, instead of running down the Missouri or being evaporated and carried by the winds to water other states. Tree culture has been advocated as a source of increased rainfall and a means of localizing water.

EFFECT OF RAILROADS.
Railroads and their operation are among the greatest sources of increased rainfall in countries reputed arid. In the first place they contribute powerfully to the production of all the above mentioned causes. Secondly, the continuous iron rail created by its present "fish-bar" fastening is a powerful electric conductor connected with the entire railroad system of North America and on that account becomes a new and wonderful means of changing the electrical condition of the country into which it penetrates. That electricity and rainfall are intimately associated everybody knows, but how does the former produce or increase the latter? I will tell you how it may do so. It is a fact which most people have observed, that in the great sea of atmosphere floating above us, there are different currents moving in different directions at different heights; that these currents are separate, well defined and distinct from each other and remain so for several days or weeks without any change or commingling whatever. Some of these currents are warm and full of watery vapor, others are cold and dry, each characterized by the thermal condition of its source. Now to produce rain all that is necessary is to bring a hot and cold current into contact and make them commingle. This reduces the temperature of the vapor bearing current, condenses the vapor, forms clouds and precipitate the water in the shape of rain. Electricity is either positive or negative, and all matter is charged either one way or the other and in every conceivable degree. If any two bodies are either positively or negatively charged they will resist each other in proportion to their electric condition. If the one is positively charged and the other negatively they will attract each other with a similar force. Now it is plain that if the two currents necessary for the

PRODUCTION OF RAIN,
both happen to be positively charged, which in this country is generally the case, they must resist each other and prevent any contact or commingling until an electrical change is produced or some other prevailing power introduced to overcome the electrical antagonism. A body positively charged becomes negative when it has given off or dispensed with its positive electricity. To effect this proper conductors must be introduced where they do not naturally exist. Dry air and dry ground are non-conductors and have a tendency to perpetuate an existing electrical condition of the current immediately above us; while lightning-rods, forest trees, growing vegetables, church-steeple, a wet atmosphere or a wet ground are good conductors. All conductors are valueless unless they terminate in a moist or wet portion of the earth which is the great reservoir into which all positive electricity is conducted from

the atmosphere. During much of the year in this and all the semi-arid prairie country the earth and lower portion of the air are so dry as to neither conduct or absorb electricity; but the introduction of railroads, with their numerous sidetracks and switches, has furnished a means of drawing off and conducting away to more moist countries enough electricity from the lower current to render it negative and attractive to the current above, and thus producing rain and snow. I have no doubt that these powerful artificial conductors have already changed our climate along the Northern Pacific railroad and that the same effect will follow railroad construction everywhere in the great Northwest. The shrill whistle of the locomotive and the deep rumbling of the running cars are another prolific source of commingling currents. Heavy cannonading, whether in battle or at celebrations, produces copious rainfall simply because it agitates and stirs up all the currents above and around it to such an extent as to inaugurate and produce a commingling which results in the precipitation of the atmospheric vapor. The operation of railroads produce a similar effect. W. T.

FORT BUFORD.

As Seen by the "Tribune's" Special Correspondent.

FORT BUFORD, D. T., Dec. 11.—Eight below—plenty of snow—leath riding all the go—beautiful, beautiful—stop her! The continued absence of the Indians from this vicinity affords our amateur sportsmen—of which some there be many my lord!—great pleasure as game of all kinds is abundant in this vicinity both on the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. Everybody and his uncle and his etc., can now take a tramp to the timber and by playing away at random make a very fair bag. The old cry again is heard of ammunition trading to Indians at the military posts in this vicinity. As usual it commences from the interior department and one would naturally suppose that there were no villages, towns or hamlets in the great northwest where articles of this ilk could be procured by enterprising Yankees and by them transported a short distance comparatively speaking, to some arid and secluded spot where their to-kan can easily be disposed of. Where there's a will there's a way, is a trite remark, but the largest kind of a will buds it hard to get around the strict orders rigidly enforced at these military posts, concerning trade in contraband goods to Indians. Last summer at some point on the river, I did not now call to my mind where, a stiff was found moored to the bank with a quiet stock of liquor and ammunition on board and no proprietor in sight. Indeed, it is said that up to this date none has ever appeared to claim the property. That cargo did not come from a military post, and while cross country is not at all there is no need of talking the military so persistently. Pharmacia Thomas and his assistants, Mr. B. Reid, have returned from the upper country and are now quietly resting at Buford prior to an overland trip to Bismarck. The retirement of Lieut. Bronson, of the Sixth Infantry, promotes Lieut. Jacob, Jr., who will probably go to "G" Co. at Lincoln. The new barracks are already in an advanced stage of completion and Capt. Penney is now busy moving the kitchens from their former site near the old, to the new buildings. The weather is a little cold but the work is progressing finely. Capt. Sturges leaves here to-morrow for Poplar Agency to complete issues to the Indians there. "Medicine Bear," "Afraid of the Bear" and some more chiefs with unpronounceable names, have returned from the hunt to get their annual annuities. It is understood that the not d Back Cat-hill, with his band, remain on the hunting path until spring. One week ago to-night, Dec. 4th, the talented band-master of the 6th Infantry, Professor Stigler, was married to Miss Lizette Straut, one of Buford's fairest demoiselles. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Robinson, post chaplain. General Hazen, the commander of the regiment, with the regimental adjutant, Lieut. Grobeck, and a veral other ladies and gentlemen of the garrison, were present. The bride was supported by her sister, Miss Anna, and the groom had as best man Q. M. Sargent, O'Connell of same regiment. Congratulations followed the ceremony and all went merry as it should, on such a glorious occasion. Professor Spaulding, a well known steamboat artist, radiant in regulation costume, presided at the dinner. And yet last night at the band concert Professor Stigler opened with "Tev all bay a Mate but Me," and later on in the evening rendered as solo "Nobody's Darling." Though he explains that he now suits attire somewhat, for that other word. The marriage of Charlie Adams to Miss Julia Brown, daughter of Mrs. Sarasin, was also celebrated a few evenings since amid a select circle of friends, at the residence of the bride's mother. Let me whisper in your ear that Buford is just the place for matrimony—at least all the young ladies say so. Rax.

Personal.

Col. Moore is still resting at Bismarck. Henry Biskely is visiting his home at St. Paul. Geo. F. Flannery went to Fargo again Monday. E. H. Bly, of the Sheridan House, went east last week. Mrs. Asa Fisher and daughter are spending the holidays east. Mrs. Lee, wife of Engineer Lee, is spending the holidays east. Quartermaster Kirk and lady went east last week to spend the holidays. Sut Winston, of Fort Stevenson, is in the city. He looks well for a recently married man. Oscar Moore returned from the Bad Lands Saturday. Howard Brandt will soon go out to clerk for Moore & Co. posttraders. Lieut. Wallace, of Ft. Meade, has been commissioned to take a number of prisoners to Fort Keogh and will be here soon. Frank Wasmer, the gentlemanly clerk for a long time with L. N. Griffin at the Capitol Hotel, is now with Joe Hare. It's a treat to see Frank alling glasses. Mr. Samuel Laughlin, the popular baggage-master of the N. P. road at this point, leaves Monday for his home in Philadelphia, for a few weeks' recreation. Lieut. Mann, Ft. Meade, arrived Tuesday night after a four days' siege in the stage coach. He is on leave of absence granted by Phil Sheridan in opposition to wishes of Gen. Sturgis. John A. Stoyell went to Fargo Tuesday. John rather likes Fargo but will remain with Bismarck, however, until it becomes the largest city north of St. Louis on the Missouri. O. S. Goff, who is temporarily stopping in the Hills with his branch photograph gallery, is spending the holidays with his family in this city. Mr. Goff will build a large gallery here next spring second to none west of St. Paul.

FREAKS OF ELECTRICITY.

THE VOICE OF THE WIRES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

The People in Maine won't Allow the Democrats to Steal the State—A Row at Augusta in which the People are Victorious.

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune.)
WONT HAVE IT.
AUGUSTA, ME., Dec. 26.—There was great excitement, nearly a riot, here yesterday over the attempt of Maj. Smith, Greenback candidate for Governor, and others, to remove the arms and ammunition from the arsenal to Augusta by order of Gen. Garcelon. The crowd prevented the arms from being shipped and they were returned to the arsenal. The escape from bloodshed was very narrow. The crowd was greatly excited and the mayor's entreaties to the officer in charge of the arms induced them to give way to the demands of the crowd. Garcelon's supporters held a meeting on the 23rd at which Garcelon said that the people of the State would not stand idly by and allow force to be used and would by arms, if necessary, say the laws must be obeyed.

WOULDN'T GIVE UP.
CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 26.—Bernard Pecker, a German at Delphos, O., was called up at 2 o'clock Christmas morning, by three men who demanded his money. He refused and was shot. His wife was then bound, gagged and tortured until she disclosed the whereabouts of the money; \$1,500 was secured.

NOTES.

Three thousand Ghilseais attacked the British at Jugduluta on the 23rd and were beaten with great loss. The number of survivors so far as known of the Borussia, is but nine. Grant has declined President Hayes' invitation to stay at the White House while in Washington. Bailey's hop factory, at New Berryport, Mass., is burned; loss \$110,000. The cold weather extends all over the country.

Joy Complete.

The Merchants Hotel was the scene of one continual round of pleasure last evening. Messrs. Geo. A. Wasmer, Geo. Miner, Jr., Geo. M. Bliss, James Stephens, G. W. Johnston, and C. A. Atchinson, employees of the House, presented Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Griffin with an elegant silver set, which completely overcame them with surprise and delight. Mr. Griffin, in a few appropriate remarks, thanked them kindly for the token of respect, stating that he and his would ever hold them in pleasant remembrance of the occasion. The boys were equally surprised, a few moments later, when Mr. Griffin purchased of Mr. Hanauer six suits of clothes, of a fine pattern, and distributed them among the gentlemen named, as a token of his appreciation of their meritorious services during the past. In addition to these presents each of the dining room girls was presented with an elegant set of furs. On the whole everybody about the establishment was happy. The boarders and guests were, through the skill displayed by Mr. Johnson and assistants, in the cooking department, greeted with one of the finest dinners ever given in the west.

Red Ribbon.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Red Ribbon society of Bismarck was held in Champion Hall last Monday evening, Dr. B. F. Slaughter presiding. After singing and other religious services led by Rev. J. M. Bull, an original poem, written by Mrs. Hattie S. Bull, was very finely read by Mrs. Marston, short but eloquent speeches were made by Wm. Gleason and Dr. Boutley. Twenty-two persons signed the pledge and donned the red ribbon, making in all eighty members. By unanimous vote Dr. Benly was appointed a committee to canvass the city for funds for the establishment of a free reading room; it was also resolved that the object of the next meeting should be principally to consider the subject of the reading room. The society then adjourned to meet next Monday night at City Hall.

Cut His Way Out.

Mandan was the scene of a little cutting match last evening. A crowd had assembled at the Northwestern celebrating Christmas in genuine frontier style. Among the crowd were two men, named Raymo and Riley. A general pow wow followed in which the two named figured most prominently. The result was that Riley received a terrible and dangerous stab in the abdomen from a knife in the hands of Raymo. Raymo was brought to Bismarck last evening and lodged in jail. It is claimed by Raymo's friends that the act was a necessity. He was cornered and had to cut himself loose. Simpson's life is despaired of.