

# The Bismarck Tribune.

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUSTER MASSACRE.

This day six years ago was a sad historic day for the Seventh cavalry. Five companies of the vaunted Seventh with the gallant Custer, their former leader, and his trusted comrades laid lifeless on the field of the battle of June 25th, and the gallant Major Reno's command, after having lost the brave and distinguished McIntosh and Hodgson, with many other brave soldiers, were barely able to save themselves from a similar fate. Of what took place during the battle with Custer's command, no one was left to relate. That they did their whole duty and shared the same sad fate needs no demonstration. Major Reno saved some of his command. This was the result of instinctive wisdom directed by a commendable discretion as destitute from cowardice as it was benevolent and fraught with safety from a similar annihilation. It is even yet a question whether his little command, perched upon the crest of that sacred hill that furnished temporary protection, would not have ultimately fallen a prey to the savage fury of Sitting Bull's myriads, had not General Terry's command rescued them from their besiegers.

The event was so sudden, so unexpected and so unprecedentedly disastrous and awful as to thrill the public with astonishing amazement. It was too horrible for realization. No one at first could realize its truth or believe it possible. What! Custer and the flower of the gallant Seventh who had fought and won a hundred Indian battles all slain! Custer, who was one of Sheridan's most accomplished, most skillful, most daring and most successful generals in the valley of Virginia, who had planned and fought more successful Indian battles than any other man on earth, whose name was to hostile Indians a terror so great as to be equalled only by their hatred and desire for vengeance, and whom most people desiring a chastisement of the hostile Indians, would gladly have seen placed in command of the expedition, as being not an abler but a more experienced general in Indian fighting than General Terry. He and his brothers and brave companions, Keogh, Smith, Cook, Yeates, McIntosh and their brave commands all slain! It was astounding! No wonder that in this amazement, this national excitement, this consternation and disaster, some effort should be made to ascertain who was to blame. Every calamity must have its Jonah. Who was it in this case? It was not Gen. Terry, for he was a capable man in any position, and all experience demonstrated him as not only capable but faultless. Such a disaster could not occur without a mistake or wrong in somebody. Who was it? Custer was dead; his command was dead, and he must have been the Jonah. This, in the minds of some men who did not know Custer, was the conclusion.

Now, after the lapse of six years, we may venture to say that Custer was no Jonah; that Terry was not to blame, and that everybody in the army was not only faultless, but did their whole duty, although many of them paid a severe penalty for the outrageous wrongs of others.

How did this transpire? The solution is as palpable as it was obvious to the observing ones who resided here at the time, where the facts were well known. What were these facts, and how did they accomplish so insidiously the fiendish work of this day's slaughter without attracting more of the public attention? At that time the iniquity of Indian agents had attained its culmination. Agencies were sought for as a means of obtaining ill-gotten gains, and when obtained, all considerations of common honesty, all claims of humanity and the public welfare were swallowed up in the whirlpool of avaricious pecuniary acquisition. The primary object of their action was to make an immense fortune in the shortest time possible. To this end they bent and subsidized every shrewd and available mental faculty they possessed. Among their prolific resources, a prominent means of obtaining money without an adequate equivalent, and thereby cheating the government, was to assume that all the Indians belonging to the agency were present at the time of making issues, and that the issues were made to the whole number, while if the Indians were absent, which frequently happened, the issue was for the Indians only who were present, and by this device they annually pocketed thousands of dollars clear gain. This at that time was well understood to be the practice at Standing Rock, a leading agency some sixty miles below here, and it was a practice which doubtless extended to other agencies on the frontier. For several weeks before the battle was fought there were in Bismarck men from Standing Rock almost daily on business of one kind or another, and all these men concurred in asserting that all the available Indian warriors of that agency had left and gone to the assistance of Sitting

Bull, and that the Indian warriors from the agencies below, according to the most reliable information, had also gone. This information had created great anxiety at Bismarck for the safety of the expedition, and some exasperation toward the agents for allowing the absence of these Indians without giving the public official notice of the fact. Instigated by this feeling, but a short time before the massacre, when Agent Burke was here on business and deposited his money with Capt. James A. Emmons for safe keeping, Emmons, Col. Thompson and a crowd of other gentlemen earnestly demanded of Burke truthful information in regard to the rumored absence of the Indians of his agency. Burke vehemently asserted that all such information was absolutely false, that all his Indians were at the agency, and that he had issued full rations of beef to every soul of them but two days before, and further that he had no information of Indians leaving other agencies. This did not quiet apprehension in regard to the expedition, but it demonstrated one of the methods of illegitimate money-making practiced by this Indian agent.

Since the massacre occurred it has been amply demonstrated that portions of the warriors from all the Sioux and Cheyenne agencies had not only left their agencies without leave and without notice of their absence being given by their agents, but that they had participated in the slaughter and afterwards returned to their agencies boastful of their participation.

Now it requires but slight generalization to conclude that Burke's reticence and criminal silence was predicable of most other of these agents.

Hence, the government was ignorant of the absence of the Indians from their reservations and was led by its agents to believe they were all at home receiving their rations of beef. The government knew that Sitting Bull's band of hostile Indians did not exceed six or seven hundred warriors. The whole military expedition was just as wise as the government and never dreamed of the immense augmentations of his command until Reno was surrounded by more than six or seven thousand, through whom he cut his way to the meagre safety he obtained, and by whom Custer's entire command was instantaneously annihilated.

If the Indian agents had performed their duty, the government would have known the facts at the Indian bureau. Then Generals Sherman and Sheridan would have ascertained them and would have transmitted them to General Terry in the field and he to Custer and the whole disaster would have been arrested.

Let no one say that any one belonging to the army on that sad and memorable day "disobeyed orders," "was rash and indiscreet," "was a coward" or "failed to do his duty."

The most terrific rain and hail storms ever known have raged in Illinois and Indiana this season, and as a result the corn crop has been damaged at least fifty per cent. In most localities farmers have planted two and three times, and the last planting is so backward that there is little hope of even a ripening. Farmers relying entirely on their corn crop are very much discouraged, but those having in winter wheat are more jubilant, as the prospects were never better for a bounteous yield. It seems to have been an exceptionally good season for winter wheat in that section, and in some of the lower counties harvesting has already begun. June and July delivery of wheat sold very high in Chicago this year, and the farmers are anxious to get their grain to market as soon as possible.

The Grand Forks papers not only propose to bolt if a southern Dakota man is nominated for congress, but purpose going for everything there is in sight. The Plaindealer says: "Within five years North Dakota will have a population of half a million. The right to the name of Dakota belongs to the upper half of the territory by the title of superior reputation, greater excellence, larger wealth, stronger attractions. The southern half, already inferior in population, and with a future of monotonous mediocrity, should surrender its share of the name and take another."

CHICAGO is anxious to get some of the Dakota No. 1 hard wheat, and it is learned from good authority that the Northwestern road will be pushed through to Bismarck within another year and several branch lines built to tap the wheat belt at various intervals. The line to Bismarck will give the road a northern connection with the river, and as Bismarck is the gateway to northwestern Dakota and Montana, it has become a magnet not only for the great Northwestern but for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and scores of smaller lines. Bismarck will become a railroad centre.

THE North Dakota Capital, speaking of the delegate campaign, says Mr. Pettigrew has indicated remarkable fairness, good judgment and tact. No man could

do better in looking after the affairs of a constituency whose interests are so varied and diverse. In all matters which have arisen and demanded his attention, he has shown a zeal, an earnestness most commendable, and has carried forward his work with an industry and perseverance truly remarkable. His time has not been spent in idleness, but hard work, and the fruits of his labors are being seen in every section of the territory.

MR. PETTIGREW'S enemies for a few days made so much noise that they caused themselves to believe that they were overwhelmingly in the majority, but it only had the effect to awaken his friends, and a new order of things already exists. Strong sentiment in his favor is now shown to exist in localities heretofore supposed to be hostile, and his friends look with confidence for an overwhelming victory for their favorite.

It is true that Mr. Pettigrew has not been able to control the appointments in the territory as he could have wished, but that is partly owing to the back fire that the governor and others at home have kept upon him, and partly owing to the fact that territorial appointments have been used for the payment of administration debts. It was only necessary to get up a local fight on a Dakota candidate, when an excuse was given to appoint some man from abroad instead of the Dakota man.

But when it comes right down to good square work for Dakota and for attention to Dakota interests, he is entitled to great praise. No man could have done more than he has done or been more successful.

He has been constantly on the alert; has been active, intelligent, persistent and successful, and has come to be recognized as one of the best territorial delegates that has ever been in Washington. He has some bitter enemies, but he has also warm friends, as all men having positive qualities should have.

He is not a milk and water man. His enemies, as well as his friends, know where to find him. He has become familiar with the work at Washington and ought to be returned.

North Dakota has found him faithful to her interests as well as to those of southern Dakota. He made enemies in south Dakota by doing the fair thing by this section. He stood for the right against the whole gang of southern Dakota visiting statesmen, and insisted upon a square deal for North Dakota.

He has not been a policy man, and has therefore done his duty without any reference to his own interests.

He has been tried and not found wanting, and should therefore be re-elected.

THERE is not a locality on the line of the North Pacific where grain of all kinds is looking as fine or as far advanced as on the Missouri slope. This is not idle gossip, but a fact that every one who will look from the car window will observe. The farmers of this section will be pleased to show land hunters what this country can do, and specimens of growing grain can be seen at the TRIBUNE office.

If North Dakota insists upon claiming the delegate this fall why not nominate W. F. Steele, the bonanza farmer? He is a man of energy, and of character; a man of truth, vigorous and outspoken under all circumstances. If he will allow his name to come before the convention, his friends will rally to his support.

MORE breaking is being done this year between Jamestown and Bismarck than was done on the entire Dakota division of the North Pacific, between Fargo and Bismarck, five years ago.

### NEWS COMMENTS.

J. AL. SAWELLE is en route to Montana with a comedy company of twelve persons.

FROM latest reports Jamestown is not to have a United States land office after all. The authorities at Washington have kicked against it.

THE Inte-Mountain reports a case of small-pox in Butte, and states that the greatest precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of the terrifying disease.

CAPT. JOHN W. SMITH, of Miles City, has associated with himself in the Cottage saloon James Coleman. The Cottage is one of the big institutions on the line of the extension.

THOSE who are early risers may now catch a glimpse of the new comet just as night gives way to day. With an opera glass quite a string of tail can be seen. It should soon show up in the evening in the west. It is now rapidly brightening.

THE Glendive Times of this week claims to have just received intelligence of the killing of six of the British American mounted police, by the Cree Indians, in the vicinity of Cypress Hills, N. W. T. These Crees are the arabs of the northwest and ought to be annihilated.

THE track of the North Pacific is graded six or seven miles the other side of Bedford, about ten miles west of the crossing of the Missouri. There are a number of grading parties at work all along the line from Indian creek to near Helena—thirty-five miles. It

is probable that the entire line from Helena to the first crossing of the Missouri will be completed by the middle of August.

BENTON RECORD, 14: "It appears from the letter received from Col. Sweet by the Benton Board of Trade that our prospects for a railroad from Billings depend upon the quality of Castner's coal. If the coal won't coke there is no use of building a railroad to Benton."

BLINKY JACK, a railroad brakeman who has been amusing himself by capsizing Fargo bartenders and rendering their business stormy, knocked down a policeman named Johnston the other day, and received a bullet in his shoulder as his reward. Blinky escaped, however.

HON. J. B. WAKEFIELD was nominated by the republicans of the second Minnesota district for congress on the 21st inst. Mr. Wakefield is one of God's noblemen, great hearted, true and able, and a universal favorite with all who know him. He will be elected by an overwhelming majority.

THE Glendive Times issued a little six-by-nine supplement this week, and the bantling was more newsy and in every way better than the parent sheet. THE TRIBUNE would suggest to the Times boss that he suppress the parent and run the bantling. It would rebound much to the credit of Glendive.

NEXT Friday Guiteau will do the tight rope act unless the other cranks succeed in persuading President Arthur to relieve the villain until a commission of scientific cranks pass on his case. It is hoped that the president will not be influenced by the insane commission, but allow the law to take its course.

FATHER MALO, a priest, working in the interest of the breeds in the Mouse river and Turtle Valley region, reports that the land in that country is unfit for agriculture. This dodge is too thin. Hundreds of men who know more about land than all the priests in christendom, have been over the ground and say it is rich, and capable of producing large crops.

DR. C. K. COLE, of Helena, M. T., says the Herald, enjoys the possession of a male and female lynx. He has had the beasts a year, and on the morning of the 13th inst. he was much surprised upon discovering two kittens sucking the mother. The breeding of lynx when confined is a very rare occurrence, and the owner of the kittens is a big ingun in consequence of his unexpected success.

SEVERAL more new Dakota newspapers have come to our table. Among the number is the Clark County Review, published by Farrington & Johnson; and the Wheatland Herald, by A. M. White. Both of these papers are gotten up neatly and are well edited. These new papers are indicative of great development within the confines of our territory.

TOM YOUNG, a Cincinnati congressman, in a decoration day address, pursued a new line of thought. His theme was not what the soldier did for the country, but what the country has done for the soldier. His address was delivered by some figures from the pension and land offices, and is described in a press dispatch as something altogether novel, but not altogether pleasing to the veterans present.

ACCORDING to an official order the bread ration at Fort Buford, D. T., has been increased to twenty ounces. The bread ration at Fort Custer, M. T., has been reduced from twenty-two to eighteen ounces. From which it will naturally be inferred that the soldiers at Buford are greater gormandizers than their brethren at Custer. This is probably owing to the greater healthfulness of Dakota's climate.

JAMES A. EMMONS, democrat, has declared himself in favor of Geo. H. Hand for delegate in congress, because, he says, the brevet governor is a man of heart. That he has pardoned Cook and other leading criminals, and will pardon Brave Bear. No doubt Brave Bear would feel better had Mr. Hand the pardoning power in Brave Bear's case in his hands, but unfortunately for that bloody villain he is under the jurisdiction of the United States and not the territory of Dakota.

IN the dispatches describing the finding of the De Long party by Engineer Melville at the Lena delta, published in the New York Herald, the following paragraph appears:

None of the dead had boots. Their feet were covered with rags, tied on. In the pockets of all were pieces of burnt skin and of the clothing which they had been eating. The hands of all were more or less burned, and it looked as if when dying they had crawled into the fire, Boyd lying over the fire and his clothing being burned through to the skin, which was not burned. Collins' face was covered with a cloth.

FARGO ARGUS, 22: "Denny Hannafin, of Bismarck, who is one of the sporting gentlemen here to take in the races, is the great original of Stanley Huntley's Spoopendyke. Hundreds of the odd yarns and jaw-breaking frontier phrases that have given fame and fortune to the Brooklyn Eagle's reckless ink-slinger originated with Hannafin, and all the political and journalistic world remembers his famous interview with Gen. Hancock. If Hancock had taken Hannafin's advice that time he might have been president. Denny has just won a big lawsuit which makes him a bonanza king for the rest of his days, but he puts on no more airs than if he were only a common citizen."

THE Sioux City Journal of recent date says that the artesian well at that place is now down 1,740 feet, and the drill is still working in very hard rock. The character of the formation has changed of late, and the present rock is supposed to be Trenton limestone. The lime is very prominent in it. The approximate thickness of the limestone is placed in White's geology at 200 feet. Below this, in the natural order should be St. Peter's sandstone, and when that formation is reached the company hopes to meet its ample reward. The hole is now 425 feet through very solid rock. The drill sinks very slowly.

DR. COLE, of Helena Montana, the owner of the lynx and the kittens recently born, mention of which was made by the TRIBUNE, intends, we learn from the Helena Herald of the 17th inst., to make the effort to domesticate one or both of the young animals. A tame feline, who brought forth an increase at a time similar to that of her untutored sister, has had one of her progeny removed to the interior of the cage occupied by the

lynx, and one of the savage kittens placed in her motherly charge. The exchange has proven satisfactory to the animals, and in all probability will become a successful experiment.

ANOTHER one of those accidents which have occurred so frequently in the vicinity of Eldridge during the past few months as to give that section the appellation of the "grave of freight trains" took place last week. Freight train No. 14 ran off an open switch. The locomotive was ditched and with a bang-wang rip-roar, crash, half a dozen cars piled on top of the prostrate monster like an avalanche. Nobody was hurt, save the conductor, who was knocked through a window of the caboose, cutting his face and peeling his nose. The engineer and fireman deserted the machine when the danger was discovered.

FROM a pamphlet just issued by the Hampton Institute, where the young aborigines are being educated, we glean the following data: Since April, 1878, one hundred and sixty-six Indian pupils have been received at the Hampton Institute, and are accounted for as follows: Sent back to Indian territory via Carlisle school, 13. Died at school (chiefly from consumption), 11; sent home for sickness (nearly all cases of inherited lung trouble), 23, of whom 8 have died; for other reasons 3; returned after a three years' course of instruction, 31. Total returned, 31; now at school, 85. The death rate at Hampton has averaged three per cent a year for four years.

WHILE at HURON last week Wm. H. Vanderbilt was serenaded and he made a speech. He expressed himself as much pleased with the appearance of the people of Dakota. He said they were the best educated and cleanest looking he had met in a long time. That there were no socialistic tendencies among them to disturb the souls of millionaires. He paid the press of the west a neat compliment also. In short he scattered his taffy around quite generously. In his speech he betrayed much discernment, demonstrating that he could form a correct estimate of a country by riding through it at a rate of forty miles an hour. He recognizes the fact that Dakota with her industrious and contented population, with her vast wheat fields, stock ranges, great water course and fabulously rich mineral region, will soon be the greatest feeder to his system of railroads on this continent, and therefore he is getting a railroad foothold within her borders.

THE city of Helena, Montana, is filling up with suspicious characters, tramps, vagrants, and midnight marauders, to such an extent that it has become necessary on the part of the vigilantes to issue their cabalistic figures "3-7-77." The evil does know what these numbers mean. The vigilantes of Helena are not to be fooled with that. They mean what they say. Their past record has given them great prestige in that section and they are backed by the general sentiment of that community. The Independent of the 14th says that incendiaries have been at work in Helena, and under the circumstances, while it believes in upholding the supremacy of the law, it recognizes the fact that emergencies may arise requiring a resort to extreme measures. Self-preservation is nature's first law, and against the incendiary and midnight marauder no measures can be regarded as too violent which are necessary to public safety. This is a good, healthy sentiment, and it should exist in a reasonable degree in every town on the frontier.

THERE is nothing like booming when the boom is properly engineered. Last spring a company of capitalists located the townsite of Hope, in Griggs county, D. T., out on the uninhabited prairie. They erected a large hotel, supplied it with all the modern improvements, started a newspaper and began to rustle. They did not sit down and hope (as the name would indicate) for somebody to come along and build up the town and country for them, but began to rustle themselves, individually and collectively, and today their enterprise is a success. Three days of last week the hotel furnished accommodations for ninety strangers, exclusive of sixty regular boarders, stores are in full blast, new ones opening, business is brisk, and like all new born centers, ready cash is plentiful, as strangers ask no credit. The town is full of land hunters, and the permanent population of that city is increasing rapidly. What has accomplished all this? The answer is simple. A good hotel, a newspaper, and the harmonious and energetic work of all concerned.

THREE or four days ago when the northern lights illuminated the darkness of this section the TRIBUNE said the display was indicative of old weather. The prediction or assertion has proven true. We have never known it to fail. Sun dogs in winter are the harbingers of a dry, cold snap, and the aurora borealis in summer is a sure sign of a change in the temperature from warm to cool. We are not a Vennor nor a Tice, but that much we know about the weather, and what we know we know as well as anybody.—Bismarck TRIBUNE, June 18.

GO slow, old man, in your prophesying. The aurora in summer indicates moisture. We're not a prophet, or the son of a prophet, but we know that you are off your base as a summer weather prognosticator.—Cassellon Reporter.

THE TRIBUNE'S prediction has proved correct in every particular. At this present writing the sun is shining brightly, still it is cool, the thermometer indicating a temperature of 65 degrees above; and the weather has been cool (and damp, of course) during the past week. Our prognostications on the aurora are safe to bet on.

A RECENT dispatch from the Lena Delta to the New York Herald says that Melville found the bodies of DeLong's party March 23. They were in two places, 500 and 1,000 yards from the wreck of the scow. Melville's search party first started from the supply depot to follow Nenderman's route from Usterday to Malvey, and afterward from Malvey back toward Usterday. They stopped at the place which Nenderman and Neros passed the first day after they left DeLong, feeling sure that the others had not got much farther. Then they found the wreck and following along the bank they came upon a rifle barrel hung upon four sticks. They set the natives to digging on each side of the sticks, and they soon came upon two bodies under eight feet of snow. While these men were digging toward the east Melville went on alone to a bank twenty feet above the river to find a place to take bearings. He then saw a camp kettle and the remains of a fire. About 1,000 yards from there he saw a tent, and approaching, nearly stumbled upon DeLong's hand sticking out of the snow about thirty feet from the edge of the bank. Here, under about a foot of snow, they found the bodies of DeLong and Amber and "Ah Sam" lying at their feet, all partially covered by their tent and a few pieces of blankets.