

Jamestown Alert.

VOLUME 1. JAMESTOWN, STUTSMAN COUNTY, D. T., JULY 25, 1878. NUMBER 4.

Jamestown Alert.

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E. H. & C. H. FOSTER,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.

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1 inch,	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	4.00	7.00	12.00
2 inches,	2.00	2.75	3.25	4.00	6.00	10.00	18.00
3 inches,	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	12.00	18.00	24.00
4 inches,	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	15.00	20.00	30.00
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3 column,	12.00	15.00	18.00	21.00	40.00	65.00	100.00

Edward H. Foster, Editor.

Pre-Historic Men.

Standing in our streets in Jamestown, a person can see cutting the bluffs on both sides of the river, a number of mounds from six to twenty feet high; but should his attention not be especially directed to them by some one knowing their contents, he would give them but a passing thought. What are they? Ask the archaeologist, who could find in this section of our country a field for months of scientific research, and he will answer: "The graves of the chieftains of the Stone age, of a people of whom history does not unfold an account, of the mound builders; a people who have centuries ago spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf of Mexico far toward the frozen Arctic sea; a people of which the present race of Indians have naught but tradition, but hold with superstitious respect their work as wonderful and mysterious." Within a radius of ten miles of this place a hundred of these mounds can be counted.

The question arises, Why do you then positively assert that these mounds are the work of that mighty people, whose patient work with nothing but the bone of some animal for a spade, and baskets in which to carry the earth, erected such mounds? We answer that within a mile of this place one of these mounds have been opened by Gen. H. B. Thomas, then in command of Fort Seward, and who took from it the skeleton of two persons, and gave the result of his examination in an essay which was published in the Smithsonian Report for 1874. The land examiners of the Northern Pacific railroad, not long since, opened another, in which they found portions of a skeleton; and excavations have been made by others with the same results. Near by the mound opened by Gen. Thomas, are several others, and from them there is a well marked raise of ground running south to a deep ravine, looking like a nicely rounded up avenue, but evidently was at one time a rampart or wall of a fort; another rampart starting at the same mound and running southeast to the same ravine, with the other enclose a V shaped piece of ground well adapted for defense, amounting to a couple of acres. Another evidence of their belonging to the Stone age, exists in the number of stone hammers or maces, to be found upon the prairie, and in circles which are about 18 feet in diameter, made of round stone, now sunk level with the earth.

To the westward, crowning the dividing hills or Cotaus between the James and Missouri rivers, are a number of stone pyramids, composed of round boulders, and standing from four to six feet high, present another subject for speculation and research.

Why would it not pay some scientist to spend a month or so during our magnificent autumn, in unraveling this question? For besides the knowledge that might be gained, the rugged health, the sport that could be obtained with the rifle and shot gun, would well repay the trip and enable them to pursue their studies or business the coming winter with greater zest and energy.

We have been promised information as to the Indian traditions and speculations on this subject, by one who is in a position to obtain their views, and which we will give in a future issue.

(OFFICIAL.)

Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners of Stutsman County.

JAMESTOWN, Wednesday,
July 24, 1878.

Present: Commissioners Kelleher and Moran.
D. M. Kelleher in the chair.
Upon the absence of Mr. Moore, Moran made the motion that before any action

be taken in the renting of county building, all the board be present; and that the Sheriff notify Mr. Moore that his presence will be necessary at their next meeting.

On motion adjourned until Thursday, July 25th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

G. W. VENNUM, Clerk.

Adjourned Meeting.

JAMESTOWN, Thursday,
July 25th, 1878.

Present: Commissioners Kelleher, Moran and Moore.

Kelleher in the chair.

On motion Mr. James McKenzies resignation as Justice of the Peace for Stutsman county was accepted.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to give notice that bids would be received until Monday, the 29th day of July, 1878, for renting county building from August 1st, 1878, till January 1st, 1879, according to specifications in County Clerk's office.

Motion carried to adjourn till Friday, July 26th, 1878, at 9 o'clock A. M.

G. W. VENNUM, Clerk

POSTMASTERS' COMPENSATION.

An Important Matter for the Consideration of County Postmasters.

Postmaster Palmer yesterday received a copy of the law relative to the compensation of fourth-class postmasters, taken from the appropriation bill on which it was tacked. The special correspondents at Washington overlooked the matter, which is a very important one, as millions of dollars were made fraudulently out of the government on the old plan under which these postmasters were paid according to the stamps they purchased. These men were in the habit of coming to Chicago and purchasing stamps at postmasters' rates, and selling them again to merchants, thus piling up a business that made their salary \$1,000 or \$2,000 a year, when, perhaps, it should have been but \$100. On the present plan, which went into effect July 1, fourth-class postmasters are to be paid according to the number of postal cards, stamps on periodicals, newspapers, letters and other matter canceled at their office. The postmasters shall also receive the rental of the boxes, entire, and commissions on unpaid letter-postage collected, on amounts received from waste paper, printed matter, and twine sold at the office. The following rate of compensation is prescribed: On the first \$100 or less, per quarter, 60 per cent; on all over \$100 and not over \$300 per quarter, 50 per cent; on all over \$300 per quarter, 40 per cent. The same to be ascertained and allowed by the auditor in the settlement of the accounts of such postmasters upon their sworn quarterly returns. Provided, that when the compensation of a postmaster shall reach \$1,000 exclusive of the money-order commissions, the auditor shall report the same to the postmaster general, who shall assign him to the proper class, and fix his salary as provided. Finally, postmasters shall have, in this class, over \$250 per quarter exclusive of the money-order business.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Square talk to the Board.

It is with feelings of pride (?) that we chronicle the fact that the Clay county board of commissioners have let the contract for printing the blank books of the county to the Omaha Herald, a sheet that is not only out of the territory, and one that works for the prosperity of a belt of country south of here, owned principally by the U. P. railroad company, but also a Simon-pure democratic organ. But the latter quality is a good recommendation to meet with favor from the present board, and an argument which, under the circumstances, we strike out. There is in this territory a blank book manufacturing establishment that turns out a superior quality of work, and to this establishment, the Press and Dakotian, the contract should have been let, even to higher rate. Citizens of a new country should patronize home institutions, because it pays to do so, and those who fail to act accordingly, will discover, sooner or later their mistake. The board could as reasonably send out of the county for men to repair bridges, make roads or furnish the poor of the county with goods, as to send to Omaha for blank printing. During the coming election, if no better mineral can be found, we suggest that our citizens send to Omaha for men to fill

the office of county commissioner.—Vermillion Standard.

A Fruitless Mission.

Ben Clark who went to the British Possessions a few weeks ago with three Nez Perces to induce the remainder of the tribe to join Joseph at Fort Leavenworth, is in the city on his way east, the Nez Perces in the mean time being camped with the scouts at Fort Lincoln. Mr. Clark says the Indians refused to entertain any propositions except to return to the Pacific coast. Indeed about sixty have returned, taking with them Joseph's fourteen year old daughter. About one hundred and fifty remain north of the British line in camp with fragments of Crazy Horse's band and renegade's from Red Cloud and other agencies who refuse to admire Sitting Bull. The main body of Sitting Bull's band, Mr. Clark says, is also north of the line, and they have little thought of returning to the United States for any purpose. They have plenty of ammunition and buffalo are plenty, while they have, as they think, the most perfect freedom, being entirely let alone by the British government. A few of the young men, however, are liable to become restless, and to stray across the line for scalps and plunder. The new military post, however, at the Bear Paw and the settlement of that country will work wonders in the settlement of the Indian question.—Bismarck Tribune.

The Agricultural Society.

A meeting of the executive committee of the territorial agricultural society was held Saturday at the office of Judge West, the secretary of the society. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved.—That the annual exhibition of the Dakota territorial agricultural society, for the year of 1878, be dispensed with, unless responsible citizens of Vermillion shall on or before 12 o'clock M., of the 20th day of July inst., deposit with the banking house of Inman & Co., or Prentice and Newton, of Vermillion, D. T., four hundred dollars to the credit of the treasurer of said agricultural society, or in lieu of said deposit, execute and deliver the secretary of said society an agreement signed by responsible citizens guaranteeing the payment of said sum of four hundred dollars on or before the 15th day of August, 1878, or the erection of suitable buildings, stalls, pens, &c., sufficient for the purpose of such annual exhibition.

Judge West tendered his resignation as secretary of the society, which however was not accepted by the committee.—Press and Dakotian.

The political situation in the republican camp at the present time, briefly summarized, is that Kidder, Moody, Bennett and Dewey form a quartette from which a delegate to congress is to be chosen. Dewey's certain strength is in the northeastern counties of the territories and he has hopes and promises in other localities. Bennett's following seems to be in the Black Hills counties, Union county and a considerable showing in Clay county. Kidder and Moody are very much scattered over the territory and will consolidate considerable individual strength from widely separated localities. This is a sort of an outline of the situation, and there are many people who think they can see the direction in which the cat is going to jump. But they can't.—Press and Dakotian.

The Democratic Central committee of Dakota Ter., of which D. M. Kelleher, of this place, is a member, met at Yankton on the 22nd inst. Mr. Kelleher appointed Jas. Taylor, Jr., of the Yankton Herald, as his proxy. We will give their apportionment of delegates from the various counties next week.

Six companies of the 3d and four of the 17th infantry, under command of Lt. Col. Brooks and Maj. Ilgus, will garrison the new military post at Bear Paw. They have already been ordered to that point and miners will be given complete protection.—Bismarck Tribune.

Jamestown Advertisements.

FOUND.

Picked up by an Indian near Fort Ransom, a large gray horse, which the owner can have by proving property and paying expenses.
ED. LOHNES.
Jamestown, D. T., July 17th, 1878. [3-5w.]

JAMES LEES,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

Flour & Feed,

JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.
Close attention paid to orders from patrons. Endeavors will be made to give satisfaction.

What is the matter with
KELLEY'S N. P. STORE,
at
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.
They are selling ALL KINDS of goods at
RED ROCK PRICES.

EDWARD H. FOSTER. CLARENCE H. FOSTER.
E. H. & C. H. FOSTER,
BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

All kinds of Plain and Ornamental Job Printing executed to the satisfaction of patrons at the ALERT office, opposite the depot.
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.

G. GEORGE BRAUNE,
Dealer in
Ale, Wines, Liquors and Cigars,
south side of Railroad track,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.

GEO. J. GOODRICH,
Blacksmith,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.
Plow work a specialty. Shoeing and all work in the line of blacksmithing. All work warranted to give satisfaction.

JAMES LEES,
Billiard Hall,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.
Wines, Liquors and Cigars of excellent quality always on hand.

CHAS. HAMILTON,
Blacksmith,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.
Particular attention paid to plough work, shoeing and wagon repairing. 1*52

EDWARD H. FOSTER,
CIVIL ENGINEER, SURVEYOR
—AND—
LAND EXAMINER,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.
He is prepared to do all work in his line. Apply at ALERT office, near the Depot.

GEO. W. VENNUM,
Register of Deeds and ex-officio County Clerk,

General Land Agent,
JAMESTOWN,
Stutsman County, DAKOTA.

JAMES LEES,
Contractor for Freighting, Breaking,
Backsetting, &c.,
JAMESTOWN, DAKOTA TER.

Having 20 odd teams, and having just received 22 new Fish Brothers' wagons in addition to those previously on hand, is well prepared to perform anything in the above line.

JAMESTOWN and FORT TOTTEN
Mail & Express.

The undersigned having a
COMFORTABLE HACK
is prepared to carry
PASSENGERS AND EXPRESS
matter to and from the above named places.
Leave Jamestown, every Friday at 7 A. M.
Arrive Fort Totten, every Saturday at 7 P. M.
Leave Fort Totten, every Tuesday at 7 A. M.
Arrive Jamestown, every Wednesday at 7 P. M.
ED. LOHNES, Proprietor.

E. H. & C. H. FOSTER,
General Real Estate
AGENTS,

Jamestown, Dakota Territory.

We are prepared to buy and sell Real Estate, Locate Railroad Lands, Select Government lands, especially Soldiers' Homesteads which can be done by agent; Make out Abstracts, Deeds, &c. Buy Taxes, Contract for Breaking, Backsetting, and Tree Planting; measure and oversee the same, &c.

One of the above firm is a skilled Surveyor, well provided with first class instruments.

Parties having lands for sale; or wishing to purchase putting their interests exclusively in our hands, will have them advertised gratis.

H. C. MILLER & CO.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers

CROCERIES

Provisions,

COFFEES,

SUGARS,

HAMS,

PORK,

OILS.

DRIED FRUITS,

CANNED FRUITS,

SPICES,

CRACKERS,

CANDIES,

NUTS, &c.

A FULL ASSORTMENT OF

China, Delf,

CLASSWARE

LAMPS

AND

CHIMNEYS.

TEAS,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

St. Paul Prices.

We also present to the citizens of Jamestown and vicinity a full line of

Dry Goods,

CLOTHING,

HATS and CAPS,

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HATS

BOOTS AND SHOES,

TRIMMINGS,

PERFUMERY, YANKEE NOTIONS,

DRUGS, PATENT MEDECINES,

CIGARS AND TOBACCO.

We also keep a stock such as will pay purchasers to examine

HARDWARE,

TINWARE,

STEEL TRAPS, ETC.,

and various articles in this line.