

Pierre Weekly Free Press.

Volume VIII.

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1890.

Number 28.

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THE SAVAGE SIOUX.

Alarming Reports of Indian Depredations as Brought to the City Today.

Redskins Massing on Pass Creek and Killing Settlers' Cattle for Recreation.

The Grand Jack-Rabbit Hunt Tomorrow—A Suicide Reported at Rousseau.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.
The only thing in the way of serious and reliable news of Indian trouble that has yet been brought to Pierre came today.

Scotty Phillips and Charlie Waldron are two ranchmen well known in Pierre who own large herds of cattle on upper Bad river. They bring word of serious trouble brooding twenty-five miles south of them on White river and have come in for advice with the governor and see what can be done in the way of securing assistance in event of an outbreak.

Learning they were in the governor's office, a FREE PRESS representative dropped in and heard the substance of their narrations to him.

It might be of interest to state here that Mr. Phillips is as fine a specimen of physical manhood as can be found anywhere. He is of foreign birth and since his residence in this country has been most of the time on the frontier—or since 1873. He was in the government employ and was with the troops connected with Custer's expedition and was through the Cheyenne excitement of 1879. He is a level headed, shrewd business man and has the confidence of everybody with whom he has done business. He married an Indian woman in 1879 and has been among them almost continuously ever since. He has some 1,700 cattle on his range, including stock belonging to Governor Mellette, A. D. Marriott of Pierre, W. I. Walker of Omaha and others.

Mr. Waldron also married an Indian woman—or half breed—and has been with Indians nearly all his life. He was through the New Ulm massacre war period and has ever since been on the frontier. He owns quite a number of cattle and understands Indian ways thoroughly.

The governor questioned them closely, giving as his excuse for exhibiting incredulity, the fact that he had witnessed several groundless Indian scares of late—and as a sample of the way it was going read a telegram received at 11 o'clock last night from Mr. Summerville, at Harrod, stating a number of armed Indians had camped near there and asking for rifles to be sent at once!

But the governor knows Phillips well and has confidence in him and considers there is some cause for alarm to stock men on the upper Bad river.

Phillips and Waldron both insist that not only themselves but all ranchmen up there are in imminent danger of losing their cattle and possibly more. Already Mr. Phillips has lost some twenty head; Waldron, six or seven that he knows of; Scoville, six or seven head. They admit that ranchmen usually lose two or three a year by Indians stealing them and that they expected a loss each year that way—the ranges are miles in scope and in the neighborhood of the Bad Lands it is exceedingly rough and an easy matter to steal cattle. But it is their manner of killing cattle more than the number that shows points of ugliness in their character to one who is familiar with Indian character. In some places they found a carcass with arrows in its body, which is as much as to say "an Indian with a bad heart did this and what are you going to do about it?"

But Indians who were formerly smiling and friendly and would converse, are now surly looking, dumb as oysters, and carry their belts full of cartridges and an excellent Winchester over their shoulder.

All the semi-civilized, or good Indians, they claim, have gone into the agencies, which is considered a sure pointer that trouble is at hand and they know it.

THE SEAT OF WAR
Is Short Bull's camp, which is located south of the White river in the Pierre Ridge agency, a few miles from the mouth of Pass creek. Here they claim are 1,500 lodges containing at least that many men besides women and children. Short Bull's following are of the ugly, wilder class who have the firmest sort of faith in the new Messiah craze.

Mr. Waldron says it is wonderful what strong faith they seem to have in this new religion. They are furnished with shirts they firmly believe are bullet proof. They have been assured the winter will continue to be open, beautiful weather as at present, until grass comes again. They are located right in the edge of the Bad Lands, which they can enter and scarcely a white man can follow. The Bad Lands at present are unusually full of cattle, several extra thousands having been turned in there the past season by ranchmen—but the prophets or medicine men say the new Christ has ordained it for the Indians benefit. This is the reason they do not wait for spring weather as they usually do when contemplating an outbreak.

THE SERIOUS FEATURE
of this situation is that the order has gone

out to the army officers to capture the leaders of the Messiah craze. The army is now massing in the southern portion of the south reservation and the followers of Short Bull swear that if any attempt is made to capture him there will be bloodshed forthwith—and Phillips and Waldron are sure they mean what they say.

The result is that the settlers in Nowlin, Jackson and Ziebach counties to the north will be left unprotected and long before troops can be got into that section the Indians will scatter in small squads and burn and pillage and massacre settlers and drive off their herds, that is if they follow up their former customs—that will be the certain result.

This is the new phase of the Indian trouble as it has taken shape the past few days.

No active demonstrations are known to be going on at the north reservation, although it is but a short distance across to Humps' and Big Foot's camps of old uglies at Cherry creek. Couriers, or Indian runners, pass between the two reservations but it is not thought the upper reservation Indians will be brought into the trouble.

Cattle men are arming up the Bad river and will endeavor to attend to the Indians themselves if no other help is given them—but they have the impression that while an Indian may kill a white man it would be called "war" by the government—but if they kill an Indian the government would call it "murder!"

The governor has not fully determined what his line of policy will be in the matter. He is at Fort Pierre today looking up further evidence—and is talking some of going to the "front" again for personal investigation.

While there are only a couple hundred cattle men in Ziebach, Nowlin and Jackson counties, yet they have thousands of cattle and horses in their charge—as well as their own lives, and he will protect them at all hazards—but of course wishes to act with intelligence and make no bad breaks that will precipitate unnecessary trouble.

The Grand Rabbit Chase.

We learn from local sports today that arrangements have been made on a large scale for a big jack rabbit chase tomorrow in which everybody may participate, and in which everybody is cordially invited to join.

There are some suggestions offered that will govern the expedition. It has been mutually agreed that E. A. West act as master of ceremonies.

Everyone who wishes to witness the chase or take part in it, should make it a point to be at the summit of Snake butte by 10 o'clock—not later.

Everybody that has a dog is asked to bring him along—the more the merrier. But hold your dogs when you get there until the hounds arrive.

It is important for a successful chase that this is done—for ordinary dogs will start up the game even sooner than the hounds but will lose them in the bluffs. Wait until the signal is given by Mr. West before you let the dogs loose.

THE LINE OF CHASE.

At the signal from Mr. West the party in the chase will deploy out in line and advance north over the space of country lying west of the section line, or the Okobojo road and the bluffs, and continue north three miles. The line then will swing over to the east of said section line and return to Snake butte.

Parties in carriages can command an excellent view of the whole route from the butte, and if you have a field glass, so much the better. Bring your field glass if you have one.

THE CHASE.

Among the fleet-footed hounds that will be there, are at least four that know how to take in any rabbit that ever jumped.

There will be Vail's famous blue-grey hound that has participated in many a chase and has been on exhibition at various dog fairs in the east.

Morris' hound, of Fort Pierre, is a splendid runner and not long since caught four jack rabbits in one day.

Fred LaPlant's fleet-footed bitch greyhound will be there and when she strings herself out in the wake of a jack rabbit, he is sure to be her meat.

Crosby Davis' magnificent hound, which everybody knows, is booked for the occasion. This dog is a wonderful stayer and has caught a car load of rabbits in his day.

Lew Albright's Scotch hound, a fine blooded dog, has been under the weather some, lately, but Lew says he is well enough to be entered into, the sport tomorrow and he thinks he will make a good record if a rabbit is started in front of him.

It really appears at this writing that all that is necessary to make the sport above outlined for tomorrow a grand success, is to have fine weather and some jack rabbits.

Of course if a coyote should happen to be started instead of a "jack"—the fun will be all the better.

Mr. West says he does not care if 113 dogs are brought along—provided they are not allowed to roam the field before the hounds are ready. However the hounds will probably be ready as soon as anybody.

Suicide of Mary E. Johns.

Yesterday afternoon, the seventeen year old daughter of John Johns, of Dry Run, deliberately placed the muzzle of a shot gun to her head and blew the whole top of it off. No cause is given or known as to why the girl should do so. Dr. Sprague was summoned and at 7

CHARLES L. HYDE,

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ADOLPH EWERT,
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CAPITAL, - \$150,000.00
SURPLUS & PROFITS, 10,000.00

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JAS. S. SEBREE, Register of Deeds; J. C. EAGER, Dry Goods and Groceries;
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AMOS N. BLANDIN, Stocks and Bonds; ADOLPH EWERT, Cashier;
B. J. TEMPLETON, Mayor of the City of Pierre.

General Banking, Exchange and Collections. WE PAY INTEREST ON Time Deposits. Visitors Always Welcome.

o'clock field an inquest. Following is the verdict of the jury:

We the jury find that the deceased, Mary Elizabeth Johns, came to her death by her own hand with the use of a shot gun, and we believe it to be of her own intent.

E. L. FILLMORE,
A. H. TAYLOR,
J. C. WILD.

Jury.

FROM FORT PIERRE.

The Regular Grist of News From Over the River.

The bridge company now have all the boats out of the river, including Bad river—and now a temporary bridge of some kind will have to be constructed over Bad river, as communication must be kept up between Fort Pierre and the south side additions.

The report that the citizens of Huron are arming themselves for an attack of the Indians is to be expected. They do not doubt feel guilty down there, and it is only this class that need have any fear of the Indians.

Those parties intending to go west this morning to Nowlin county, did not go for some reason—probably the muddy condition of the roads on account of last night's rain.

Thos. Phillips is fencing his 330 acres of land adjoining the townsite on the south-west. This tract of land will be valuable property one of these days, being nice level land.

T. H. Martin remains in charge of the Fort Pierre real estate office in Pierre most of the time.

Several from Fort Pierre will participate in the jack-rabbit chase near Pierre next Thursday.

Harry Howes, now has his lumber office in Hollembeck & Hollembeck's real estate building.

Mr. Cox, of Harrod, has been in town a day or two looking up some real estate matters.

WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.

F. R. Ketchum has received a letter from his brother at Agnes, Ia., from which it appears that the people in the east are greatly concerned lest some dire disaster in the way of an Indian massacre befall their relatives and friends living near the reservations, and in fact everywhere in the Dakotas. The facts are that no one here has any fears of an Indian outbreak, and no one even carries arms of any kind, although continually traveling about the Indian country, and those who are nearest the alleged scenes of war have the least fears of trouble. It is known that many of these sensational reports are circulated by army officers, fearing Congress may this winter reduce the army; and

also by some persons who want soldiers stationed near the towns, that they may spend their money there and make things lively. It is true that some dancing has been going on among the Indians, but this has no particular significance—as Indians are said to be born dancing and naturally enough they keep it up until they shuffle off into their graves. It might also be added in this connection that many of these sensational rumors are started by cattlemen who laugh in their sleeves that it may be the means of keeping out settlers who would plow up the land.

Ketchum & Son, the real estate merchants at Fort Pierre, tell us that these reports going out that the Indians are getting bad and driving people from the reservation are not true. There are a few tenderfeet here and in this vicinity, who are afraid of their shadow, and they are very ignorant of the habits of Indians and interpret every new fashion and craze as a war-like demonstration. Such people are the ones who button-hole old residents and ask: "Is he a chief? Has he ever killed anybody?" and the one they are asking questions about is some poor, inoffensive squaw.

Grading for the foundation of the new Congregational church was commenced this forenoon. It is located on Second avenue, a fine location. The Rus-Owen Lumber company furnishes the lumber. Curran & Harroun are the builders.

Mr. Herring says since Black Hawk assured him there would be no trouble on account of the Indians, he has rested easy—in fact he never did feel very uneasy, except when M. E. Curran beat him by two votes for county treasurer.

Thanksgiving day will be quite generally observed tomorrow in Fort Pierre.

Old settlers now predict fine weather until Christmas.

Shipping in Sheep.

Onda Journal: A. W. Waite and H. M. McDonald expect to ship in 5,000 head of sheep this fall, which are to be leased out to farmers in Sully and Hughes counties. Already sheep husbandry has become one of the leading industries of this county, and Sully will probably soon be the leading wool-raising county of this state. Woolen mills will soon be needed to dispose of the product, without shipping it to the eastern market.

Woolly.

Madison Southern: Pierre capitalists have organized a stock company with \$50,000 capital for the purpose of buying and selling sheep—or to put sheep out on shares with responsible farmers. The Pierretes propose to make the reservation country a less wild and more woolly.

The place to buy your wall paper, draperies and furniture is at J. D. Phillips & Co.