

DODGE CITY TIMES.

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A WINTER FRESHET.

Some fears were expressed Saturday for the safety of the Arkansas river bridge at this place. The river rose several feet and at four o'clock in the afternoon large cakes of ice were floating in the stream. For several days trains were delayed from the west owing to freshets and ice gorges in Colorado. From the West Las Animas Leader we make the following extracts concerning the freshet and damage done by it:

"The mild weather of the last few days has made an impression on something up the Purgatoire, the Caddo, Mud and Rule creeks and that something in liquid form has come rushing madly down and is going onward toward the sea. The suspicion is that there has been a heavier snow fall in the canons of the Purgatoire than has been known before for ten years. Certain it is that such a flood as this was never known before in the Purgatoire in winter time. It came down Tuesday night and Wednesday, and Friday the water was in many places half a mile wide, and could be seen from high points for miles around. The liquid was of a thick paint-like consistency, and had a somewhat disagreeable, sulphurous odor. Strange as it may seem, the sulphurous liquid carried on its bosom immense cakes of ice, many as large as the side of a two story house.

Wood haulers who started out early in the morning for the south turned back and appalled their friends with the story of the flood and the fact that a dozen or so teams with drivers were held on the other side. Parties who started for Ft. Lyon soon returned with the news that a part of Ft. Lyon bridge was gone, and that the railroad track and bridge at the Purgatoire were under water.

The Fort Lyon wagon bridge over the Arkansas went out in sections Wednesday. An immense gorge of ice formed above it, from eight to ten feet high, running back a quarter of a mile. A span first gave way near the middle which set the ice in motion, after which the piles were mowed down like straw. Two spans remained about midway and four at each end.

Two miles below Caddo the river made a detour from its old channel toward the south bluff, crossing the track, and has washed out 1500 feet of the grade. Three miles further down the current re-crosses the track, and it is supposed has caused similar damage there. The bottom between the new channel and the old is pretty well covered with water.

From the Pueblo Chieftan: Thursday's eastern train was delayed about nine hours by the washing away of the Apishapa bridge. Most of the streams in this section have been on a high for several days, owing to the warm weather and melting of ice and snow in the mountains. The Apishapa and Horisano are flooding their banks and causing considerable damage to ranchmen living along the banks of the streams. The streams all usually run very rapidly, and when they become swollen by their tributaries the water carries away everything in its mad career. Even the placid Arkansas seems to be inclined to get its back up, and was yesterday rising rapidly, but it will take a pretty big thaw to flood its banks, as there is considerable room between shores. It looks as though the spring floods had commenced and if this should prove true, Pueblo might as well say good bye to a pure water supply the coming summer. So far as heard no great damage by the Purgatoire flood has been done, but much is anticipated before it abates. It is not known yet whether trains over the Santa Fe will be able to get through to-day, but it is hoped they will.

Marie Rose has been photographed in 158 positions. This is an advertisement, but the variety of attitudes can be beaten easily by a boy 5 years old who is told to sit still at a funeral or a prayer meeting.

FARM AND STOCK LETTER.

To the Editor of the Times.

LARNED, KAN., Feb. 5, 1881.

Wheat is wintering safely; the roots all seem sound. Although we had a peep at sunny Kansas the first few days of this month, and I suppose the ground hog did come out and take a look at himself as I was afraid he would; but February has put on her mantle again. I hope she will keep it on until she is obliged to consign it to the rag bag. Yesterday opened with fog and damp wind from southeast and turned to light rain towards night. This morning disclosed a fine coat of snow, and still continues to fall steadily from the north and northeast. It is too late to hurt anything except grass, but will replace the old crop with an early start of new. It will be splendid for wheat, and if rough weather lasts the week over, we may look for a good early spring.

Now is the time stock wants their best feed, and we hope stock men will provide well this month. All stock that have been kept well up to this time, with a little addition of good feed during the rough days up to March, will pay their owners good interest on the capital invested. It is the only way to make profit out of stock, and especially in a country like this where feed is plenty and cheap. Men who will not feed stock on millet at \$4 or corn at 25 to 30 ought not to have any stock to care for. I think this winter will prove the fallacy of more stock than feed, especially among the sheep men. Experience is a dear school, but fools will learn in no other.

Sorghum fodder and sorghum seed are growing greatly in favor with the farmers who raised sorghum the past season. The best mode of raising and harvesting the crop is becoming quite interesting, and we think it would be a splendid subject to discuss through your papers. I am of the opinion it will take the place of millet among farmers and feeders. I think the seed quite as good as Indian corn for sheep, and that it is almost as good for cattle or horses not at work. I do not think it right to set the standard of sorghum seed at 45 pounds as it weighs at least 56 pounds to the measured bushel. The seed raised in this vicinity is quite as heavy as corn.

Some of our hay merchants are pressing mill for shipment west. I think it is a good move, as the scarcity of hay and feed of all kinds will require all we can spare from Kansas to good figures. I paid \$25 per ton for hay to feed my sheep at the big, dry little town of Grenada, and 75 cents for a team to haul it about twenty rods.

W. J. COLVIER.

LA JUNTA COUPLE MARRIED BY TELEGRAPH.

Wednesday last, says the Leader, furnished a bit of a sensation for both Las Animas and La Junta. A wedding always excites some curiosity—puts the young women in a flutter and electrifies the young men. This was a wedding and what made it peculiarly funny was the fact that it was actually performed by telegraph. The officiating minister being at West Las Animas, the bride and groom at La Junta. Nor was it done for a joke. The time set for the time set for the marriage was Wednesday; the minister had been duly engaged to go up on that train that morning, but lo, the flood! No train could go, the hour for the ceremony was drawing near, all preparations had been made for starting at 4 p. m. on a bridal trip. In this dilemma, a request came to Rev. Mr. Winsor that the ceremony be performed by telegraph, to which the minister upon brief reflection consented. Such things had been done. It only depended upon the faith of the parties to the ceremony at either end of the line. All things could be made safe by having the requisite witnesses at both places.

This is the way it was done: At four p. m. the bride and bridegroom with their witnesses were standing in the telegraph office at La Junta; the clergyman, Rev. S. A. Winsor, with his witnesses in the telegraph office at West Las Animas. The operator at La Junta was M. P. Dooley; at West Las Animas, Ed. L. Teed.

The fifth telegram was as follows: For as much as Levi C. Gillen and Ida Wickham have consented together in holy wedlock and have declared the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce they are husband and wife, together in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

THE RANGE.

We hear of no losses of stock on the ranch south during the storm of last Sunday. We believe there were some losses reported previously. The snow storm of Sunday extended no farther west than Pierceville.

PROVIDING FOR WINTER.

We are pleased to notice an increasing disposition, on the part of the stock men, to secure permanent locations and provide for possible contingencies by building sheds and putting up some food for the poorer stock. Every sensible and far-seeing man must see the necessity for providing food for stock during winter, is only a question of time, even in Barber county. The range will gradually become more crowded, until it will not offer sufficient grazing, both summer and winter, and when that time comes, the stock holder will be fortunate indeed who is prepared against any snap judgments of the weather. We would advise every stock man who expects to engage in the stock business, to secure a permanent location where he may prepare to store food for his stock when it becomes necessary.—Medicine Lodge Crescent.

The Medicine Lodge Index says: "So far as our observation goes, and from what we can learn from stock men themselves, cattle are looking well, although the winter has been an unusually severe one. Though cattle, that were driven in late, are not doing well; but cattle that have been wintered here, are doing finely. Some few cattle have died, but the cause of this was their inability to procure water. We have conversed with a number of stock men from different portions of the nation, and they all unite in saying that cattle were never in better condition than at the present time.

From the West Las Animas Leader.

There are two things that Bent county must have: One is a pile driver, the other a pair-horse.

The roar of the Purgatoire may be heard three miles away, and as for its odor, it smells of heaven.

It is said that from 300 to 400 head of dead cattle have been removed from the vicinity of Ft. Lyon by the military authorities.

Some weeks ago there was talk in a quiet way of two important public enterprises for W. Las Animas, viz: a woolen factory and a large hotel by a stock company. Both are feasible and would prove noble projects for the growth of the town. Shall they be allowed to perish? Shall the town be allowed to get down like a starving cow, never to rise again.

The opinion now is obtaining that owing to the prevalence of the hard weather in the stock region, cattle will be scarce a year, but the shortage will be made up to producers in the abundant grass next season, the superior condition of the cattle remaining, and the consequent appreciation in value.

Chas. Parsons returned Tuesday from a trip to the ranges of Coward & Guggell on the Dry Cimarron. He had a hard trip out on account of extreme cold weather and the snow, and the snow was no better returning. After getting out fifty miles it was from two to ten feet deep lying in drifts in the back of the streams. On the plains not a patch of bare ground was to be seen, and the snow if equally distributed would have been six inches on the level. Very little bare ground was seen on the Carrizo or Cimarron, not south of them the snow was said to be 2 1/2 feet deep on the level. The river and northern cattle on the Cimarron in great numbers and the stock of the Cimarron were on the Beaver and Canadian. On his return Mr. Parsons says the snow had melted none between the Carrizo and Purgatoire on Saturday. He crossed Smith Canon on a gorge of ice which filled it to the top and was over 100 feet long. The water was running in the Canon at the time too deep to cross. Mr. P. was so much impressed with the depth of the snow and low temperature that he is willing to lay a wager that he can find plenty of ice and snow there in July.

The Atchison Champion puts the members of the Kansas Legislature into four classes on the prohibition question. It says: "It is more than probable that the violent extremists, reinforced by a number who do not believe in sumptuary law at all, will enact the most extreme features of the most extreme laws that have been presented, the one class voting for such provisions because they believe them to be right, and the other class supporting them because they desire to force a reaction of public sentiment against prohibitory legislation."

THE DEAD LINE.

The Topeka correspondent of the Kansas City Journal says: "The question of changing the location of what is known as the 'dead line' is uppermost in the minds of a great many statesmen, and there are prospects of an extremely lively encounter between the opposing forces before the session is closed. The dead line, as is well understood, is an imaginary line drawn across the western portion of the state, and the territory west of the line set off as a path through which Texas and Indian Territory cattle may be driven up into Nebraska. According to the law, all Southern stock found east of the line are subject to extermination.

On the dead line matter the Western members, who on all other subjects maintain an unbroken front, are somewhat disrupted. "Boy" Wright, the member from Dodge City, is the patron saint of the "cow boys," and fails to appreciate the ideas of the agriculturists, who are inflated with the belief that it is their sworn duty under the laws of the state to move the line to a point within twelve miles of the state line, thus leaving a mere country road for the passage of herds. Wright is a first-rate fellow, but has never subscribed to that doctrine placed on record by the late G. Washington, that agriculture is the most healthful and elevating pursuit which can be followed by man. Bob is also a partner of the firm of Wright, Beverley & Co., of Dodge City, which firm commands and thrives from the trade brought by the Texas cattle. If the line is moved Dodge City will lose the trade. He has recorded a series of oaths that the line will remain unchanged, and as he heads a large following—holds them in the hollow of his hand, so to speak, it is probable that he will do successful battle to the movement.

In connection with this subject of the dead line, it might not be out of place to remark the intense interest manifested by the average Kansan in everything relating to stock, upon the growth of which, according to his reckoning, the future possibilities of the state depend. Whisper "cattle," or "sheep," to a Kansan stock grower, and you are at once lessened up against the most convenient fence, and the exact figures are produced. The countless acres of grass which yearly go to waste are brought up, the number of heads of cattle or sheep which might be maintained thereon, the market value of beef, mutton and wool produced, together with a close estimate of the clear profit which could be realized by a lifting of the grass crop. The statistics are invariably supplemented with another series of computations in which Col. Sellers demonstrates beyond a peradventure that by following the business of stock growing every citizen of Kansas could become a millionaire in five, ten, fifteen, or at the outside twenty years. I had hitherto maintained a firm belief that the newspaper business, as a general thing, panned out better than anything else, and afforded brighter prospects of affluence. This is fallacy, a delusion—"there's nothing like leather." A herd of beef is better than much Little Pittsburgh."

KINSLEY GRAPHICS.

—Fifty-six head of cattle have died near Oterrie this winter.

—There's millions in it for anybody that will open a first-class laundry in Kinsley.

—Attention is called to the advertisement of the Temperance Hall, a new pleasure resort in this city.

—Kansas papers have a good deal to say about the great rush that will be made in the spring from the East to the Western states.

—We know of no better location for a woolen mill than Kinsley, Edwards county, Kansas. Men looking about for an opening to invest capital should bear this in mind.

—Workmen were putting up a new telegraph wire yesterday. This makes four wires along the line of the Santa Fe. The one they are now putting up is called the Kansas City and Denver.

—According to the report furnished us by the signal office at Dodge, the highest temperature during the month of January was fifty-six degrees. The lowest, eighteen below zero. The prevailing direction of the wind was north.

—People now begin to talk about the back bone of winter being broken. Ladies and gentlemen, our residence in this country for some time has taught us that the back bone of a Kansas winter breaks about the first of April each year.