

PRAIRIE BLOSSOMS.

The Rapidly Growing Towns on The Overland Route.

St. Paul's Political Slate.

Correspondence of THE BEE.

St. Paul, Neb., June 6, 1881.

During a recent trip along the U. P. railroad from North Platte to Grand Island, I was much surprised at the great number of emigrant wagons on the road to Oregon.

The stock loss during the past winter has been currently reported at 7 per cent, but is found to be much greater. It seems the ranchmen don't like to let it be known that they have sustained any greater loss.

NORTH PLATTE

has improved very much in the past year. A number of fine brick buildings will be added this year.

Decoration Day was appropriately observed by the people of North Platte, a large number of whom went to the old Ft. McPherson cemetery to deck the graves.

THE TOWNS OF PLUM CREEK

has increased a great deal in population and very considerably in business.

The towns of Gibbon, Shelton and Woodriver, between Kearney and Grand Island, keep pace with the increase of settlement and trade.

GRAND ISLAND

has improved more in the past year than any other Nebraska town, except Omaha and Lincoln.

THE TOWN OF ST. PAUL

present terminus of the Loup branch of the U. P. railway, has more than doubled its population in the past year.

As is generally well known this is a political hot bed, and the county has usually been manipulated by a ring who have used it as a contribution to railroad political power and prestige.

The railroad finger was in St. Paul a fortnight ago slating the county ticket for the coming fall election.

The ring reported who should be nominated on the republican ticket for clerk, treasurer, sheriff and judge of the county.

The county superintendent of schools and county commissioner are reserved as gifts, one to be tendered the church and the other to the temperance people.

The finger signified the acceptability of the slate as far as made up, and cautioned them to put the gifts in places where they will count well.

This slate makes a bow first to its makers, then to the saloon element, next to the G. A. R., and lastly on the programme, prepares overtures for the church and morality people.

This slate is sleek, witty, well dressed and pliable, has a respectable appearance on the outside and is game to the core.

but stronger ones than that have succumbed before an indignant populace, and it remains to be seen if the point of this finger shall be a menace to the free choice by the republicans of Howard county of whom they desire to serve in the public offices.

JAY.

How She Fixed Him.

The young man was evidently honest in his intentions, but three years of constant courting had failed to overcome his excessive bashfulness.

"How do you get along with your cooking?" "Nicely," replied the young miss. "I'm improving wonderfully. I can make splendid cake now."

"Can you?" said the young man in pleased manner; "what kind do you like best?" "I like one made with flour and sugar, and citron, and raisins, and currant, and lots of those things, and

beautiful frosting on top," responded the young miss.

"Why, that's a wedding cake," exclaimed the young man, nervously.

"I meant wedding," said the young miss, slyly.

They are published.

THE ARCTIC COLONY.

Details of the Equipment and Object of the New Government Expedition.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Yesterday afternoon a Democrat and Chronicle reporter learned that Lieut. Fred P. Kinslingbury, the second officer in command of the projected exploring expedition for the North Pole, was in Rochester.

A day or two ago the lieutenant, who has been a well known officer in the 11th infantry, arrived in Rochester, on his way from Fort Custer to Washington and thence to St. John's, Newfoundland, to arrange the north-bound ship for the long journey.

The expedition is to be commanded by Lieut. Greeley, of the 5th cavalry, who was for twelve years acting signal officer. Lieut. Kinslingbury, as before stated, is second officer. The government colony will consist of three officers, sixteen soldiers, four scientists, one naturalist, two surgeons, and one photographer—twenty-six men in all.

The officers are chosen from the army, with special reference to their capability and bravery, and the soldiers are all picked men of unquestioned courage, fidelity and strong physique.

As this is to be the first like exhibition ever sent out by the government it will be one of the most select and perfect grade possible in every detail.

Its organization is already complete and as nearly perfect as may be.

Every possible means of amusement and diversion will be provided for the men on the vessel to relieve the dull, cold monotony of the long Arctic night toward which and into which they will journey.

Books, games, puzzles, and schemes of many sorts and devices will be on board the vessel for the sole purpose of entertaining the northern navigators.

The colony will sail from St. John's on the 15th of June, in a strongly-built American steam whaler. They expect to land in Lady Franklin bay, latitude 81 degrees, 40 minutes north, late in August.

The ship will leave the colony at Lady Franklin bay, with supplies for three years, and return immediately to the United States, after which the government will send a ship to the colony each year with supplies, ammunition, etc.

Landing late in the summer the colony will have ample time in which to prepare themselves a home station, put up hut, arrange portable houses and make ready for the long and dreary six months of night which will soon thereafter settle down upon them.

When this protracted night shall be succeeded by the day the explorers will move on and perhaps two degrees further upon their voyage overland, then providing a second home station, where they will await the coming of another night.

On the occasion of the second day's dawn after their landing they expect to make a bold and final dash to gain the object of their expedition, and to return to their second home station, where the third long night will be spent.

Then the return to the final station will follow, and at the end of three years the colony hope to return home in a government vessel.

Full arrangements for the overland expedition have been arranged by Dr. Pavy, in Greenland, who has been there a year and has become acclimated.

The Esquimaux outfits and guides are already provided and prepared for the part which they are expected to perform in the expedition.

The object of the exploration is to make observations astronomical and geographical, to ascertain whether Greenland is an island or a peninsula, to explore territory, and, if possible, to discover the supposed channel leading around and into Behring straits, which may lead to the discovery and location of the mystical "North Pole."

As the sanitary arrangements for this expedition are far superior to those who have made others unsuccessful and fatal, its good results are looked forward to with confidence by those directly interested in it.

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NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL of St. Paul, Capital 500,000

FIREMEN'S FUND of California, Capital 800,000

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE CO. of London, Capital 1,500,000

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