

ROVING RANGER.

He Pays a Visit to Grand Island in His Circuit,

And Tells Nearly All He Knows About It.

Mining Possibilities For That City and the State.

The Place as It is and as It May Be.

Correspondence of The Bee. GRAND ISLAND, September 4.—I cannot think that our city—Omaha—with its 38,000 inhabitants, its wonderful growth and unparalleled prosperity, is jealous of Grand Island. I am certain that THE BEE is not, but still it is a fact that the Omaha ladies have not given even a faint outline of the great work that is now being done in Grand Island.

A STONE CITY. There few blocks east of Grand Island is now towering skyward a series of walls, massive, ornamental and grand. They are all made of pitched stone, and this might be called the city of industry. God only knows how many generations yet unborn may here make this bright steel brighter and find that happiness springs from the sweat of toil, for these are

THE UNION PACIFIC SHOPS OF GRAND ISLAND. Of the nine buildings, only one is completed, and Joseph R. McConnell, master mechanic of the North Platte shops, is now here to put its machinery in place, so that in a few days the hum of its numerous lathes will give music as they make ribbands of iron, steel or brass. The engine rooms with stone floors are handsome enough for parlors, and the vast fly wheels and the enormous shafts at once impress the visitor with the gigantic extent of the work that will be done in the adjoining machine shops.

The blacksmith shop, with its twenty-four forge capacity, is now nearing completion. The stone walls are carefully finished. A little farther east I found one hundred and sixty men at work; sixty of them are stone cutters. I am told that as high as fourteen car loads of stone have been absorbed in these massive foundations in a single day, and yet their growth was scarcely noticeable. Southern Nebraska furnishes all this stone, and it is of excellent quality. A chimney that looks as if it might have been built as a monument, it is so massive and beautiful, is completed and a foundation twenty feet square is laid for what they tell me will be a still more magnificent one, two thousand five hundred and sixty-one thousand red brick are required to build it.

Mr. Way is authority for the statement that all of the nine buildings must be

COMPLETED THIS FALL. But if I am any judge the thing cannot "be did."

A REPORT. An ex-lieutenant governor told me that he had seen a letter from U. P. headquarters which said that these shops were to be doubled in capacity. This, I presume, means that they are to be doubled in number. Instead of nine shops there will be eighteen. He also, on the same authority, says that the railroad, already reaching towards the north from Grand Island to St. Paul, Neb., is to be completed to the

BLACK HILLS AND YELLOWSTONE PARKS, which will open to Grand Island and Omaha a country rich in minerals, unbounded in grazing possibilities, seams with coal, abounding in forests, alive with game, and the greatest health and pleasure resorts of which the world can boast. Several northern roads are now making frantic strides to reach this rock bound region, where wealth flows in petrolea streams, but the U. P. is sleeping with one eye open and it is not likely that weaker powers will be allowed to forestall the giant that nursed the Black Hills into life.

THE ELVESHED PLATEAU, on which the shops are being erected, is a spot where the surroundings are all that could be desired.

Highly cultivated farms, artificial groves and the principal streets of the city are the leading beauties of the surrounding scenery, while far away to the south is the silver streak that tells the course of the Platte river.

\$500,000 will fall short of paying the cost of these improvements without any "doubling of capacity."

THE GRAND ISLAND STOCK YARDS is one of the contemplated institutions of the future, and they will be owned and operated wholly or in part by the U. P. house their extent can only be surmised.

Without doubt there are no buildings of this kind in all the western country from the Mississippi to the sea that will all compare with these shops.

There are now one hundred and twenty acres of land in the tract the U. P. purchased for the shops and no part of it can be purchased at any price. Surrounding lots are quickly sold at high figures and those who intend their ground any more quickly.

The present round-house will be torn down when the new one is completed.

THE NUMBER OF MEN who will be employed is variously estimated at from four hundred to two thousand, and it is doubtful if anyone knows. Certain it is that the shops in Omaha are being almost doubled in number while those at Grand Island are going up, and hence some new departure must be in view. Of course the vast enterprises now being undertaken will require more facilities for work and more workmen. There is the new route to the Pacific, which will make the U. P. independent of the Central; then there is the Yellowstone Park R. R., and again the St.

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Echoes From the Guarded Doors of Temples of My tery.

Masonic Miscellany—The Growth of the Odd-Fellows—Fremont's Excursion, Knightly Phytians.

THE FREE MASONS REGULARS.

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The regular monthly convolve of Mt. Calvary Commandery K. T. No. 1 was held on Friday evening at their asylum. Capitol lodge holds its regular monthly meeting on Monday, the Chapter on Tuesday, and Covert on Wednesday a week.

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Resolved, "That the thanks of this lodge be voted

1st. "To the citizens of Fremont and North Bend and others who accompanied the excursion to Grand Island, for the consideration and good-natured manner in which they put up with the dirty and uncomfortable conveyance furnished us by the U. P. R. Co., after we had contracted and paid for first-class passenger coaches."

2d. "To Odd Fellows and citizens of Grand Island for their generous reception and the many courtesies shown us while in their city."

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