

TO THE BLACK HILLS.

The Newspaper Men Return From Their Western Tour Safe and Sound.

NEBRASKA'S "BAD LANDS."

A Coal Mine that Beats Anything of the Sort in the World--A Few Pointers From the Northwest.

From Thursday's Daily

Last Saturday noon the writer arrived in Lincoln and after eating dinner boarded the B. & M. special newspaper train, for the Black Hills, in company with the following named gentlemen: John Francis, general passenger agent, and A. C. Ziener, ticket agent at Lincoln; S. P. Mobley of the Grand Island Independent; J. A. Creath of the Hastings Nebraskan; C. V. Cole, Beatrice Democrat; A. C. Jordan, Beatrice Express; F. G. Simmons, Seward Reporter; R. B. Waigust, Hastings Democrat; G. T. Corcoran, York Democrat; A. B. Knotts, Plattsmouth Herald; H. D. Hathaway and C. H. Gere, Lincoln; Fred Benzing, and L. Wessel, jr., Lincoln Courier; F. H. Hyde, Lincoln News; A. C. Foote, Atchison Patriot; Rice Eaton, Kearney Hub; S. F. Woodbridge, Omaha World Herald; V. Rosewater, Omaha Bee; W. M. Smith, Omaha Republican; W. P. Cutler, Kansas City Journal; I. C. McNell, Kansas City Globe; J. W. Cotton, Lincoln Call; J. J. Steadman, Photo Engraving company.

All the afternoon the train sped along through beautiful fields of grain, which plainly shows that the Nebraska farmer is doing well. Arriving at Ravenna supper was announced and after the party had done justice to the spring chicken we again boarded the train and were taken as far as Alliance, where our car was left till morning that we might see the fine country while traveling. The first sight that met our vision in the morning was the beautiful little town of Alliance with not a tree or shrub within it. Here we were supplied with a special engine to take us to Newcastle. As we journeyed northward the settlements began to grow scarce. Frame houses were few in number, most of them being sod. The latter have an interesting appearance to one who has never seen such an home. They are built of rectangular pieces of sod, placed one upon the other. The roof is a wooden framework covered with living grass. Windows and doors are fitted in, giving the whole an inhabitable air. Some of the dwellings are half underground, being veritable dugouts. Others approach civilized models in that the walls are made of rough logs plastered over with mud.

At Hemingford we got our breakfast and was very pleasantly entertained. As we pass on, the hills gradually rise, getting higher and higher until, in the northern part of the state, they lift themselves abruptly and are surrounded by gray, conical buttes. The buttes often take the shape of a conglomerated mass of truncated cones, separated each from the other by deep fissures. The grass affords good pasture, but is interspersed with bunches of sage brush. Wild flowers blossom in abundance. Now and then cacti are seen with their yellow buds. Along the Niobrara the region of coniferous trees commences. These are seen in the dark green pines which cluster upon the sides of the buttes.

As we pass along and through the foot hills the sage brush becomes thicker. Villages of prairie dogs seem to whiz past the windows of the cars. The yellow canines sit on their haunches, scamper to their holes, and then to all appearances seem to fall headlong into them. As the Wyoming border is approached, the pine covered hills become more numerous. Soon we arrived at Pine Ridge tunnel, which is 700 feet long. We all got out and walked through. This is the only tunnel in the state of Nebraska and shows a good deal of engineering skill. After going a short distance we arrive at what is called the horsehoe which is very picturesque as we are up on the side of the mountain and can look down below us and see the beautiful valley with here and there a house with a small piece of ground under it and the rest of the valley all green, with a stream of water flowing through it and the railroad track winding along just below us. Our party got out and went down into the valley and waited for the train to make its run around the curves. As we came down a little girl came out of a house to meet us carrying the stars and stripes. She gave her name as Bessie Pomroy. Some of the boys gave her a few nickles. She said she was expecting a picnic party there that day and thought we were the party. The train coming along we all got aboard and soon arrived at Crawford where we were met by a brass band and a large delegation of citizens. Hon. E. W. Daily addressed us in a short speech and asked us to stop off on our return, to which Mr. Gere, of Lincoln, responded. We then sped along till we came to Hat Creek where a Sunday

school was in session, and a collection was taken up among the boys and turned over to the preacher who was present.

Arriving at Newcastle we were transferred to another car and were taken immediately up to Cambria which is seven miles above Newcastle and is 1,200 feet higher. Newcastle is 4,500 feet above the sea level and Cambria is 5,700. Here are the most wonderful coal mines in the world, and their sudden development is something astounding.

Last September there was little more than a townsite. Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins gave earnest of their intention to operate their coal vein and hauled the machinery overland from Alliance, Neb. Then the Burlington railway extended its track to Newcastle, and seven miles up the canon to Cambria, the site of the mines. The road reached the coalleries in November and found train loads of coal awaiting it. From that time the output has been increased. Now it is forty car loads per day and the owners will not be happy until they can ship 100 car loads each twenty-four hours. Newcastle has 900 people and Cambria 600 and the two are practically one. The mine owners being also proprietors of an immense general store and of a large interest in the new townsite of Newcastle. Newcastle is booming, dance halls and a gambling house run wide open, every building is occupied and it is probably the liveliest spot in the United States today.

Climbing laboriously up the steep canon on the train lands one near the head of Cambria, which is a group of frame structures; small and large. A boarding house, a dining hall for 300 people, the machine shops, a battery of boilers of 500 horsepower, the bridges across the canon connecting the two mines and the loading chutes are the outer works visible. The two mines or "slopes" are entered from the sides of the canon at a height of about ninety-five feet above the water. Their formation is peculiar. It is also bonanza-like for the owner. The vein is from seven to ten feet thick and runs out on a dead level into the mountain. The layer in the Antelope crops out in the valley next west and miles away. That in the Jumbo is known to cover eight square miles. The latest appliances are used in operating. There are actually no miners. Engineers run eighteen mining engines, which cut rapidly a space six feet wide, six feet deep and two inches thick in the bottom of each chamber. Augers drill the sides, blasts are fired and each shot brings down ten to fifteen tons of coal. The laborers shovel it into the cars the mules haul it out to day-light through shafts lighted by electricity, and automatic dumps load it into the car. A breaker has been put up but has never been used. There is no slate picking, no vertical shaft, no carriage, no fire damp. Compressed air supplied by the engines perched half way up the side of the canon drive all the machinery in and out of the mines. Thus coal is taken out at a depth of 5,700 feet above the level. The coal is remarkably hard, rich in gases and valuable for making steam and cooking.

Great as is the demand for labor it is not filled. Miners get \$1.75 a day and engineers get \$2 and \$4 or more and they are recruited from the laborers. But the railway building, the prospecting over the hills and the fever of speculation and interest take very many of the men who ship out to work in the mines. The mining is mainly done by the day shift, not over a score working at night.

Manager Hemingway, who comes from the Hocking valley coalleries, is an expert engineer, and the work is all directed closely by engineers, some of whom are on duty in the mines all the time.

Petroleum and natural gas are found in the valley below Newcastle but is not worked to any great extent.

At these mines our party was fed off of tin plates and had a good miners dinner, after which we were shown through the mines which are lighted by electricity, and then we were taken to the Kilpatrick horse ranch on a plateau 5,000 feet above sea level. It is a beautiful place, and boasts a cave, a canon, a view of the Big Horn mountains 180 miles away, and a residence furnished with all the modern improvements.

About 11 o'clock Sunday night after the editors had all gone to bed in their car, they were taken to siding No. 7. The excursionists awoke at this point and one half of the party were breakfasted by the citizens while the others dined at the eating house. Breakfast was hardly over before the stages and buggies were announced to be ready to take the party over the country to the Hot Springs, a distance of about twenty-eight miles, through a most beautiful and picturesque county, the party getting out and walking up the mountain sides. The promising health resort was reached in time for dinner. The balance of the day was spent there in riding around and looking at the beautiful scenery and bathing in what is called the plunge bath, which was very invigorating to the dusty travelers. The people were particularly anxious to extend courtesies to the guests at this place. In the evening they threw open their pavilion and gave

a ball in honor of the editors. A large number of Nebraska folks were found at the springs, who had nothing but praise to say of the place. On Tuesday morning the carriages were again brought out and the party started overland for the railroad, this time taking another course and meeting the car at Hat Creek. About noon we arrived at the Cascade springs, which is not a town but merely a ranch. Here a dinner was provided that would be a credit to a king's table. It was a true sample of Black Hills hospitality. Away out in the country, many miles from towns and railroads, a meal with all the delicacies of the best equipped markets was served in the open air. It is not a matter of record that the surprise took away any of the appetites that had been developed during the morning ride, but it is recorded that the stop at Cascade Springs made a deep impression on the minds of the journalists. The last halt was made at Crawford, the "gate city of the Hills." Here the citizens turned out with carriages and took the entire party a drive out to Fort Robinson, the military reservation, about four miles out where 800 U. S. troops are quartered. Upon returning we were ushered into the large hall, where a magnificent banquet was spread and music cheered, while the invited guests partook of the sumptuous feast. The ladies presented their compliments in the form of satin badges and provided bouquets for each guest and at each plate lay the following printed

Bill of Fare: Little Neck Clam, Anchois a L'huile, Sans Arêtes, Consomme Francaise, Bisque d'Ecrevisses, Radishes, Olives, Lettuce, Celery, Young Onions, Canadian Cheese, Sandwiches, Spring Chicken on Toast, Cold Salmon Mayonnaise, Lobster and Shrimp Salad, Chicken Salad, Westphalia Ham a la Gelee, Boned Turkey, Gatinine of Faisan, Mayonnaise of Chicken, Cold Turkey, Fillet of Boeuf, Game Pie, Saddle of Mutton with Current Jelly, Veal Sauté with Tomato Sauce, Calvas Back Duck, Tenne Hermétique D'Ele aux Foles, Russian Salad, Horicots Verts, Choux de Bruxelles, Horicots Flageolets, Petits pois au Beume, Bigarreaux au Morasquin, Marons de Turm a la Vanille, Calves Feet with Jelly, Neapolitaine Ice Cream, Nessel Rhode Puddings, Lemon Ice, Claret and Champagne Jellies, Biscuits Glaace, Charlottes Glaace, Solde-Seal, Munes Extra Dry, Assorted Cakes, Assorted Candies, Tea, Coffee, Lemonade.

The hall was most handsomely decorated with flowers and evergreen trees and on one side were the words "Burlington Route," surrounded by flags and on the other wall, "Welcome to the Gate City of the Hills." During the repast the string band from the fort rendered some excellent music. Short speeches and toasts were indulged in and for two hours the entertainment was a source of great enjoyment. A pleasant incident on the return was the presentation of a watch chain each to Mr. Francis and Mr. Ziener as a token of the appreciation of the members of the party for the courtesies extended by these representatives of the railway.

CORN PALACE OF 1890. The Greatest and Grandest of Them All--264 Feet Square. Sioux City Daily Times. A good start has been made on the Corn Palace of 1890. Plans have been submitted by Architect Brown and approved by the committee. The exterior of the Palace will be entirely different from any of the others and will have something of a Turkish mosque appearance. The Palace will have a street frontage of 528 feet, 264 feet on both Pierce and Sixth streets. The tower will rise to a height of 172 feet. The ground area of the Palace is just half a block, including both alleys. A feature of the 1890 Palace will be the large auditorium on the east, with a seating capacity of 1,200. The band stand will be between this and the large rotunda, covering an entire quarter block. There will be but one gallery, and that overlooking the rotunda, and will be reached by five stairways. This open space will be seventy-eight feet across and sixty-six feet to the ceiling. The plan is to have the Palace illuminated during the day the same as at night. The openings will be made so as to obstruct the light of day, and give plenty of ventilation. Active building will be commenced in July so that plenty of time can be had for suitably decorating the structure. The Palace will be opened with appropriate ceremony September 25, and close October 11.

From Friday's Daily. DIED: Last evening, of diphtheria, Oswald Hoffman, aged 6 years and 8 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Hoffman.

The young people of the M. E. church met last evening at the residence of Mr. Wash Smith and organized a chapter of the Epworth League, No. 25.

The many people that were disappointed in not getting to attend the cantata at the Tabernacle last night will doubtless avail themselves of the opportunity to hear it repeated Saturday night June 21st.

County Clerk Critchfield left this morning to join Mrs. Critchfield at Shreve, Wayne county, Ohio, where she has been visiting with her parents for several weeks. Frank Dixon, the worthy deputy will have charge of the office during Mr. Critchfield's absence, which will be till July 5th.

Judge Ramsey has recently made a very important ruling affecting wills. In the law of decedents, it is provided that every executor, before he shall enter upon the execution of his trust and before letters testamentary shall issue, shall give bonds to the judge of probate conditioned for the faithful performance of such duties as are provided by law. It sometimes occurs that the testator expressly provides in the will that no bond shall be required of the executor, thus waiving the statutory provision requiring such bond. Judge Ramsey holds that the provision in the will intended to be a waiver of the statutory provision can not be regarded, but that the bond must be given.

PERSONAL. Rev. Sam Small arrived on the K. C. this morning.

Deputy Sheriff John Tighe left on No. 5 this morning for a pleasure trip to Lincoln.

Miss Laura Russell, sister of Mrs. A. B. Knotts, after a visit of two weeks in the city returned to her home at Weeping Water, last evening.

Mr. Thos. Wiles and daughter returned from Lincoln this morning where they had been attending the commencement exercises of the Christian college.

Hon. A. W. Crites departed for Chadron this morning to be in attendance upon district court to begin there next week. Mrs. Crites, with her two little boys, Edwin and Fred, remain in the city for some time the guest of Mrs. B. S. Ramsey.

Building Profitable in Plattsmouth. One driving out on Lincoln avenue will notice on South Sixth street, a group of five nice, neat and new cottages, which have been erected in the last few months. We shall have a little to say of this block of houses simply to draw attention to the fact that building houses in this city is not attended with any uncertainty or risk of sale, but that it is a safe and sure investment. The block of cottages referred to is the property of our esteemed townsman, Timothy Clark, who believes in investing his money in the city of his home. These are neatly and substantially built, six-room cottages costing \$1,500 each including one lot, and Mr. Clark not being of the landlord class has disposed of four of them to ready purchasers, as fast as he has been able to finish them, upon the installment or monthly payment plan, and the fifth which is yet incomplete will, no doubt, have a purchaser as soon as completed. The city council will soon be asked to extend the water mains so as to protect this block of houses which of course, should be done, for they are, at present, out of reach of a hydrant, and in case of fire would have no protection. Mr. Clark is a firm believer in Plattsmouth as he will evidence by investing in other additions and continue to build houses and sell on the payment plan, thus enabling persons who are not financially able to build, to add but little to the price paid for rent, and soon become the owners of the property themselves.

There are many other evidences of substantial growth throughout the city among which we note that Chas. C. Parmele has recently purchased two or three lots opposite the residence of Judge Newell and will ere long remove the old building standing thereon and erect for himself a fine residence instead. In this connection we should not omit to state that Mr. O. C. Dovey a few days since moved into his new \$10,000 residence at the corner of Locust and Sixth streets. I. S. Doten, Justice of the Peace and merchant of Bristol, Ill., says he can recommend St. Patrick's Pills. "I have used them," he says, "and know whereof I speak." Any one troubled with constipation or biliousness will find them a friend. They are prompt and certain in their action and produce a pleasant cathartic effect. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

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