

The Sioux County Journal.

[OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.]

Subscription Price, \$2.00

C. J. Simmons, Editor.

Entered at the Harrison post office as second class matter.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 1891.

Ferocious Legislation.

The first bill introduced in the state senate was Senate File No. 1, by Senator Wilson, of this district and provided for the suspension of the herd law in any township, precinct or county by a vote, so that stock could range at large over the territory.

On Wednesday, Senator Wilson introduced Senate File No. 86, to repeal chapter 53, of the session laws of 1889, and to amend section 10, article 3 chapter 2, compiled statutes of 1887, entitled "Agriculture," and to repeal said section so amended. This is the law relating to the herd law.

The question of fencing stock and protecting the growing crops and the property of settlers has been one of great importance to the people of Sioux county. The first people who located in the county were the owners of herds of cattle, who saw the opportunity to range their stock on government land, the rich grasses fitting them for market without the owners even paying taxes on them.

At the legislative session of 1889, the law relating to the suspension of the herd law was repealed. It took effect in the following June. As there was no protection to crops until June, the farmers did not dare to put out crops as they would be destroyed by stock unless fenced and they could not afford to fence, so the year 1889, which was a fair crop season, did little good to the settlers.

Since the herd law went into effect, some people have held that because it had been suspended by a vote, the law passed by the legislature was not in force in Sioux county, and a number of cases are now pending in court growing out of such advice, and a great deal of trouble has grown out of the matter.

Sioux county is bounded on the west by Wyoming and on the north by South Dakota and in both of these states are large herds of cattle, which would be turned loose upon this locality if the herd law was removed.

The whole plan is directly opposed to the interests of the farmers, and in the interests of a gang which is opposed to the development and progress of the county. It is the same gang that denied a seat on the board of county commissioners to two different men who were elected to represent the settlers. It is the same gang that the people repudiated at the polls in November, 1889; that had run the county into debt to the interest of their special pet; it is the same gang that attempted to keep the legally elected officers from taking their seats on the 9th of January 1890, and made it necessary for the settlers to be on hand prepared for the worst if the tools of the cattle barons refused to peacefully submit to the will of the people.

There are but a few of that class, but there are enough to keep the county in a turmoil and deter people from coming here to settle. Many of the largest cattle owners in the country are satisfied as the matter now stands, for it prevents the great herds of range cattle from coming in from Wyoming and South Dakota and eating up the feed and leaving their cattle astray, and also gives the owners of small herds an opportunity to improve the grade of their cattle, which could not be done if the range stock was permitted to over-run the country, but there are some who are apparently possessed with the same spirit as were Olive and his gang when they murdered and burned Mitchell and Ketchum in Custer county some years ago.

The state of Nebraska owes much of its rapid settlement to the fact that the farmers were not obliged to fence their land. The men who develop a new country are as a rule poor and those of extreme north-west county are no exception to the rule.

What is the use of the state furnishing food and seed to the settlers if the same legislature that made an appropriation makes a law permitting the crops to be destroyed by cattle unless a fence impenetrable by range bulls is built around it. If free-range is to be established the legislature should also make an appropriation to enable homesteaders to build fences, else it will be necessary to supply them with the necessities of life year after year.

The inevitable hardships which have to be met by pioneers are enough, to which have been added the Indian scare and now the prospect of a fight between the cattle-men and the growers, is not in keeping with the general spirit to assist the poor who go west to better their condition.

Prof. Budd on Beet Sugar.

The Iowa Homestead.

The possibility of producing beet sugar in America in quantities sufficient to supply the enormous home demand is one of the questions that are now prominent in the minds of the American people and especially farmers. For this reason great interest was manifested in the paper read by Prof. Budd at the recent meeting of the stock breeders at Oskaloosa. After sketching the origin and history of beet sugar, a chemical discovery in 1747—a manufactured product in 1801, established as an industry in Spain and Germany in 1830—the crop amounting to eight and a half billion pounds in Europe in 1889—the professor proceeded to describe the soil and climate adapted to the plant, as follows:

In Europe the most profitable growing of the sugar beet has been reached on easily worked arable mountain drift soils such as are found in parts of California, Utah, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. On glacial drift with quite a large percentage of lime such as is found in our country over large parts of the prairie states, east of the Missouri to Lake Michigan. I was assured by Sir Henry Villmorin, of France, who has a world-wide reputation as an improver of the sugar beet, that with given varieties, richest in sugar the highest per cent one year with another has been reached on the glacial drift soils of south Russia, north of the Carpathian and Caucasus ranges of mountains. In character of drift and underlying limestone these parishes are almost a perfect counterpart of large parts of Iowa, and if we trace isothermal lines around the earth we will find that the line of July August and the first half of September of the 41st and 43rd of Iowa lying between the 41st and 43rd parallels passes through the Province of Kiev in Russia, which has about one hundred and fifty sugar beet factories, supplied with the richest grade of beets that can be grown in west Europe. With our young experience we can profitably study the interest as developed in the old world. This will lead us to suspect that the mountain drift west of the Missouri will not produce beets as rich in sugar as large areas of our glacial drifts and the analysis of Villmorin's best varieties at Ames as compared with the best of the same varieties at Grand Island, Nebraska, appears to confirm this view. While it may be we will now and then have too wet a season for the highest per cent of sugar, we have the best reason for believing that during a period of ten years we will be able to grow more tons to the acre on an average and that they will grade at least two per cent richer in sugar for a like period as an average.

Judging also by European results we can say that the expectations of beet sugar enthusiasts of south Iowa and the parts of the West where the heat during the growing period reaches an average of 74° will not be realized. In France, Spain and Italy, so far as I could learn, the beet sugar interest has not proven remunerative or satisfactory at any point where the summer heat of the last half of the growing period reached an average of 74°.

The general impression being that beet sugar can be manufactured only in large factories, the professor stated the obstacles that must be encountered as follows:

(1) The transportation of the beets is expensive. The grower within three miles of the factory has an immense advantage over the one who hauls his roots a distance of from six to ten miles, and the grower who ships by rail even a distance of twenty miles loses mainly or wholly his margin of profit. This becomes a serious matter when it is understood that the Grand Island plant consumes in one week all the roots which can be grown on suitable land in the near vicinity.

(2) The feeding value of the tops and the factory pulp is an important neighborhood consideration. As a nutritious and beautiful feed the pulp is far more valuable than is suspected in this country, and one that can be fed for months after it is stored. I saw mounds of it in perfect condition six months after its removal from the factory. It is put up in conical mounds and covered with straw and earth as we cover potato mounds, or it can be stored in bins and piles more cheaply constructed than those used for ensilage.

(3) With our recently restricted experience it is risky to invest so large a sum as \$250,000 near a large city with surroundings such as those of Des Moines, Omaha or Kansas City, where the land is exceedingly variable and only in small parts adapted to the growing of high grade roots.

He then goes on to show that in Russia the great bulk of sugar is manufactured in small plants, probably costing in America from \$5,000 to \$10,000. He describes one of these, which he visited personally, in the following:

In many cases these factories are owned and managed by a little syndicate of farmers who grow the beets and make the best possible use of the tops and pulp for stock feeding and keeping up the fertility of their lands. I visited one of these farmer plants near the city of Kiev with a capacity for turning out twenty barrels of brown sugar per day during the fall and early winter months the cost of which would not here exceed \$7,000, including building machinery and fixtures. The diffusion cells were of wood. The one large boiler furnished steam for the heating chest through which the cell connecting pipes passed, for pulping up the roots, for pumping and for the successive stages of evaporation. The plan of boiling down did not differ very materially from that used in the best sorghum factories of the prairie states, except that the skinning, lining, filtering, etc., were more perfectly systematized and the pan in which the final boiling was done was covered, and combined in a simple way the main essentials of the vacuum pan. Each one of the small squad of hands employed worked continually at his allotted post, and everything went on with the clock like regularity of the big factories. The only drawback that I could discover was that of sending the brown sugar not used in the neighborhood to the large city refineries for purification.

With the present outlook I would prefer taking stock in ten factories costing \$10,000 each, properly located among beet producing fields, than in one big factory located near one of our great cities. The dividends would certainly be larger, and it is equally certain that the

profits of the beet producers would be nearly doubled during a period of ten years when the stock, interest and enhanced value of lands are added in. But even in the most primitive factories the skimming, lining and filtering that a juice are so perfectly understood that a very fair article of brown sugar is produced in great quantity, the surplus of which is taken to the refinery at Saratov at about the same price paid at the city of Kiev for the brown sugars made from more perfect and speedy factories.

After calling attention to the fact that the small sized beets alone have a profitable per cent of sugar, and that from fifteen to twenty tons per acre can be grown when planted eight or ten inches and thickly in rows, and that the part of the beet above ground has but a small per cent of sugar, the professor calls special attention to a most important point in the following:

I wish to draw special attention to the fact that real experts are not as numerous in Europe as many suppose. The common laborer who has worked all his life, and his father before him, in the beet sugar factory, absolutely knows nothing about the machinery as a whole or the general details of the work. He is an expert in his special division precisely as the skilled workman in our power work machine shops. If you talk with one of these men of superior mental activity he will assure you that he is acquainted with all parts of the work. Yet in practice such a man will bring disaster to any factory as manager in chief. The European manager in Europe of even a small factory must have the same training which Mr. Oxnard of Grand Island received. He must become familiar with all the underlying principles in chemicals, physics, etc., in the gymnasium and technical school, to which must be added an extended apprenticeship as head foreman under a skilled manager. At some of the technical schools in Silesia and south Russia, the special student has his lessons in applied science supplemented by daily practice in a small model beet sugar factory connected with the school. The point I wish to make is, that no man should be trusted to superintend the erection and management of a sugar plant who has not come up in the regular way, as did Mr. Oxnard, and all other successful managers. The failure at Freeport, Ill. and at other points, has come from the employment of men who have only been skillful in a single division of the work.

Here is an important matter for our agricultural colleges to consider. This industry cannot be developed extensively without expert managers, and the country cannot depend for these on the foreigner. Experts cannot be trained in the school room alone. There is only one way to teach them anything thoroughly and that is to do it. Lessons on dairying do not make a dairyman, nor do lectures on farming make a farmer. Even the Bible itself can be understood only by practicing its precepts. No more can beet sugar making be learned except by actual work in a sugar factory. The entire subject is one of great importance, and there is much preliminary work to do. The first thing is for the farmers to learn how to grow beets with a large per cent of sugar. The rest will come in due time.

The national farmers alliance held a meeting in Omaha last week. Delegates were present from a number of states and plans were prepared for active work of organizing. The success of the alliance last fall as a political organization is stimulating the leaders to greater efforts.

The injunction matter of Thayer against Boyd did not come up in the supreme court last Thursday. It is likely that the attorneys had come to the conclusion that an injunction would not be issued by the court in such a case, and the question will now be settled by the quo warranto proceedings.

It is reported that the B. & M. will build from Alliance to Chyenne during the coming season. In this Sioux county is interested for it will put several miles of track in this county and will thus increase the wealth and also have a tendency to attract new settlers. Let the good work go on.

A bill to fix a maximum freight rate was introduced in the legislature and was about to be reported favorably by the house committee, when it was found that the rates proposed were higher than those now in force. The legislature will find that it is not an easy task to adjust rates and work no injustice to any party or place interested.

The bill re-district the state for congressional purposes divides it into six districts, as that is the number of congressmen to which the state is entitled under the apportionment bill which has been passed by congress. Sioux county will be in the sixth district, which will be about 150 miles north and south by 325 miles east and west.

If the legislature is determined to repeal the law providing for a bounty on beet sugar, it should pass one providing a bounty to be paid to the farmers for growing sugar beets. The industry should be encouraged and if there is a good thing in the business for the manufacturer, it should be made a good thing for the farmers.

William Windom, secretary of the treasury, died at New York on Wednesday evening, Jan. 29th. He was at a banquet of the board of trade of that city and had just closed a speech when he became very pale and expired in a few moments. The cause was heart trouble. Secretary Windom was a statesman of marked ability and had worked his way up from a farmer boy to a member of the cabinet. His death is universally regretted.

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TERMS OF COURT: District Court, at Harrison, commencing February 16th and September 27th, 1890.

CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES: M. E. Church, Preaching each alternate Sunday at 10:30 a. m., and every Sunday evening at 7:30.

Episcopal services at the church on Friday evening between the last two days of each month, conducted by Rev. J. Bates.

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