

FARMERS WANT FAIR PLAY

Alleged Timber Thieves in Boyd County Ask a Hearing.

NOT DEFEYING UNITED STATES AUTHORITY

Value of Property Destroyed Insufficient in View of the Fact that it Could Be Utilized Only as Fuel.

SPENCER, Neb., Feb. 14.—(Special).—The alleged timber depredations on the abandoned military reservation at Fort Randall, in the states of South Dakota and Nebraska, at the hands of Boyd county settlers, The Bee correspondent has investigated, pro and con, and finds a far different state of facts than several newspaper reports would lead the unsophisticated to believe. About three years ago Fort Randall military reservation was abandoned by the War department, that portion lying in South Dakota being ceded to that state for school purposes, while the lands lying in Nebraska, comprising about four fractional townships, was to be opened to settlement and entry under the homestead laws, after allowing the state certain indemnity selections therefrom. All of the lands situated in Nebraska have been appropriated by settlers for three years or thereabouts.

UPON ABANDONMENT OF THE POST THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PROPERTY WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF A CUSTODIAN BY THE NAME OF McLAUGHLIN, WHO HAS BEEN DEPOSED OF BY THE ACTION OF HIS TRUST, TO KEEP IN ONE CONTINUOUS ROUND OF TURMOIL AND PLEASURE IN HIS EXPERIENCES WITH INDIANS AND SETTLERS.

THE MISSOURIANS, BY CUTTING THE OLD GARRISON, IS A PATCH OF NATIVE TIMBER WHOLLY UNFIT FOR TIMBER OR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OTHER THAN THAT OF FUEL, LOG STABLES, FENCES AND USES OF MINOR IMPORTANCE.

THE MOST PART OF COTTAGEWOOD, BOX ELDER AND SAP LIME TREES. IN ADDITION TO THIS INFERRED FROM TREES SCATTERING SCRUB OAKS ARE IN QUANTITY ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE RESERVATION, AND WHICH COST MORE THAN ACTUAL VALUE IN PREPARATION FOR FUEL.

SINCE THE SETTLEMENT OF THESE LANDS IT HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM OF THE SETTLERS EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CUSTODIAN TO PROCURE FROM THE DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF THE RESERVATION THEIR NECESSARY FUEL, BUT NOT IN LARGE QUANTITIES PERHAPS AS DURING THE PRESENT WINTER, WHICH MAY BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN PART BY REASON OF SOME HITCH IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING THE DAKOTA LANDS UNDER THE GRANTING ACT OF CONGRESS, COULDED WITH THE UNUSUAL MILD WEATHER WHICH HAS OCCURRED SINCE THE SETTLERS TOOK POSSESSION OF THE LANDS.

THE APPROPRIATION OF THIS TIMBER IS NOT CONSIDERED AS BEING PUBLIC PROPERTY, BUT IS CHEARFULLY TO FARMERS, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY, SCATTERED OVER A RADIUS OF TWENTY MILES OR MORE, RESIDING ON OPEN PRAIRIE LANDS DEVELOPED BY TIMBER OR SIXTY MILES FROM ANY RAILROAD OR COAL DEALERS, WITH NO MONEY TO BUY COAL OR FUEL IF IT WAS HAULED TO THEIR DOORS, LEAVING TO STOP AND WAIT FOR THE COMING OF THE SETTLERS WHO HAVE FELT JUSTIFIED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN PROVIDING THEIR NECESSARY FUEL FROM UNCLE SAM'S DOMAIN.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ADVISING THEM OF THE DOINGS OF THESE "OUTLAWS" AND "DESPERADOS," WHICH INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED WITH THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF INDIFFERENCE.

THE NEXT STEP WAS THE APPEARANCE OF UNITED STATES MARSHALS WITH THEIR YARDS OF RED TAPE AND LIKE INSTRUMENTS AND TO PROCEED TO TAKE POSSESSION AND DIGNITY OF THE GREAT UNITED STATES.

IN THIS INSTANCE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OFFICERS CONNECTED WITH THE ARREST AND PRELIMINARY HEARING OF THE PARTIES WERE SO FAR FROM BEING UNUSUAL SEVERITY AND HARSHNESS TO THE ACCUSED, AND OF NO MORE PROFIT TO THE GOVERNMENT, THAN THE NEXT STEP WAS THE APPEARANCE OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS AT THIS PLACE FOR THE EXAMINATION AND TRIAL OF THE PARTIES.

THE COMMISSIONER AT SPENCER IS DAILY IMPROVED BY PARTIES CONFESSING TO HAVE TAKEN WOOD FROM THE RESERVATION AND TO HAVE PROMISED THEM TO BAIL FOR THEIR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT AND THEREBY HAVE THEM UNNECESSARY AND UNWARRANTEDLY BEEN DETAINED IN PRISON.

WHEREAS WE HAVE BEEN BRANDED AS A BAND OF OUTLAWS AND THIEVES; WHEREAS WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF FORMING A "LAWLESS" COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BINDING OURSELVES TOGETHER TO RESIST THE OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT;

WHEREAS, AN UNITED STATES MARSHAL OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED OFFICER CAN ARREST ONE OR MORE OF US WITHOUT ANY WRIT, AT ANY TIME WITHOUT FEAR OF MOLESTATION;

WHEREAS, THAT WE POSITIVELY DENY ANY AND ALL SUCH CHARGES AS ABSOLUTELY FALSE; WHEREAS, THAT THIS IS AN OUTRAGE TO THE LAW AND THE DIGNITY OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA;

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PREIGHT ON STOCK IS HIGHER

What a Shipper Says of Secretary Sutherland's Official Explanation.

FOR THE FARMERS' PROFIT

Dodge County Institute Closes an Interesting Session.

OXNARDS COME IN FOR ATTENTION

Different Kind of a Contract Desired Before Some Will Produce More Sugar Beets in Nebraska.

FREMONT, Feb. 14.—(Special).—The attendance at the farmers' institute is much larger than at any previous session.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON PROF. LYONS OF THE UNITED STATES EXPERIMENTAL STATION AT LINCOLN BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE OBJECT AND WORK OF THAT STATION AND OF THE SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE, WHICH IS CONDUCTED AT THE UNIVERSITY.

"CHEMISTRY OF SOILS" WAS THE SUBJECT ASSIGNED TO PROF. B. L. SEAWALL OF THE FREMONT NORMAL SCHOOL. IT WAS A CAREFULLY STUDIED PAPER, GIVING THE VARIOUS CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS WHICH THE SOIL NEEDED IN ORDER TO GROW CROPS SUCCESSFULLY.

"A. P. ACKERLUND OF VALLEY, WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN BEET RAISING IN EUROPE, THEN MADE A BRIEF ADDRESS ON THE CULTURE OF BEETS."

W. G. WHITMORE OF VALLEY WAS THEN CALLED FOR. MR. WHITMORE SAID THAT HIS PAPER READ AT THE SUGAR BEET CONVENTION LAST YEAR WAS THE MOST INTERESTING HE HAD EVER READ.

HE WANTS ANOTHER CONTRACT.

A different kind of contract was what was needed—one so drawn that the farmer would know just where he stood.

AT THE EVENING SESSION DAVID BROWN READ A PAPER ON "WHAT CROPS WE SHOULD PLANT AND WHAT ABANDON."

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SENATOR THURSTON AT HOME.

Discusses Legislation and Expects Exposed Him Will Pass.

MAILS HEAVILY LOADED

St. Valentine's Day Causes a Rush at the Postoffice.

EVERY BAG WAS STUFFED TO BURSTING

Trade in Cupid Literature Necessitates Larger Than for Several Years—Beats Has Toward Novelties.

The good St. Valentine's was despatched just 1,126 years ago yesterday, and it is doubtful whether the thousands of people who now transmit pledges of their affection, remember that the custom was born in a horrible tragedy.

Although the day continues to be generally observed, every year chronicles a change in the character of the tokens which are exchanged.

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IN THE INTEREST OF STATE BANKS.

Council Passes a Resolution Asking that Congress Take Action.

The city councils of most of the large cities of the United States, and also other governmental bodies, are being requested to urge their respective legislatures to pass a law by which state and national banks are placed on the same basis in their relations to the currency.

These bodies are urged to use their influence for the bill on the ground that it will have a tendency to effect a reduction of the rate of interest on state and municipal bonds.

A resolution similar to that of the city and school district boards, introduced in the Omaha city council Thursday night and referred to a committee for investigation.

Whereas, A bill has recently been submitted to the committee on finance of the United States congress, which provides that the security for circulation may be either government bonds or state and municipal bonds, and that the rate of interest on state and municipal bonds should be the same as that on government bonds.

Resolved, That the common council of the city of Omaha hereby approves of the plan proposed by the above named bill, and that the city council will support the bill.

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