

TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION

BY FIRE ON THE PRAIRIES OF DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA.

Villages and Towns Levelled to the Ground. Farm Houses, Barns and Livestock Consumed—Losses Aggregating Millions of Dollars.

SCOTLAND, Dakota, April 3.—Another terrible prairie fire swept over the country South of Scotland Monday afternoon, and its path is now marked by the smouldering embers of many homes. A very high wind prevailed all day, and with grass as dry as tinder, the terrific force of the fire is beyond description. At 3 o'clock word was brought to town that the prairie was afire Northwest of town, and immediately a hundred men started in teams towards the approaching fire, armed with brooms and sacks. Arriving at Akred Browns farm, two miles North, all his barns, gaires and cattle sheds were one blazing mass, and the efforts of the crowd were directed to saving his residence and boating the fire out that would in a short time have swept down upon the town. Brown's residence was saved, but all his household goods that had been carried out by the family were burned.

Five miles North of Brown's the fire burned Henry Hageltry out of every earthly possession. His house, barns and stock were consumed and he barely escaped with his family.

Across from Hageltry lived S. K. Tomlinson, a prosperous farmer, and everything about his place except his house was swept away. Five horses and several head of live stock were among his losses. His wife was home alone when the fire broke out, and could do nothing to save the property.

By evening the fire in the West had been extinguished, but it is still raging in the Southeast. The town of Olivette, the County seat of Hutchinson County, eight miles North, is reported to be more than half burned up. Bridges on the railroad West of town were burned. The losses for the last two days will be \$50,000.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 4.—During the last two days South Dakota and Minnesota have been swept by a series of wind storms which have caused hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to property, and several lives have been lost. The storm started Monday night and swept over a large area South of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Dakota, and extending into the Southern tiers of Counties in this State.

The greatest damage has not been caused by wind alone, but in many places the fires, fanned into fury by the storms, have wiped out of existence several small villages and hundreds of farmers' homes.

The towns almost completely destroyed are Violin, Olivet, Pukawana, Lesterville and Mount Vernon, and three or four villages were badly damaged. At Violin every house in the place except three were demolished and 100 people are without homes. Lesterville is flattened to the ground and twenty families are without a roof.

A terrible gale of wind struck Mount Vernon and fire started from a small house that was blown over early last night. No human power could stop the flames, and in an hour the best portion of the place was in a great raging fire.

Nearly 200 families are homeless and the loss will foot up \$300,000. It is reported that several persons lost their lives in this fire, but no confirmation has yet been received. Four large elevators and the Milwaukee depot were destroyed.

Near Clunt, one man lost 500 head of sheep which were caught in the prairie fire. Several head of horses were saved by swimming the river. In many places the crops were covered by loose sand and dust and will have to be replanted.

Travel was suspended on some lines of road so great was the force of the wind. Clouds of dust prevented the engineers from seeing the track. A report from Gary says the sun was almost totally obscured, and the superstitious thought the end of the world had come. Farm houses and barns were swept away and horses and cattle were burned to death by scores.

Near Millbank fifty head of live stock are reported lost, and fire has swept over twenty miles of country, causing immense losses.

The storm has abated somewhat, but the wind is yet high enough to keep the fire burning fiercely, and further heavy losses are almost certain. The damage in Minnesota is much less than in Dakota, as the force of the storms was pretty well spent before it reached the boundary.

A dispatch from Yankton, Dakota, says: "The records of the Signal Office show that during the balance of the fire in this region the humidity was but seven per cent.—a condition of dryness. Sergeant Oswald says, never before attained in this region. The maximum humidity is 100; the mean annual humidity here is 70. This shows that the atmosphere was almost devoid of moisture. The velocity of the wind was forty-six miles an hour. The losses in South Dakota will foot up \$2,000,000, at least calculation."

St. Paul, April 4.—A Lake Benton, Minn., special says: The most devastating prairie fire ever known raged over the prairies West and North of Lake Benton Tuesday. The wind was a hurricane for nearly twenty-four hours and swept the fire along with resistless force, passing the widest fire breaks as nothing and leaping flooded fields with a bound, it licked up houses, barns, stock and in some places human lives. The greatest destruction of property and loss of life is in Dakota. Ree Heights, a town West on the Northwestern road, is almost destroyed. Dempster, a station on the Watertown branch, is reported destroyed. Spaulding's Ranch, near there, is also reported consumed. Crossing into Lincoln County, over a tract of land comparatively little settled and covered with a heavy growth of grass, it swept on with renewed velocity. It is reported that Henry Kourth, Mr. Berg, G. M. Moon and others near here lost nearly all their buildings with contents.

A Jackson, Minn., special says: The prairie fires prove more general than was at first believed. Additional losses are reported from all directions, and messengers bring news of stubborn fights to save endangered property. Fires were raging in every direction, and each seemed to pursue a distinct course of its own. The fire which would have swept this village from the face of the earth has been traced to its origin. The search culminated in the arrest of James Travnick. When arraigned he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay \$25 and costs, or in default thereof sixty days in jail. Much dissatisfaction is expressed about this sentence. Public opinion is that justice has been too highly tempered with mercy.

The Miller, Dakota, correspondent of the Pioneer Press telegraphs: The prairie fires Tuesday night destroyed about forty houses, many barns, a large number of horses and cattle, and left about forty animals destitute in the South part of this County. A terrible gale of wind added to the terrors of the situation. The loss is estimated at \$50,000. The County Commissioners are in session and will see that no one suffers for the necessities of life.

From Huron, Dakota, comes the following: No prairie fire in the history of this part of Dakota equals that of Tuesday. In this County the losses are much less than in the Counties West. Half a dozen houses were burned and many settlers lost their barns, some stock and a large quantity of hay and grain. The wind was from fifty to sixty miles an hour and sent the burning embers over the ploughed ground and fire-breaks several rods wide, setting fire to everything in their course. The fire came up so rapidly that settlers had only time to save themselves, leaving their property to the mercy of the flames. In Sully and Hughes Counties \$200,000 worth of property has been destroyed. Near Highmore, Miss Sweeney was burned to death, and near St. Lawrence Mr Babcock perished in the flames.

A DAKOTA CIRCUMSTANCE. Illustrating the Way in Which the Cheerful Broom Booms. I met the man in Omaha who boomed Palestine City, Dakota, and as I had been out there and found it a tract of land without a house or an inhabitant, was naturally anxious for further particulars. I had received one of his circulars, and I asked him: "You spoke of six railroads as certain to come to the place. What was to bring them?" "Geographical situation, sir. I couldn't see how they could possibly get by the town. I had the finest bed of gravel you ever saw, and railroads always want gravel. I put the number at six, but that was a low estimate." "In speaking of the climate you said a man could go in his shirt sleeves in January." "So he could—did it myself, it would have been more comfortable with two overcoats on, but I was experimenting with the climate." "You said you gathered strawberries in December." "Exactly. They were in a can, but I forgot to state that fact. I write very carelessly when in a hurry."

"And you said that ploughing was going on all winter?" "So it was. Did I state the sort of ploughing?" "Very careless in me, sir. We begin snow-ploughing in November, and keep it up until April. I am always cheerfully willing to explain these little matters."

"You had a thousand inhabitants, and were to have five times that number in a year?" "Certainly. Had a very large Indian camp there at the time. A laborer is an inhabitant, I suppose. The laborers employed on the six railroads would have made up the remainder. It was a very low estimate."

"How about coal being found on the ground?" "I found it, sir. I scattered 200 pounds of it around there, and most of it can be found yet."

"And you stated that the thermometer did not go below 35 degrees above zero?" "Fact, sir. I was there for several weeks in July and August, and I can assure that I did not exaggerate in the least."

"I did not see anything of your gas and water works?" "No, sir. In shipping them from the East there was some mistake, and they went on to some town in Arizona. Annoyed me very much, I can assure you, but mistakes often happen in a new country."

"If I remember right, the town had two banks, three churches, a good school, a theatre, fire department, police force, and a \$20,000 court house."

"Exactly, sir. The statement was a little premature, but made in all candor."

"And your terms were only \$30 a lot, business or resident?" "Only \$30, sir, which you must admit was wonderfully cheap. Nothing like it ever offered the great American public. I sold over 900, sir."

"But what was the matter with the town?" "Circumstances, sir. It was suddenly discovered that my title to the land was defective—in fact that I had no title. Very annoying, I assure you. But for that I might have sold 2,000 lots. Great drawback to me, sir."

"But what of the 900 purchasers of lots?" "I feel for them, sir—feel for them; but this is a world of disappointment. I may found another town further West, and if I do, my first move will be to sell every one of the 900 a \$200 lot for \$100. I'll be glad to do it, sir—very glad. Good day, sir."

Unprecedented Trip of a Locomotive. BUFFALO, April 1.—The new engine, A. G. Darwin, of the Strong Locomotive Company, completed to-night one of the most unprecedented trips in the history of locomotive engineering, running the entire distance from Jersey City to Buffalo on the Erie road, a distance of 428 miles, with the regular day express, which left New York at 9 o'clock this morning. The engine, which is known among railroad men as the "Missing Link," came into town with a train of nine cars at 10:26 p. m., three minutes ahead of time. The train was hauled over the steep grades of the Eastern Delaware, Susquehanna and Buffalo divisions of the Erie by the "Darwin," where four of the ordinary Erie engines are usually employed to carry the same train.

George McKee, the engineer, was in charge of the "Missing Link" all the way through. The record made by the "Darwin" has only been exceeded by the engine which carried the Jarrett theatrical troupe on a train of three cars in 1875, on their trip to the Pacific coast on the Pennsylvania road from Jersey City to Pittsburg, a distance of 444 miles.

Col. T. E. Matson, so well and favorably known as Chief Engineer of the Three C's Railroad, in the service of the Massachusetts and Southern Construction Company, has resigned the position. His successor is A. N. Molesworth, recently connected with the Canada and Pacific Railroad surveys.

REAL PATHOS ON THE STAGE.

Marie Prescott Plays "Parthenia" With an Aching Heart, and Gives Way to Grief.

PHILADELPHIA, April 2.—A startling incident occurred at the Arch Street Theatre during Marie Prescott's performance of "Ingomar" on Monday night, which illustrates in a forcible manner the pathetic side of stage life. While Marie Prescott was in her dressing room preparing for the next act a blue-coated messenger boy handed in a telegram.

It was only a line, but it caused the actress to grow pale and almost fall to the floor. It was from her home, and simply announced the death of her son, a young man of 16, who had been the idol of her heart. Before she had recovered from the shock the call boy came to announce the act. By a powerful effort she roused herself, and with a heroic calm that would have done credit to a Spartan mother, went on the stage to continue the entertainment for the benefit of the waiting audience.

The most dramatic part of the event, however, was yet to come. Just as the actress, in her part of Parthenia, says to Ingomar: "I will never see thee more," she fell senseless and prostrate at his feet. It was some moments before the audience realized the situation. Some thought it was in the play, but they were soon undeceived. Several sympathetic spectators, grasping the state of things, cried out: "Lower the curtains!" This was done and restoratives were applied to the actress.

In less than ten minutes the play was resumed, the star sustaining her difficult part—rendered still more difficult under the circumstances—with heroism that called forth unstinted praise. After the performance she was removed to her hotel in a coupe.

The whole affair had about it a dramatic flavor that made it of intense interest, and evoked the hearty sympathy of the large audience. The majority of the spectators were under the impression that Miss Prescott was ill, and left the house without learning the real cause of the agitation on the stage. Nervous prostration was feared, but her manager, John Whitley, stated at a late hour that she was resting as comfortably as could be expected.

BISMARCK'S EYES ARE OPEN.

He Wants to Know How Much We Are Crippled by the Samoan Disaster. WASHINGTON, April 4.—The German Minister to-day received a telegram in cipher from Prince Bismarck instructing him to cable at the earliest moment the names of the vessels ordered by the Secretary of the Navy to proceed to Samoa and take the place of those wrecked by the hurricane there of March 15; also, the number of men and officers carried by each ship, its tonnage and horse-power, the number, size and kind of guns, whether the vessels are equipped with torpedoes, and whether the sending of reinforcements to Samoa will weaken the American navy in any other part of the world to any considerable extent. The Minister was also instructed to find out and report to the German Foreign Office without loss of time the condition of the new vessels in process of construction.

The genuineness of the dispatch may be denied by the German authorities, but the New York World correspondent is able to vouch for its absolute accuracy. It will be remembered that several German naval and military experts have visited this country since the appearance of the Samoa war cloud for the purpose of reporting to the German War Office upon the condition of our naval and military armaments. From the instructions received by the German Minister to-day, however, it would appear that Prince Bismarck wishes to provide himself with later and more accurate information.

Female Pharmacists. A young lady who was graduated recently at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy was facetiously called by her fellow-graduates of the male sex their "pharma-sister." Many women in late years have become physicians and nurses; it is, therefore, only proper that the female medical corps should be completely equipped by the addition of apothecaries to the staff. We see it stated that there are more than twenty women pharmacists in the Quaker City, where they are highly valued for their efficiency, faithfulness and discreetness. Women trained to business generally commend themselves by attention to duty, steadiness, carefulness and amiability of deportment. These qualities particularly fit them for the profession of apothecaries, and it would not be surprising, therefore, if the numbers of the "pharma-sisters" greatly increased. A druggist with a pharmaceutical wife would have lots of time to look after baseball and other manly sports.—Baltimore Sun.

ADVERTISE FOR A WIFE.

Perhaps You Will Have the Luck of this Rich and Lovelorn Californian. PAKERSBURG, W. Va., April 2.— Lorenzo Seavy, a wealthy ranchman and fruit raiser of California, and Miss Miriam Owen, a young English girl, who has been working in the potteries of East Liverpool, Ohio, were married last night. A few months ago she answered a newspaper advertisement for a wife. The exchange of letters and photographs, and an offer of marriage followed in rapid succession. The young lady refused to marry the man until she had seen him, and to prove his love he came from California to claim her.

During the past month he has been in East Liverpool courting Miss Owen, and in the meantime the lady's friends have looked up Mr. Seavy's record. They found him to be as he represented himself, but still opposed the match. The young lady, however, was willing and to-day the happy couple started for their home on the Pacific coast. The bride was happy in the anticipation of presiding over the palatial mansion which her husband has promised to build for her.

PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN HAYTI.

Hypocrite Disposed to Accede to the Terms Submitted by Legitime. New York, April 3.—Mr. Haustedt, of Jamaica, Haustedt & Co., New York representatives of Hypocrite, said to-day that it was very probable that peace would soon be declared in Hayti. Information had reached him, he said, by the steamer George W. Clyde that the commission appointed by Legitime to visit Hypocrite and bring about an end to the hostilities had seen the leader of the North. Hypocrite had expressed himself as well pleased with the terms submitted by Legitime. Within a week Mr. Haustedt expected that Hayti would be at peace.

Col. Fred. Grant's Linguistic Powers. A physician of this city, who was at West Point in 1867 when Col. Fred. Grant, who has been named by President Harrison for Minister to Austria-Hungary, was passing an examination for promotion, tells a story of the young man's linguistic abilities which ought not to be told at the court of Vienna. Major McMullan, the instructor in French, gave Grant a French passage to translate at sight, the passage being entitled "Leopold Due d'Autriche." The young man was to begin it and give an easy translation to the end of the passage. He read the French with a fair accent, and then began the English. He halted over the title but an instant, and then read "Leopold, the duck and the ostrich." The anecdote is one of the traditions of West Point to this day.

UP IN THE CLOUDS.

Completion of the Great Eiffel Tower at Paris—A Wonderful Structure.

PARIS, April 2.—The great Eiffel tower was completed on Sunday. It is the highest structure ever reared by human hands, being 1,178 feet high, or over twice as high as the great monument at Washington. I was up to the 1,000 foot mark last Wednesday. I ascended with Clemenceau, Admiral Maxse and Miss Maxse, a girl of sixteen, who was the first lady to reach that altitude. At 1,000 feet the winding stairs stopped. I crawled across the plank over the abyss on hands and knees. On rising to my feet I stumbled, but fortunately regained my balance and did not fall off the exposed platform, but the moment was somewhat ghastly. Then Clemenceau and I began the ascent of the ladders about thirty feet high. The wind was blowing hard and there was a slight shower of hail. It was bitterly cold. The ladders shook under the ascent. I persuaded Clemenceau to desist, his hands were so cold he might have slipped. We came down the ladder and felt much more comfortable when we were once more on the staircase. The ascent by elevator will be accomplished in five minutes. To walk up the spiral staircase requires forty minutes. By the electric light on the summit it is expected that a person can read a newspaper seven miles off. The light will be visible for forty miles. There is a restaurant on the first landing at the height of the tower of Notre Dame. Spiers and Pond were the English contractors. The tower is very graceful, and is visible from all parts of Paris. The wind whistles in the iron girders as it whistles in the rigging of a ship.

The exposition is still in great unreadiness. Great cases from the United States are lying ready for unpacking, but no exhibits are in sight. After France, England will be the chief exhibitor. The buildings are of unprecedented solidity and extent. The Champ de Mars is connected with the Invalides by an extensive annex. The hall of machines is a magnificent expanse of glass.

ALL ABOUT THE STATE.

The committee appointed to raise money to defray expenses of suit in the matter of the railroad township bonds of Lancaster is making very little progress.

Alfred Aldrich of Barwell is receiving inquiries from all over the North about game chickens. The Turf, Field and Farm says his strain is the best in the United States.

The heaviest man in Lancaster County, and perhaps the largest in the State, is D. B. Plyler, who lives near O. K. His weight is 380 pounds. He is about 40 years of age and can "cut the pigeon wing" as gracefully as any man in the State.—Ledger.

The Lexington Dispatch thinks there are enough horses killed every year on bad roads, and enough damage to wagons and harness and the tempers of drivers to make our roads very much better than they are if the cost of these damages were put upon them.

Nat Bates, a colored boy about 16 years old, was suddenly killed and shockingly mutilated on the 27th ult., at J. E. Hair's saw mill near Blackville. Bates and another negro were carrying off slabs. As Bates was walking backwards with one end of a slab he unfortunately stepped too close to the saw, which caught the leg of his pantaloons and drew him to his death. His body was cut nearly in two from the top of the right shoulder downward.

The colored folks of Newberry had a gander pulling last Thursday. A live gander, whose neck is picked of the feathers, is swung up by his feet on a pole or limb, and the riders dash at him on their horses, and pull off the head of the fowl. The successful rider is entitled to crown his best lady as queen of love and beauty. Gander pullings were held in this County by the whites before the war.—Newberry Herald.

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STANDING BY THE OLD CONFEDERATES.

The Legislature of Texas has leased the old State Capitol for five years to the Confederate Soldiers' Home at a rental of \$5 a year. The building will be used as the Home. The building produces \$1,500 a year in rents, so that the Home will have a steady revenue. The Texas Constitution would not allow a direct appropriation of money for the purpose so that this method was adopted.

JOHN S. WILSON.

Attorney and Counselor at Law, MANNING, S. C.

F. N. WILSON.

INSURANCE AGENT, MANNING, S. C.

A. LEVI.

ATTORNEY AT LAW, MANNING, S. C. Notary Public with seal.

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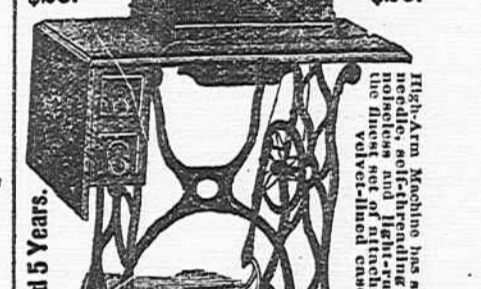
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