

SLAUGHTER (Mrs L.W.)

THE NEW NORTHWEST,

BY

Mrs. LINDA W. SLAUGHTER.

A PAMPHLET STATING BRIEFLY THE  
ADVANTAGES OF BISMARCK  
AND VICINITY.

Soil, Timber, Climate, Settlements, Business, &c., &c.

PUBLISHED BY THE BURLEIGH COUNTY  
PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION.

*alpha box*

Bismarck Tribune Print.  
1874.

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DEALERS IN

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**FURNITURE,**  
Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Crock-  
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Light Brown.....	12
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AND CARRIAGES ALWAYS ON HAND.

At Reasonable Terms.

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

BISMARCK, D. T.

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## CAPITOL HOTEL,

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First-Class in Every Particular.

R. R. MARSH & CO., Proprietors.

BISMARCK,

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## James Douglas & Co.,

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# HARDWARE,

Tinware, Carpenters' and Blacksmiths' Tools, Talc and  
*POCKET CUTLERY.*

Bismarck,

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Surgeon Genl  
LIBRARY  
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Washington, D.C.  
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1874.

BISMARCK, D. T. Feb. 12th 1874.

*To Mrs. Dr. Slaughter :*

We, the undersigned, were appointed a Committee by the Members of the Burleigh County Pioneer Association to select some competent person on behalf of the Association, to write up Bismarck and vicinity, its present and future prospects, to be embodied in pamphlet form and be generally circulated by the Association. We have come to the conclusion that you possess the ability and are wholly worthy of the honor and do hereby respectfully solicit you to do the same, and by so doing you will confer a great favor on the members of the Association, and especially we as a committee appointed to select.

M, TIPPIE,

J. B. BAILEY,

N. H. KNAPPEN, Committee.

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BISMARCK, D. T. Feb. 12th 1874.

*To M. Tippie, J. B. Bailey and N. H. Knappen.*

GENTLEMEN :—I appreciate the honor conferred upon me by your solicitation of this date, to become the Historian of the Pioneers of Bismarck, and shall prepare the proposed pamphlet with pleasure.

Respectfully

LINDA W. SLAUGHTER.

# The New Northwest.

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## BURLEIGH COUNTY.

Burleigh County, Dakota Territory, comprises a strip of country about ninety miles in length, and averaging thirty miles in width, lying due north of the 46th parallel and bordering on the Missouri River. It was originally a part of Buffalo County, but in January 1872, was by act of the Territorial Legislature, constituted a separate county and its boundaries defined. It was named in honor of Hon. W. A. Burleigh.

## THE CLIMATE.

The Latitude computed for Bismarck is 46°-49 north. Longitude from Greenwich 100°-35.

The climate is eminently healthful, the atmosphere being clear, bracing and singularly free from moisture. No diseases occur that can be fairly charged to locality. Malarial diseases are unknown.

The average temperature for the year is about 44° Fahrenheit. On the 21st of July 1873, the warmest day of that month, the thermometer stood 72° at 7, A. M. ; 95° at 2 P. M. and 83° at 9 P. M. Mean temperature 83°-30, Temperature for the month 70° 60. For December 5th 1873, the coldest day of the month, the record is as follows: At 7 A. M. 16° below zero. On Dec. 31st the warmest day of the month it ranged 41°-33. Mean Temperature for the month 16° 30 below freezing point.

Although unable to account for it, on scientific grounds yet it is undoubtedly a fact, attested by the older residents as well as observed by myself during the four years that I have lived here, that the charac-

is usually but a narrow belt and behind it on the older deposits there is timber, or great treeless spaces, but which are usually covered with good grass. Not only does this river exert a most beneficial influence upon the soil and climate of the surrounding country, but its importance as a grand national highway of internal commerce cannot be overestimated.

TIMBER, SHRUBS, VINES, ETC.

The forest growth is not extensive and the open plains are destitute to great extent of the nobler forms of vegetation. Between Fargo and Bismarck, two hundred miles, there is no timber except that skirting the rivers. At Bismarck there is considerable body, principally Cottonwood; last winter logs for five hundred thousand feet of lumber were cut from it. The timber grows on the river bottom there being but little on the high prairies. The streams of the country are bordered with belts of timber, and experiment has shown that tree culture if properly managed would be a success.

White and Scrub Oak, Ash, Box Elder, stunted Cedar, Willow and Elm, are the principal trees of this region, the first two being extensively used for fuel although Cottonwood is the staple for firewood.

At Burnt Creek are groves of the Wild Plum the fruit of which is delicious, being juicy and well flavored. The Wild Cherry tree is also found. Bullberry thickets abound in all the bottoms. The fruit of the Bullberry yields a jelly equal to the finest currants, while the shrub itself, possesses every requisite for ornamental hedgrows. The experiment has not yet been tried, but it is proposed during the coming summer to test its value in this regard. The result from the nature of this beautiful shrub cannot but be satisfactory. The fruit is of a bright red color, acid and ripening late in the season. It is invaluable to the Indians who often subsist upon it for several weeks at a time, during a scarcity of game.

Some of the more common representatives of the vegetable kingdom are the ash-leaved maple, or rose elder, sparsely scattered along the river banks. The red osier dogwood grows here also. The Kinnikinnik which the Indians smoke, is the inner bark of this shrub scraped off and dried. They call it, "Chah-shah-shah." Red Cedar is occasionally found on the hills and in the rocky ravines. The green ash is found in varying quantities on the wooded river bottoms. The low, bush willow, a shrub from five to eight feet high, grows thickly in the low, moist grounds.

Among the shrubs, vines, herbs, etc., are found Wild Rose, Wild



Currants, Frost Grape, Poison Oak, Honeysuckle, Gooseberry, Pea Vine Service Berry, Mustard, Artichoke, (Winter) and Water cresses, Horse and Spear Mint, Catnip, Turk's Cap, and (Canadian) Garlic. The "*Pomme<sup>2</sup>Blanche*," or Indian Turnip is abundant in the high grounds. There are several varieties of Cactus. The prickly pear is extremely abundant everywhere. Its sharp, stiff spines have a striking similarity to the quills of the Porcupine. "Lambs quarters," grows plentifully in the low, moist bottoms, and in spring is much used by the Indians for greens. The wild onion is common upon the hill-sides and steep banks. The pretty coral-berry bush abounds, beside many beautiful wild flowers ferns and mosses of which my limited space, will not warrant a description.

#### MINERALS.—COAL.

Coal in great abundance, and of good quality is found on the Missouri River. A fine vein of Lignite was recently discovered, some miles above Bismarck, on the east bank of the river. This vein was examined by an expert sent by the N. P. R. R. Co, who reported it to be nine feet in thickness and of unlimited quantity. A tunnel or "gangway" has been run in on the vein one hundred feet. The coal has been found free from sulphur and burns freely.

Four miles south of Fort Abraham Lincoln, and on the west side of the river, a vein of solid coal exists, of four feet thickness. This coal is of good weight, and has been fully tested, making a hot fire, and leaving only white ashes. A shaft has been sunk twelve feet, at which depth the coal proved of far better quality than any before exposed, and the vein was constantly increasing in thickness.

West of Fort Abraham Lincoln, and near Heart River, another vein about six or seven feet in thickness, has been discovered and opened.

It is believed that with more thorough exploration, coal will be found in other localities in sufficient quantities to make the mining profitable, and also to ensure an unfailing supply of cheap and abundant fuel.

#### LIMESTONE.

Limestone has been found in the drift, and two kilns have been burned. It makes an excellent quality of white lime. We know of none having been found, but it is thought to exist *in situ* in the immediate vicinity.

There are also many good-sized fragments of marble and dolomite

in the drift which at some of the military posts in the department have been collected and burned into excellent lime.

#### CLAY.

This is found in considerable quantities. There is a fine bed of Clay, about four feet thick, and free from Lime, within one half mile of Bismarck, which makes a cherry-colored, substantial brick. A brick-yard is in steady operation at this point, and one hundred and fifty thousand Bricks have been made.

#### STONE.

Sandstone has been quarried in the immediate vicinity of Bismarck suitable for foundations, but it has not yet been sufficiently opened to determine its value for general building purposes.

There is considerable stone on the prairies, though not enough for fencing. This stone can be readily removed, and at little expense, which will be more than compensated by its value for other purposes.

#### SALT AND GYPSUM.

Salt and Gypsum exist in the vicinity of Crystal Springs, in quantities sufficient to pay for working. There are also several salt lakes in the neighborhood. The salt lakes are only brackish, too salt for culinary purposes, but not too salt for stock.

#### ALKALI.

Traces of Alkali are discernable in many localities, but nowhere does it exist in sufficient quantities to render the land unproductive, or the water which it impregnates undrinkable.

Near Bismarck on the line of the Railroad is an Alkaline Lake that is almost dried up. The bottom is white as snow, and glistens with alkaline crystal.

#### GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

The geological formation of this portion of the Missouri Valley belongs to the cretaceous, tertiary and post-tertiary periods. It is overlaid from the mouth of the Yellowstone, by a layer of modified drift containing boulders of large size, principally granite and syenite,

Along the river bluffs, the cretaceous rocks rise in some places to considerable height. They are too soft to merit the name of rock, save in a geological sense, and consist chiefly of hardened mud in layers of different colors. These layers are interspersed with seams of Lignite varying in width from three or four inches to as many feet. Again there are irregular and interrupted deposits of sandstone.

Petrified wood is very commonly found in this neighborhood, and

imprints of the leaves and branches of various plants are found. Of fossils, shells are the most common.

#### ANIMALS.

Elk, Black-tailed Deer, Long-tailed Deer and Mule Deer, Antelope, Black and Cinnamon Bear, Beaver, Otter, Wildcat, Panther, Large Gray Wolf, Lynx, Badger, Red Fox, Gray or Silver Fox, Crossed Fox, Porcupine, Gopher, Common Mink, Small Black Mink, White-tailed Weasel, Common Gray Rabbit, and the Jack or Mule Rabbit, are the animals native to this region. There are no squirrels. The Bison has not been seen here since 1868, but there can be no doubt that previous to that time, they existed here in immense numbers. The hills are deeply furrowed with Buffalo trails, and Buffalo "wallows," and the prairies are thickly dotted with their enormous whitened skulls.

The fur of the Otter, Beaver, Mink and Silver Fox is very valuable, and the trapping of these animals is an important branch of industry. A ready market is found for pelts of all kinds at the Post Traders of the various military posts on the river, and large numbers are exported. The Indian women at the different Agencies are very skillful in tanning them, and also in making them up into various articles of clothing, such as gloves, caps, hoods, etc.

Game of all kinds is abundant. There are a number of professional hunters in the community, who supply the market at Bismarck, bountifully, with meat of all kinds—Venison, Elk, and Antelope steaks are an every-day luxury, being cheaper than beef; while Bear meat can be obtained for those who like it.

The fur of the Jack Rabbit in winter, becomes white as snow. In summer it is gray.

The quills of the Porcupine are highly valued by the Indians, and are much used by the squaws in their ornamental work. Many handsome and useful articles are also made by them from the tanned skins of the deer and elk. Hunting shirts, pants and moccasins, and even saddles, girths, gun-covers, etc., are made, and often gayly decorated with bead and needlework. Entire suits of these dressed skins are worn almost exclusively by the hunters.

A trading station of the American Fur Company was established in 1845 on the site of the present Fort Berthold. An extensive trade in furs was then carried on, and Buffalo robes were an important article of commerce.

The domestic animals that have been introduced have largely increased, and stock raising promises to become a prominent feature of Agricultural pursuits. The country is well adapted to sheep grazing.

## BIRDS.

Great Horned Owl, Great Snowy Owl, Bald Eagle, Gray Eagle, War Eagle, Prairie Chicken, Sand Hill Crane, Blue Heron, Meadow Lark, Wild Pigeon, Magpie, Jack Snipe, Land Snipe, Curlew, Robin Red Breast, Snow Bird, Pelican, Common Wild Duck, Swan and Wild Goose, are the native birds.

The country adjacent to Bismarck offers rare facilities to the sportsman. Prairie Chickens abound in flocks, and during the proper season, the advantages for duck shooting cannot be surpassed.

## FISH.

The fauna of the rivers comprise Catfish, Perch, Shovel-nose and Sturgeon. These are of excellent flavor. Several fishermen reside on the banks of the Missouri, who supply the Bismarck market.

## REPTILES.

These are the Rattlesnake, Moccasin, Black Snake, Frog and common, and tree Toads. They are not common anywhere, and indeed snakes are rarely seen.

## INSECTS.

These are numerous. The Mosquitoes at one time were absolutely fearful, but they are decreasing yearly. This is also true of Grasshoppers.

## ABORIGINES.

The Indian tribes native to this region are the Sioux, Arickarees or Rees, Gros Ventres and Mandans. The ruins of old Ft. Clarke, and of the village formerly occupied by the Gros Ventres and Mandans is 80 miles above Bismarck, on the west side of the river. The military reservation of Fort Rice is taken from the lands of the Onkpapas, one of the tribes of the Sioux nation. At the Indian Agency of Fort Berthold there are some 2,500 Indians, of the tribes of Arickarees, Gros Ventres and Mandans, who eke out a meagre subsistence by hunting, agriculture, and the annuities furnished by the government. For some years they have cultivated the river bottoms, and raised "Squaw corn," squashes and beans, with varying success.

The tribes of the Sioux are at Standing Rock Agency, 70 miles below Bismarck, and number about 6,000 souls.

These Indians are treacherous, cowardly, and unspeakably filthy in their habits. They are housed in the Agencies, and fed on government rations during the winter, and in spring receive their annuities, including guns, powder, knives, etc., and depart on the war path; the Aricka

rees, and Sioux being hereditary enemies. The former are friendly to the whites. Some of them are employed as scouts at Fort A. Lincoln.

#### OLD FORTIFICATION.

Near the city of Bismarck, lies one of the chief points of interest in this region, being the ruins of an ancient fortification, with traces of wall and bastion still well defined among the grass-covered mounds. This stands upon an abrupt hill, overtopping the river, and is admirably chosen for purposes of defence. On the one side it droops, a steep precipice, to the water's edge. The remaining three sides are encircled by a deep ravine, that effectually cuts it off from the surrounding hills, thus rendering it, in itself, an almost impregnable, natural fortress. It is a place alike interesting to the naturalist and antiquary. It contains many curiosities, in the shape of pieces of broken crockery, arrow-heads, and other interesting relics of the former occupants. The specimens of earthenware found, are similar in appearance to, and apparently of the same manufacture as some I have seen exhumed from ancient mounds in Ohio, except one piece, the broken rim of a drinking vessel, that is unlike anything of the kind I have ever seen. This piece is quite fire-proof; having been in Dr. Slaughter's house when it was burned, it was afterward taken out of the ruins, entirely unhurt by the flames.

The surface of the ground inside the fort, is covered with a heavy growth of grass, and the specimens obtained, are found without exception, on the little hills of earth thrown up by the Gophers. The place would well repay investigation, and might possibly add something to our imperfect knowledge of the aborigines of the Continent. The only thing known in regard to the origin of the fortification, is the statement made by some Ree scouts, that a fierce battle was at one time fought between the Arickarees and Sioux at this point; that the Rees retired and entrenched themselves securely on this hill, and were finally victorious. This I think is entitled to little credence, and from the fact that the remains of pottery, etc., show them to have been the work of a people possessed of a knowledge of several species of manufacture that are now numbered with the lost arts, I adopt the theory that these, and the many similar ruins throughout the land are the work of a superior race, who inhabited the continent years before the advent of the nomadic tribes. But to what unknown people, these strange, mysterious souvenirs of a forgotten period once belonged, or by what manner of men these ancient forts were erected, is one of the secrets of America, that her imperfect, fragmentary records of those early days, refuse forever to disclose.

## INDIAN GRAVEYARD.

Near Bismarck is an Indian burying-ground, constructed not in the usual fashion—of poles and sticks—but the bodies, of which there seemed to have been originally, some twelve or more, had been securely fastened to the limbs and boughs of trees, comprising a scrubby little thicket, in a sheltered ravine between two hills. Though years must have elapsed since they were placed there, yet many of the skeletons are in perfect preservation, and are still firmly held in their places, by the deerskin ligaments, that were used to bind them on the knotty branches. Others have crumbled apart, and fallen to the ground, which is literally strewn with bony fragments. These are said to be the remains of Arickaree chieftains, who distinguished themselves above their fellows in the great war with the Sioux, and were thus thought worthy of so rare and honored a burial place.

## BEAR RIB.

Elevated upon four forked poles in the centre of the Post Cemetery at Fort Rice, are the remains of Bear Rib, a celebrated chief of the Onkapapas, and life-long friend of the white men. On his death bed, he prophesied that droves of the pale faces would soon overrun the country and drive the Indians still further westward, and calling his warriors around him, he counselled them to cultivate friendship with the whites, as the only way to preserve their tribes from extermination. His last request, that his body might be placed in the white man's graveyard, in order that his spirit might watch over and protect the inmates of the Fort was religiously complied with by the Commandant of the Post. The body of Bear Rib lies in state, upon a platform in the centre of the Cemetery, surrounded by the graves of murdered soldiers whom his own people laid low. Bear Rib died in 1868, and his prophecy is already fulfilled.

## SETTLEMENTS.—BISMARCK.

This city, the crossing of the railroad and river, and future capital of the new Territory, was originally named Edwinton, in honor of Edwin M. Johnson, the first chief engineer of the Northern Pacific Railroad. It is pleasantly situated one mile from the Missouri, about eight hundred miles above Sioux City, and five hundred and fifty miles west of St. Paul, hence easy of access by both land and water.

Edwinton was laid out by Mr. G. W. Sweet, on behalf of the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company, in May 1872. The first buildings were erected in June 1872.

In 1876, the town, was by direction of General Manager Mead, of the N. P. R. R., rechristened in honor of Baron Von Bismarck. Prince

Premier of the German Empire.

In June 1872, the first settlement was made. By the first of the following January, thirty buildings had been put up, including stores, dwellings and stables. With six or eight exceptions, those erected were mere log "shacks," designed for temporary use, and costing on an average, not more than one hundred and fifty dollars each. Some two hundred people wintered here.

In April 1873, building again commenced, and by the time the railroad was completed to Bismarck, June 5th 1873, about forty additional cheap structures had been put up.

At the present writing, Feb. 15th 1874, Bismarck has a population of 1200 inhabitants.

The aggregate value of improvements up to present date is \$250,000. Some two hundred additional houses have been erected, making in all about three hundred buildings.

Bismarck now contains 6 Hotels, 18 Saloons, 2 Shoe Stores, 1 Hardware Store, 1 Tin Shop, 1 Jewelry Store, 3 Billiard Halls, 2 Blacksmith Shops, 1 Bowling Alley, 3 Livery Stables, 3 Meat Markets, 1 Drug Store, 2 Bakeries, 2 News Stands, 3 Barber Shops, 1 Bath, 1 Confectionery, 2 Liquor Stores, 1 Brewery, 1 Bookstore, 1 Gunshop, 5 General Stores, 5 Restaurants, 3 Carpenter Shops, 4 Warehouses, 2 Churches, 1 Telegraph Office, 1 Newspaper, Book and Job Office, THE BISMARCK TRUSTEE, and one Parsonage.

The buildings of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, add much to the appearance and business of the town. These consist of Engine House, Depot, Warehouse, Water Tank and Platform, the whole valued at \$20,000.

The Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company is likewise represented by several substantial buildings.

The Military Station, Camp Hancock, consists of Officers Quarters, Post Hospital, and Barracks for one company of soldiers.

There are in the town, 6 Lawyers, 1 Editor, 2 Physicians, and 1 Minister, and these in addition to those already enumerated, make up the inventory of industrial pursuits on the part of the inhabitants, all of whom, with scarce an exception, belong to that active, energetic class of business men, who give life and vigor to any pursuit in which they may engage. You can read success in the determined, earnest way in which they push forward their schemes of public improvement. A vacant lot lies idle in the morning, by noon it has found a ready purchaser, and ere a week it is crowned with a comely dwelling.

#### CHURCHES.

The two churches already in Bismarck belong to the Presbyterian

and Congregational denominations. The former was erected at a cost of \$2300, and is a fine structure. The latter was, during the summer, used for a schoolroom by the Bismarck Academy. Both of these buildings are creditable to the town and to the church organizations which they respectively represent. Other denominations are moving in the matter and during the coming summer it is proposed to erect three new churches of the Catholic, Methodist and Episcopal denominations.

#### THE BISMARCK SABBATH SCHOOL.

This has arisen from a very small beginning. The first meeting was held on Sabbath, August 25th, 1872. There being but few children here at that time the meetings for the first year were very informal, being held in summer in my tent, in Camp Hancock, and in winter in the Post Hospital. These little gatherings would have looked oddly enough to eastern eyes, and very unlike a Sunday School; the children being seated wherever they could find available space, the elder ones on the tops of trunks, packing chests and army boxes while the very little ones were seated on the floor, that is, the ground covered with a carpet. The instruction given was purely oral, there being no books obtainable, yet no teacher ever found more willing minds or interested listeners.

On May 11th, 1873, the school was formally organized under the name of the "Bismarck Union Sabbath School," and officers elected with its former teacher as Superintendent, which post was accepted with the stipulation that the school was to be independent and thoroughly unsectarian in character, embracing all denominations, all sects and all creeds, and resting its teaching wholly on the broad ground of "Love to God and good will to Men," should utterly ignore all doctrinal issues and sectarian differences.

The school is now in a prosperous condition, and has a comfortable and even elegant meeting place, together with an excellent library. Its success is gratifying, yet chief among the many pleasant pictures that this western life has stored away for memory to bring back in days to come, is the thought of that little group of happy, bright-faced children who assembled each Sabbath morning, under the battered army canvas, and sang their little hymns of praise. It was the children, who in their first humble meetings in these western wilds, laid the foundation of the Church, and thus became the unconscious pioneers of the cause of Christ.

#### THE BISMARCK ACADEMY.

On July 7th, 1873, a private school was opened in Bismarck, under the above name. Having been the founder of this institution, I can well attest, that while, pecuniarily, a failure, it was in all other respects, quite as successful as its most earnest friend could desire.



In August, the Academy was merged into the public free school of the Bismarck School District, a school organization having been, in the meantime, with much difficulty effected. Although attended with the usual amount of discouragement and vexation, incident to the disorganized state of a new community, this school was taught successfully for a term of four months. It is proposed, during the coming summer to erect a Union School Building, and inaugurate a system of graded schools.

#### THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE.

This popular representative of the people of Bismarck, was established by Col. C. A. Lounsberry, formerly of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, and the initial number issued, July 11th, 1873. With the exception of "The Mechanics Far West," published for a few months during the summer, by the laborers employed at Fort A. Lincoln, it is published farther west, than any other paper in this section, and can justly claim to be the pioneer newspaper of Northern Dakota.

#### PLEASANT GROVE.

A thriving little village with the above cognomen has sprung up at the old steamboat landing on "The Point," five miles below Bismarck. A steam ferry plies between this point and Fort Abraham Lincoln. The extensive buildings of Maj. Dickey, Post Trader, at the Fort lie just opposite. The town contains some twenty buildings, ranged in a semi-circular street facing the river. Some of the houses are quite roomy and substantial. There is 1 dry goods store, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 restaurant, 6 saloons, and 1 boarding house. This will doubtless become a town of importance. It is located in the timber. A steam saw-mill is running successfully some miles below.

#### APPLE CREEK.

A settlement of some note has been made on the banks of this beautiful little stream, some six miles east of Bismarck. Several extensive dairies are here in successful operation. From these well managed establishments the people of Bismarck are each morning supplied with rich cream, pure, fresh milk, and newly churned butter. During the whole of last summer, I received each day, at my own kitchen door, the nicest of fresh butter at 35cts per lb, and pure milk at 10cts per qt.

It is conceded that the finest farms of Burleigh County are located on Apple Creek. The gardens at this settlement, though planted late, were highly productive. The total value of improvements at this point are estimated at \$6,000.

## PAINTED WOODS.

Painted Woods is the oldest settled point in Burleigh County, it being the old half-way mail station between Forts Rice and Stephenson. A number of Canadian woodchoppers located here at an early day and established a woodyard for the convenience of steamers plying the Missouri River. The adjacent country is well-timbered, principally with oak and cottonwood. There are still several woodchoppers' camps here and in the immediate vicinity, the settlers being chiefly engaged in cutting and cording wood for the steamboat trade. This is likewise a fruitful field for the hunter and trapper, game of all kinds being abundant, and beaver, otter, etc., plentiful.

Painted Woods was the old battle ground between the Sioux and their hereditary enemies—the Three Nations, and derives its name from the fantastic figures painted by the victors, in commemoration of the event, upon the trunks of trees from which the bark had been removed. But few traces of these primitive, artistic etchings yet remain, most of these oddly decorated monarchs of the forest having long ago fallen victims to the indiscriminate axe of the woodman.

The surrounding scenery is beautiful and picturesque. Here are the pyramidal domes of the great Square Buttes. Further to the northwest are the graceful curves of the Antelope Hills. Hidden in the dense forests of lofty cottonwoods, lies the romantic Painted Woods Lake, while a stream of crystal water steals westward, through the woodland to the Missouri; forming altogether a landscape picture seldom equaled.

In the summer of 1871 a detachment of United States soldiers were ordered from Ft. Rice to this point, with instructions to build mounds of earth and sod along the mail route to mark the trail. The whole country was then a trackless wild, and owing to the absence of landmarks, the carriers often became bewildered during the winter snow storms, and wandered from the path. They were met at Painted Woods by another detachment from Ft. Stephenson, with similar instructions for the upper half of the route.

These mounds were to be built at intervals of half a mile, and were cone shaped, six feet in height, and four at the base. The Stephenson party completed their task, but the work of the Rice party was abandoned, the "Mound Builders," being ordered, in consequence of the departure of the first expedition to the Yellowstone, to return to Ft. Rice. Dr. Slaughter, who accompanied the party in the capacity of surgeon, informs me that they encamped, the last day of their stay out, near the present site of Bismarck, then an uninhabited, solitary wild. Assuredly, had it then been prophesied, that the silent prairies would so soon be invaded by the railroad and telegraph, and their lonely camp-

ing ground become the seat of a great metropolis, surrounded by farms and villages, it would have been pronounced not simply improbable but impossible.

The last mound built by this party stands one-half mile north of Bismarck, on the old Stephenson road.

Painted Woods proper is fifteen miles above Bismarck, and is already a point of some importance. The value of improvements here, and in the immediate vicinity are set down at \$9,000.

#### BIG BOTTOM.

The nucleus of a settlement has been formed at this place, ten miles south-east of Bismarck. It is a fine location, and will doubtless improve. Value of improvements, \$4,000. The people at this place have given their attention almost wholly to stock raising, in which they have been eminently successful.

#### SIBLEY ISLAND.

This beautiful Island, comprising some 5,000 acres of heavy timbered land, lies in the Missouri River, about four miles below Bismarck, and is separated from the east shore, by a narrow channel or "slough." It is widely noted for the manufacture of the famous "Sibley Island Wine." This is the pure, unadulterated juice of the wild grape that grows here in luxuriant profusion. This wine, to my taste, lacks nothing, although it is pronounced by connoisseurs in such matters, to be too sweet in its pure state, and to require the addition of one-third part brandy or whiskey, to render it simply perfect.

This wine is manufactured by Mr. Joseph Miller, who has resided on the island for some years. Large quantities of it were sold in Bismarck last season, at not more than \$2 or \$3 per gallon. The grapes are quite small, but of fine flavor. The vines are of great size, and some of them grow to an enormous height. Many of the huge trees are so closely linked together by the clinging tendrils, as to form impenetrable jungles, and these, overshadowing extensive thickets of the Wild Rose, transform the entire island, in the summer season, into a very Paradise of wild and sylvan beauty.

#### BURLEIGH CITY,

This pleasant little village was at one time quite flourishing, and an important business point. But after the re-location of the Railroad, it was deserted for other places. It is two miles south of Bismarck, beautifully located, and is a quiet, cosy, little place, the people being chiefly engaged in gardening.

#### "SHACKS."

The houses built in this region before the advent of saw mills and lumber yards, were roughly constructed from the materials at hand,

these latter, being clumsily dressed with such tools as were easily obtainable. For the benefit of my readers who may be ignorant of the meaning of the word "shack," as used in Western parlance, I will state that a shack, in Dakota, is an ordinary, square log hut, built usually of unhewn and unbarked logs, the interstices between the logs being filled up or "chinked," with small billets of wood, and thickly daubed on both sides with a mortar of soil mixed with water. These form the walls. It is first built up as a pen, but afterward, by sawing out portions of the logs, openings of the proper size and shape are made for windows and doors. Over the top and across the centre is placed the "ridgepole," running from end to end of the building, and the space on each side of the ridgepole is covered with a layer of small, split logs or poles, their opposite ends resting on the wall, and forming the eaves of the house. Over this is placed a layer of hay, or dried grass, and the whole is then thickly covered with earth, which when neatly beaten down and leveled off, completes the structure. Floors were an expensive luxury, and the few that were not formed of mother earth were constructed of roughly hewn puncheons.

These houses were then "banked up," to the height of several feet, and though rough and uninviting in appearance, were found to be quite comfortable, being cool in summer, and in winter exceedingly warm and impenetrable to cold.

The doors and windows were of the rudest character, the former opening with a "latchstring," of deer thong, which it is needless to say was always, according to western custom, on the outside.

These shacks were, however, designed for mere temporary use; more aristocratic residences were afterward made of hewn logs and cemented with lime. Many large log dwellings were also built in the usual manner, and these, when lined throughout with white muslin or cotton cloth presented a very pretty appearance inside. They were also improved by the addition of paper hangings pasted upon the cloth, though to my eyes nothing was prettier than the bare logs, covered with rough bark, and still decorated by their forest growth of moss and lichen. The trunks of the cottonwood retain their vitality for a long time, and often when built into houses, will bud and put forth long, slender sprouts of a pale yellow color, crowned with green leaves. In one instance that I saw last summer, several intersecting logs had sprouted in this way, and converted one entire corner of the room into a perfect bower of greenness.

Western people possess in great degree, the fortunate faculty of "making the best of everything," and even the "dirt roof," that objectionable feature of a log house, can be rendered a pleasing object, when sown thickly, at the proper season with oats. The tops of the houses then present a most beautifully green appearance, and after a summer

shower, when thus adorned a "shack" becomes a charming addition to the landscape.

Indeed some thrifty housewives have so far utilized this uninviting feature of their little habitations, as to construct flower beds and vegetable gardens upon their housetops. Several times during the last season I received presents of good-sized radishes, lettuce and beets, that were grown in this manner, and on one occasion when visiting an old lady friend in the country, I risked my neck, clambering up to see her beds of flowers and vegetables, on the housetop, but was well repaid by hearing her enthusiastic eulogy, on this novel mode of aerial gardening on account of its entire immunity from marauding chickens.

Thus it will be seen even log houses have their advantages. Having lived in one for the last year, I am well prepared to testify to the comfort and warmth attainable in them, and would reluctantly exchange my present comfortable home, with its rough exterior, for one more inviting in appearance.

#### FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A lofty hill across the river, opposite to Bismarck, is the site of Fort Abraham Lincoln, one of the most important military stations on the frontier. A more eligible and in all respects desirable location could not have been selected. Added to this, the outlook is beautiful, while the exceeding beauty of the landscape and healthfulness of the place, combine to render it a charming spot.

The natural scenery immediately surrounding this point is beautiful in the extreme. Far as the eye can reach, a charming prospect greets it. A wide sweep of plain and meadow bounded on the far horizon with a rim of low, rolling hills, stretches away to the south. On the east stand heavy clumps of forest trees, bordered by a soft fringe of willows, between whose wave like foliage the river shines like a silver line of light. On the one hand lie stretched in sleepy loveliness, the level plains and magnificent prairies for which Dakota is so justly celebrated. On the other, the grand, old hills of the Missouri stand firm as granite walls. Occasionally a gap in their united stronghold betrays the presence of a charming little chute, that creeps silently along through the green covert of the hills, to bury its clear waters in the darker tide of the majestic river; or a wider opening discloses to view an extensive plateau, or open stretch of bottom land, with an occasional deep valley and ridge like hollow interspersed.

Back among the hills lies the beautiful, new city of Bismarck, with the picturesque Camp Hancock in the foreground. Away in the distance stretches the open country, until abruptly terminated on the horizon by a dull group of forest trees, or hazy line of long, low hills. Viewed through a misty haze of azure tinted air, the whole scene forms

a picture of surpassing loveliness, and well worthy the raptures of an artist.

The river here in a graceful curve, sweeps grandly around the base of projecting hills, and following its winding course, the traveler looks with appreciative eye, upon some of the most picturesque scenery in the northwest. The hills assume a variety of fantastic shapes and eccentric groupings. Being composed to great extent of an earthy, silicious sandstone, their aspect viewed from the river is quite barren, and at times, from the peculiar dark color of the bluffs, remarkably so. The whole range of hills bordering the river, is an interesting study to the geologist. Indeed the entire shore of the Missouri is one grand curiosity shop, upon whose rocky shelves are stored a thousand specimens of the wondrous arcana of creation. The many different distinguishable strata of rock, among which the blue sandstone predominates, intermixed with a considerable thickness of marly shales and calcareous formations, present an agreeable variety, even to eyes uncultured in the occult mysteries of science.

Fort Abraham Lincoln is the base of military operations in the Northwest. It is garrisoned, at present, by six companies of cavalry, and three of infantry. The cost of its erection was \$350,000.

#### THE BURLEIGH COUNTY PIONEERS.

A society having for its object the promotion of the business, agricultural and other interests of Bismarck and vicinity, was organized at Bismarck, Dec. 1st, 1873, under the name of the "Burleigh County Pioneers."

This is, as its name indicates, an association of the business men of the place, men of character, of capital, of influence,—pioneers in the true sense of the word—who having cast in their lot with the coming city of the west, are united in their efforts to advance the social interests of her citizens.

It is at once a Bureau of Emigration, a General Intelligence Office, and a Board of Trade. During the past year, several hundred letters were received at the Bismarck Post Office from all parts of the United States and Canada, and even from Europe, from persons who contemplated emigration hither, asking information of all kinds in regard to the country, the route to be traveled, the cost of transportation, etc.

These letters of inquiry it was found impossible for private individuals to answer; but the idea they suggested was a good one, and gave rise to this Association. Hereafter persons who direct letters of inquiry to the Corresponding Secretary of the Burleigh County Pioneers, may rely upon promptly receiving courteous replies and correct information. Much good has already been accomplished by this society, and an honorable work lies ready in the near future.

Pioneering in this country is divested of its rougher features. There are no obstacles of nature to overcome, no forests to fell, no savage foes to encounter; but if, as the Orientals believe, the blessing of Heaven alights upon the man who makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before, how infinitely more worthy of material rewards are the Pioneers of to-day, when in the space of three short years, they have founded a city, built up a prosperous community, and established churches, schools and newspapers in a region heretofore unknown.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC.

The Northern Pacific Railroad was completed to its present terminus at the Missouri River, June 5th, 1873. The following is a brief exhibit of the amount of shipments received at Bismarck during the first six months after the opening of the road.

		Government.		Indian Goods.		Bismarck.	
		Lumber.	Q. M. Stores.	Sub. Stores.	All Kinds.	Mchdse.	Lumber.
June,	1873		715,152	390,860	1,218,774	650,955	965,800
July,	"	2,356,000	712,662	114,513	296,864	414,470	144,750
August,	"	2,463,000	171,397		115,925	319,795	168,000
September,	"	1,029,750	243,287	245,805	113,890	253,587	33,000
October,	"	647,300	1,976,163	349,712	2,290	847,237	244,000
November,	"	6,000	773,934	9,000	2,193	427,219	140,000
Total,		6,502,050	4,597,650	4,597,650	1,744,941	2,913,263	1,745,550

It will be seen that 14,454,531 pounds, or 7,227 tons of the above stated freight were destined to points beyond Bismarck, on the line of the Missouri River. There were less than 50 tons of private freight for Montana, or any point beyond Bismarck. During the season of 1874, however, the arrival of from 5,000 to 8,000 tons of private freight for Montana and Idaho may reasonably be expected, beside the usual amount of Government and Indian Freight for the different military posts and Indian Agencies. All this is beside, and in addition to, the inevitably increased amount of freight for Bismarck proper.

In connection with the N. P. R. R., a weekly line of steamers will be run during the coming season, between Bismarck and the Mouth of the Muscleshell river, one hundred and fifty miles above Fort Buford, at which point (Muscleshell) they connect with the Diamond R line—the largest wagon road in the Territories. The road traversed by this line passes through the valley of the Muscleshell—the distance to Helena being 230 miles from the point on the Missouri river, where freight is transferred from the steamers to the wagon train. The distance from Corinne, on the Central Pacific Railroad, to Helena is about 460 miles, and freight starting from a common point east, such as Chicago or New York, can be laid down at Helena nine days sooner via Bismarck than via Corinne.

And expedition, organized on an extensive scale, left Bozeman, Montana, February 10, 1874, for the purpose of locating a wagon road to

the head waters of the Yellowstone river, with a view to opening up that country to settlement, and to develop the rich mines of that section. The country it will traverse will prove valuable as a mineral, pastoral and agricultural region, and will soon be populated after being put in communication with the rest of the world. The successful completion of this enterprise will put Bismarck in direct communication with that point, the Yellowstone river being navigable two hundred miles above its mouth by steamers of the larger class. Smaller steamers can ascend nearly to its mouth.

A similar expedition, to the same point, is projected at Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. A direct eastern connection will thus be opened, and very soon the trade and travel, and the mails of that immense region will be running *east* instead of *west*.

The prospect is a glorious one for Bismarck! Immediately upon the opening of navigation in the spring, business of all kinds will be increased. The immense trade of Montana and the adjacent Territories will find an outlet in this new and popular thoroughfare, and Bismarck, the emporium of this New Northwest, will rival in prosperity and population the oldest cities of the east. Whatever the enemies of the Northern Pacific Railroad may assert to the contrary, the work accomplished by it during the past year has been simply *stupendous*, and one looks with wonder upon this triumph of mind and human skill over the rude forces of nature. Meanwhile, work on the western arm of this road is progressing rapidly, and its early completion is an assured fact. The people of Bismarck, who of all others are most competent to judge, have unimpaired confidence in its ultimate success.

#### TERRITORY OF PEMBINA.

A bill for the division of Dakota Territory is at present pending before Congress, and provides for the organization of a separate Territorial government for the northern portion of the Territory. This bill includes all of Dakota lying north of the 46th parallel of north latitude, and the new Territory is to bear the name of Pembina.

This bill will doubtless ere long become a law. The success of the measure is earnestly desired by the people of Northern Dakota, as upon it, to a great extent, depends the future growth and prosperity of this section. The proposed new territory has a line of railway extending two hundred miles across it, which in another year will have contiguous settlements, that will advance it far before southern Dakota in point of population. The country is self-sustaining, the soil being exceedingly fertile, while its value as a mineral and pastoral region is unsurpassed. The climate is the most admirable, invigorating and health sustaining in the whole world. There is no malaria, no fogs, no damp, chilling winds. The air, both in winter and summer, is dry, bracing



and exhilarating. Consequently fevers are uncommon, and lung diseases almost unknown. Indeed, the pure, strengthening air of Dakota is thought to have a peculiar efficacy in diseases of the latter class, and has likewise been pronounced beneficial to consumptive patients.

West of the Missouri river there are as yet no settlements, save those in the immediate vicinity of the various military posts and Indian Agencies; hence there is probably no section of the great northwest which at this time presents superior advantages to persons desiring to make a home upon Government land. The general surface of the country is what is termed a "gently rolling prairie," interspersed with occasional rugged buttes or low ranges of hills.

With the exception of the "Mauvis Terris," or bad lands, which, however, exist only at rare intervals, the soil is unexcelled for fertility, and the ease with which it is cultivated, producing in its natural state the most bountiful yield of nutritious grasses, and when cultivated, yields immense crops of cereals and vegetables. The Indians at Ft. Berthold, one hundred miles north of Bismarck, have 2,000 acres under cultivation, and included in their products is 40,000 bushels of corn annually. The corn is a small but early variety, called the Ree corn, yielding from twenty-five to forty bushels to the acre. They raise all kinds of vegetables, and this, too, without plowing, but by digging up the surface of the ground with such rude instruments as they can command. Their wheat, of which they have several hundred acres under cultivation, averaged twenty-six bushels to the acre last year.

At Fort Buford, a point 250 miles northwest of Bismarck, at the mouth of the Yellowstone river, where it joins the Missouri, the soil has been cultivated with satisfactory results. An extensive garden was made last season by the soldiers of the post, in regard to which we quote as follows from a letter written denunciatory of the lands of the Northern Pacific Railroad, by an army officer stationed at Buford, under date of Jan. 1st, 1874: "The garden is situated immediately on the river bank about two feet above high water. Potatoes, native corn, cabbage, early-sown turnips, early peas, early beans, beets, carrots, parsnips, salsify, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes and asparagus have grown abundantly and matured. Melons, pumpkins and squashes have not matured. Tomatoes did not turn red. American corn (early) reached roasting ears. Onions, with wheat and oats, matured at Ft. Berthold, D. T., 150 miles below, on the Missouri river." These, however, should not be accepted as fair results of what might be done under a judicious system of farming. An Indian, it is well known, possesses a natural antipathy to labor in any form, while a soldier's incentive to fatigue duty is not usually such as would ensure any more than the merely mechanical completion of his task.

Who then can doubt that a professional farmer, possessed of an intelligent appreciation of the soil, and regarding his farm, not only as a means of sustenance for his family, but as a heritage for his children, can produce, with no more than their advantages, infinitely better and far more gratifying results than any ever chronicled from the unskilled work of the Indian or compulsory labor of the soldier. Wait till the pioneers have reached the Yellowstone and we shall see effected such a transformation as Bismarck has already witnessed. The country from the Missouri to the Yellowstone will be peopled with an intelligent population. Its solitary prairies will be covered with fruitful farms, its hills and valleys dotted with the happy homes of emigrants. Cities and villages will arise on every hand; railway and telegraphic lines will multiply and school houses will be built. The busy hum of industry will supplant the Sabbath stillness of the plain, and the sound of the church bell shall be heard in the land.

This is no fancy sketch. The world, in obedience to the irresistible motar law of progress, *must* move, and its course is ever Westward!

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