Transcontinental Railroad - Primary Source Documents

Currier and Ives, *Westward the course of empire takes its w*ay, 1868

1869 Poster

Developed by Betsy Johnson, MSDE, 1-03

1871 Poster

"UNCLE SAM IS RICH ENOUGH TO GIVE US ALL A FARM."

HOMES IN THE WEST!

THE FREE LANDS OF DAKOTA

The Territory of Dakota contains the most

Desirable Government Lands

For the purposes of AGRICULTURE in all its branches, that are now open to settlement under the

HOMESTEAD & PRE-EMPTION

Laws, which confer upon

Every Citizen of the United States, and upon all who have declared their intention to become such; and also upon women, who are the heads of families, widows and single women as well as men who are above age; orphans who receive no support from guardians, and even minors who have served 14 days in the army, the right to

320 ACRES OF LAND!

One half, or 160 acres as a Pre-emption, and the other half as a Homestead, the last named being a

Free Gift from the Government

to the actual settler. Millions of acres of these

FREE LANDS

are still unoccupied, lying in the great valley of the Missouri river and its many tributaries in Dakota, offering to the poor and industrious of every Nation and clime

A HOME AND ULTIMATELY A FORTUNE!

As by far the

Best Agricultural Lands!

Of the Government are now FOUND IN THIS GREAT NORTHWEST, there can be no reasonable doubt that this section will hereafter receive the great tide of emigration that annually pours across our Continent westward from the shores of the Atlantic, and from the old settled States. Its inducements are in every respect stronger than those of any other section where

Government Lands can be Obtained!

Tens of thousands of Farmers and Mechanics throughout our country desire to change their location in order to **better their wordly condition.** Dakota is a new country—

Its Lands are of the best Quality!

The soil is rich and deep; its climate remarkably mild and healthful; its waters pure and wholesome; and its natural resources, as yet but very meagerly developed, of the most varied character, and inexhaustible in extent. Dakota's position in the Geography of the Nation is furthermore

Favorable to Rapid Growth!

And a grand and important future. In addition to

The Missouri River,

Which courses diagonally through Dakota for **1,200 miles, navigable for the largest steamers,** the great

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

And the

St. Paul & Pacific Railroad

Will cross the *CENTRAL PORTION OF THE TERRITORY* from East to West; while the

McGregor & Missouri River Railroad,

Crosses nearer the southern boundary; and the

Dakota and Northwestern

From Sioux City up the Missouri Valley, through the various important points on the Missouri Slope, will be

Completed to Yankton, the Capital

The present year.

The year 1871, the beginning of the decade, will mark a new era in the Great Northwest of our country, and in no particular section will it be more emphatically shown than in the present Territory of Dakota—the

LAST OF OUR AGRICULTURAL TERRITORIES!

Before starting for the West, the Farmer or Mechanic, Tradesman or Capitalist, should secure all the information bearing upon their proposed new home, that they can obtain. To

Furnish this Information!

And to guide the pioneer in his westward march, is the aim of

THE YANKTON PRESS

A newspaper published at

YANKTON,

The Capital of Dakota,

Situated on the Missouri river, in the very heart of this

Great National Farm!

It will be the aim of this paper to furnish just the information needed, embracing the manner of

Obtaining these Free Lands!

WHERE TO LOCATE,

And everything connected with the subject. We shall also publish

Correspondence from the Farmers

In different sections of the Territory, which will give the reader much valuable information concerning the character of lands, the

Growth and Variety of Crops,

And the progress making in settlement and improvements.

Already we have churches and excellent public schools in different sections of the Territory, and many fine villages and towns dot our valleys, and are rapidly growing in wealth and population. And yet but a very small proportion of our lands are occupied. A thousand towns and hundreds of cities are yet to be located and built within the coming ten years, and these millions of acres of

Free Lands

Are to be occupied. Long before 1880 shall be born, the

STATE OF DAKOTA!

Will be a living reality, with its hundreds of thousands of population; with crowded cities; immense manufactories; thousands of miles of Railroad; with grand churches, colleges, universities, and with happy, prosperous homes on every hill-side, and strewn thickly out over all our broad and fertile valleys. Now is the time to secure

A Home while the Lands are Free!

While the country is new! Begin now, and grow up with the Territory! Become identified with its prosperity, and you can hardly fail to prosper. You need but Honesty, Temperance and Industry in Dakota, and in ten years time you will find

Wealth at your Command!

And can view with an honest pride the glorious work you have helped to perform.

We do not write solely to build up a newspaper, but to *BUILD UP DAKOTA*; and we offer the paper as a medium through which one may become somewhat acquainted with this country, before removing hither. It is the cheapest way in which information can be obtained, and the best way save that of making a personal examination. The paper will be worth all it costs, and twenty-fold more to those who are looking westward for their future homes.

We have faith in Dakota. We have been with it in its infancy and through its childhood, and now as it is putting on the habiliments of youth, we can see how robust it is; and have faith in the promise such vigorous health gives of a glorious future.

Our fortunes we stake on Dakota, and commend our example to the home-seekers of every land.

STONE & KINGSBURY.

TERMS OF THE YANKTON PRESS:

Situated, as we are, in the Far West, it costs us much more for newspaper material than it does eastern papers; yet we offer the following terms, which are about the same as the average of newspapers throughout the country:

One copy, one year,..... ....$2 00
One copy, six months,..... 1 00
One copy, three months,..... 50

One copy gratis to any person who will send us a club of Ten subscribers, accompanied with the cash.

Remittances must be made in P. O. Orders or Drafts. These can be purchased at our expense and the cost deducted from the remittance.

Address,

STONE & KINGSBURY,

Publishers and Proprietors,

FEBRUARY 1, 1871. **YANKTON, D. T.**

Transcontinental Railroad - Primary Source Documents (continued)

1872 Poster

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Transcontinental Railroad - Primary Source Documents (continued)

Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1878 – Union Pacific Transfer Depot & Hotel

Railroad Surveyors in Cornfield, 1886

Sod House, 1888

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