

If you want to sell your farm call on the First State Bank of Binford.

Wait till Binford goes to Cooperstown after that cup, if you like to see the fur fly.

Duluth Excursion

The Great Duluth Excursion and Railroad Graft is now history and, while a great deal can be said of the beauty of Duluth and of the hospitality of its kind and obliging citizens, there is also a great deal to be said pro and con with regard to the trip there and back. The Minnesota forests and lakes furnished picturesque scenery for the average Dakotan, but their agricultural facilities are not to be compared with those of North Dakota, and the crops along the line are decidedly on the bum. Some say they have had too much water—and that is doubtless true, for Minnesota certainly has no time for water. On the other hand, if the weather man would board an excursion train or some other stock train, imbibe freely in beer and whisky—then step off occasionally and puke booze over the products of Nature—Minnesota crops would boom as the climate would then be more congenial.

The Binford Cornet Band received free transportation as a result of there having been 100 tickets sold at this point. The proposition was made by the railroad company, whom we all love, and the boys dug in and got the sale of 122 tickets from Binford.

She comes, the Great Excursion Train with its long string of box cars comes snorting and puffing into the village in the wee hours of the morning; she goes to McHenry and returns bringing with her a large number of people. At this place a very large number of people boarded the train, and departed from here at 3:27 a. m. Next, was Jessie, then Cooperstown, and the band began to play, and it played at every town of any importance all along the line. At Valley City a stop was made to take water and coal and the band ripped off a couple of fast pieces to the satisfaction of everyone as was evidenced by the enthusiastic applause tendered the band as the train moved on. Between there and Fargo all the towns that had had enough life to grow to a population of 300 and upwards were literally rewarded by music by the band. At Fargo a stop was made to change crews and afford the excursionists an opportunity to get a lunch; the band stepped off and played two lovely pieces for the people of our metropolis, and thanks to the appreciative gathering who showered numerous compliments upon Binford's band boys as they passed back to the car—and "Howdy, madam," to the Cooperstown lady who politely informed the sweetest-faced maiden we ever saw that it was "our Cooperstown band." Then we were rapidly drawn toward Duluth, the objective point, while the second section of the train was made up at Fargo and Minnesota points. The band then went from car to car and favored the occupants of each with one selection; there being seventeen coaches in the train. It will be readily observed that the boys were in line for a rest when they returned to their stalls. The rest of

the ride to Duluth was enjoyed by all, but it was indeed a tired bunch that stepped off the train at the union depot in that city. Fifteen hours of a hot and dusty ride with a heavy mixture of coal smoke. At the depot the band played another piece, and then scattered to the hotels where the entire party was made comfortable by getting a good supper and downy beds in which to rest their weary bodies. The stay in Duluth from Friday evening until Sunday evening was very much enjoyed in spite of the intense heat on Sunday.

Then comes the return home. The pleasure of going and the stay in the city was shot to the hot regions by the misery attending the return trip.

Before we enter too far into the details of this trip, we wish to have it thoroughly understood that the entire trainload was not made up of Binford people alone, or North Dakota people, but, no matter from whence they came or whither they went, there were a whole lot of them who apparently did all in their power to make life miserable for those who kept out of the revelry and damnable drunkenness. A car that would look fairly well on a cattle-train was converted into a saloon, and at stations along the line where booze could be obtained, the stock was replenished if it appeared to the "toys" who were "out for a time" that there was danger of the supply being exhausted. The disgraceful conduct of men as they staggered continually thru the Binford car on their way to and from that hole of debauchery, would naturally cause one to lose some degree of respect for those of his acquaintance whom he knew to be in there, jumping off at stations to help carry aboard more of the hellish slop which under the circumstances kept the ladies of our town and those of other towns who were riding in the Binford car, the helpless victims of a continuous siege of discomfort and unpleasant surroundings. Misery was indelibly stamped upon the face of every lady in the car, while the men, who were only too anxious to protect them from the evils of the situation were handicapped to such an extent that they were able only to see that no violence ensued while aside from that the train was as much the property of one as of another, and all we can say of the return trip is, that it was the dirtiest, rottenest, filthiest, most disagreeable trip that can be imagined. The conductor would appear at long intervals to take up the tickets, then go back and sit down; the rest of the time every man was his own conductor—and, in the words of the poet, "it was every man for himself, and the devil for them all."

Now, in conclusion we wish to say that our respect for the ladies who honored us with their society on this trip, and whose rights and privileges were utterly ignored and trespassed upon by a drunken set, furnishes the prime motive for this exceedingly unpleasant effort on our part to censure those who were voluntarily at fault. If the shoe fits, wear it, for those responsible for the unpleasantness of the others, had their fun regardless of the respect that every true gentleman owes those of the gentler sex, and the injustice done the ladies on this trip is bitterly resented and we are supported by overwhelming forces of justice in making this declaration of rights.