

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Twenty years ago today the Great Northern was grading its main line between Devils Lake and Churches Ferry. N. P. Rasmusson was one of the contractors on the new line.

Portland expected to get the division headquarters of the G. N. An artesian well was sunk by the company which led to the false hopes.

The Hope base ball team consisted of the following members: Eugene Warner, Ira Miller, Frank Ward, D. Wescott, John Murphy, S. Stetson, C. H. Ward, Earl Pepper, W. L. Roney, Theo. Whisnand and Thad. Phillipps. This team was one of the strongest in the state at that time.

Wheat was 58 cents.

The assessor (as now) was abroad in the land.

The Aneta Correspondent to the Devils Lake Inter-Ocean, Col. Geo. F. Thayer, writes that J. J. Hill will let the Aneta People Know by the 15th of May, definitely, about the Hope extension prospects for 1886. Ten long years after the good people of Aneta realized their fondest dreams and Col. Thayer was the happiest man in Nelson county.

AFTER 19 YEARS

The present activity in railroad building reminds us of a railroad boom nineteen years ago which failed to materialize. The old files of the Pioneer under date of April 15, 1887 contain the following item:

The Manitoba is crowding on all sails now in regard to building railroads, and it looks as though J. J. Hill, before he gets through with the roads that have been lawlessly running into his territory and interfering with his business, would give them a lesson they would understand and feel. The Globe has it on good authority that the contract for grading the line from Hope, on the Casselton branch of the Manitoba road, to Rugby Junction has been let, and that it is to be completed and ironed this summer. This line will be run in connection with the Bottineau branch that runs northwest from Rugby Junction. This will make a much shorter line to St. Paul from points west of Devils Lake.

The Cooperstown Independent also contained the following item on the 8th of April of the same year:

Mr. William T. McCulloch came in on Tuesday night's train. He had been on business to Oriska and Valley City. He informed us that on his return trip he met a gentleman who showed him four letters from Jim Hill, president of the Manitoba road, in relation to the extension of the Hope branch, and assured him that the road would be completed this year. The branch will not touch Griggs county, but will follow up the old survey from Hope to Aneta, Nelson county; thence to Bartlett, where it will connect with the St. P. M. & M.