

## The Grand Gopher Hunt.

If anyone should have happened into our town last Wednesday to look over it with a view to locating and making investments, we are constrained to believe that before they were made acquainted with circumstances, they would surely have called this the deadest town in the state. It was the day of the gopher hunt, and nearly every man and boy in town were out participating, and the streets were almost entirely deserted. The business houses were all closed from early morning until 6 o'clock in the evening, and the quietude of the Sabbath was nothing in comparison. Every firearm from a 22 calibre revolver to breach-loading shot guns and Winchester rifles were gathered up by the hunters, while a number of the more unfortunate who were unable to secure firearms of any description were out with snares and traps in quest of the wily gopher. At about five o'clock in the evening the hunters commenced to return with the scalps of the victims, and returns continued to come in until about eight o'clock p. m. Hope township was pitted against the three towns of Melrose, Colgate, and Lincoln for the championship, and almost every person in the township turned out and worked hard to secure it. The result was that 1,421 gopher scalps were reported killed by hunters in this township. The other townships were not so fortunate in getting there hunters out, seeding by a great many not yet being completed, and up to this time the number of scalps reported from Lincoln township is 156, and from Melrose 184, while Colgate has reported none as yet. The losers were to give a banquet for the winners and were to have the entire number of scalps turned over to them to defray the expenses thereof, but not near all the scalps were turned in which were reported, and whether the banquet will be given is not known by us at present. It is a common saying that every gopher killed now, will result in the extermination of ten or a dozen of the pests, and we may rejoice over the fact as a result of the hunt many hundred bushels of wheat will be saved, besides the fun which it afforded these taking part.

---