

# The Dakota Farmer's Leader.

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#### WASHINGTON NOTES.

News From the National Capital as it  
Effects the Interests of the West-  
ern Farmers.

Correspondent Tells What Our Of-  
ficials are Doing in the Capital  
City.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 8.—Special  
Correspondence: The United States  
Supreme Court opened its October term  
with the usual dignified formal-  
ism which never fail to make a deep im-  
pression upon the minds of all visitors,  
and how often they may have  
used the same grand simplicity, if  
a term be allowable. There was  
a terrible disappointment because the  
Chief Justice Fuller, who is at  
the bedside of a sick daughter in Chic-  
ago, and of Justice Gray, who is just  
releiving from an attack of typhoid  
fever, made necessary the postponement  
of a number of cases consid-

er-able of too much importance to be  
decided by anything less than a full  
bench. Among these cases are what is  
known as the Sayward case, which in-  
volves several of the questions in dispute  
between Great Britain, and the United  
States as to the rights of the latter in  
Behring Sea; the case involving the  
validity of the McKinley tariff act, and  
that to determine the constitutionality of  
the act shutting the lotteries out of the  
mails. The session starts out with a  
larger number of cases upon the docket  
than the Court has ever before had, and  
although the act creating the new Cir-  
cuit or Appellate Court was intended to  
relieve the Supreme Court other legisla-  
tion enacted at the same session will add  
much more to its labors than the new  
court can possibly relieve it of. The  
Indian deprecation cases referred to the  
Court of Claims, of which there are  
something like 15,000, are appealable to  
the Supreme Court. So also are cases  
from the recently established Land

Claims Court. These cases will not in-  
crease the docket of the Supreme Court  
at this term, but by next year this time  
it is predicted that it will be almost  
swamped with them. It is evident that  
something has got to be done in the near  
future to relieve the Supreme Court, or  
it will take the greater portion of an or-  
dinary life-time to get a decision on a  
case not important enough to be advan-  
ced on the docket.  
The movement to secure the vacancy  
on the Inter-State Commerce Commis-  
sion made by the death of W. L. Bragg  
for an Alliance man, has at last crys-  
tallized, and the name of Mr. D. P.  
Dewean, of South Carolina, has been  
presented to the President, endorsed by  
President Polk of the National Farmers'  
Alliance, and the state Alliances of  
Georgia, West Virginia, Louisiana,  
North Carolina, and Michigan, and it is  
said that more endorsements are to come  
from other State Alliances. Ex-Rep-  
resentative Clements, of Georgia, who

lost his seat in Congress because of his  
opposition to the principles advocated by  
the Alliance, had been the supposed  
favorite of Mr. Harrison up to the  
advent of an Alliance candidate. The  
appointment of Mr. Clements would, it  
is said, be regarded by the Alliance as a  
direct and intentional affront to that  
organization. Many people believe that  
if no other candidate is put forward by  
the Alliance, and Mr. Dewean receives  
the endorsement of the State alliances  
that his friends expect him to get, that  
he will secure the prize. It is regarded  
by many as only justice that the  
Farmers' Alliance should have a repre-  
sentative on the board of Commissioners.  
The next thing Secretary Foster knows  
he will have acquired the fame of a real,  
genuine reformer. He told some New  
York politicians, members of his party,  
who told him he had better go slow in  
making changes in the New York  
Custom house that would affect the  
party workers, that "efficient service at

the Custom House is the best political  
move that any party can inaugurate,  
and I believe that the merchants, irrespec-  
tive of partisan considerations, will  
agree with me: Now, Mr. Foster has  
only to act up to his talk to make a  
great reputation among those who have  
business relations with the New York  
Custom House.  
Mr. Harrison has refused to issue an  
order allowing Government employes  
whose regular leave of absence has all  
been used up, to go home to vote with-  
out loss of pay. He could not have is-  
sued such an order without violating the  
law, but all the same he was asked to do  
it.  
The time for Secretary Blaine to re-  
sume his official duties has now been ex-  
tended by Madame Rumor until after  
the fall elections, although it is difficult  
to discover how there can possibly be  
any connection between the two things.  
Owing to the State campaigns, poli-  
ticians are rather, scarce in Washington

these days, but the presence of five  
hundred of the most distinguished  
Methodists in the world, who are in at-  
tendance upon the Ecumenical confer-  
ence of that church, now in session here,  
more than reconciles our people to the  
absence of the politicians. The confer-  
ence has been a great success, and every-  
thing has so far passed off smoothly,  
although the refusal of some of the  
hotels to accommodate the colored  
brethren for a time threatened to make  
trouble, but quarters were found for  
them elsewhere.  
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