

To be connected with the giant enterprise of building a railway to the Pacific was still the dream of his ambition. On leaving the army he did not stop to be boomed and banqueted for the service he had rendered in aiding to conquer the Rebellion, but immediately enlisted to aid in conquering the wilderness which separated the Mississippi valley and the Pacific coast. He became the Chief Engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad, and a chief promoter of the great system of railways which to-day unites all sections of the country with the Pacific States. Should time and other engagements permit, the writer proposes at some future day to trace the career of General Dodge as a railroad engineer and railroad builder.

### PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

BY HAMLIN GARLAND.

From brown-plowed hillocks,  
 In early red morning,  
 They woke the tardy sower with this cheerful cry;  
 A mellow boom and whoop  
 That held a warning—  
 A song that brought the seed-time very nigh,  
 The circling, splendid anthem  
 Of their greeting  
 Ran like the morning beating of a hundred mellow drums—  
 Boom, boom, boom!  
 Each hillock kept repeating,  
 Like cannon answering cannon when the golden sunset comes.  
 They drum no more—  
 Those splendid, spring-time pickets!  
 The sweep of share and sickle has thrust them from the hills.  
 They have scattered from the meadow  
 Like the partridge in the thickets;  
 They have perished from the sportsman, who kills, and kills, and kills!  
 Often now,  
 When seated at my writing,  
 I lay my pencil down and fall to dreaming still  
 Of the stern, hard days,  
 Of the old-time Iowa seeding,  
 When the prairie chickens woke me with their war-dance on the hill.

Chicago, Ill.

—New York Independent, Oct. 5, 1893.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.