The Montana Post.

D. W. TILTON, BEN. R. DITTES.

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From Montana to Idaho.

Ho! for Salmon! was the cry of our Jehu in Bannack, when unnotified I was snatched from my last letter. Taking the old Salt Lake road, which runs south from Bannack, we landed safely at Horse Prairie ranch, where it was our misfortune to be compelled to lay over a whole day awaiting the arrival of the Salmon River coach. Horse Prairie Creek, a tributary of the Jefferson fork of the Missouri River, runs through a low bottom affording excellent grazing land, but not yet settled, probably owing to the scarcity of timber in the vicinity, nothing but willows indicating the course of the creek, forty-five miles long, and the very low bottom which was in many places almost impassable for vehicles. Twenty miles from the crossing, Jeff. Davis' Gulch mingles its waters with those of Horse Prairie. Some good bar diggings will be worked by steam hydraulics this summer on Jeff. Davis Gulch. Changing teams at the mouth of the last named gulch, the ascent of the main divide indicating the boundary line between Montana and Idaho, was surrounded with the usual difficulties encountered during spring on the Rocky Mountains. Deep soft snow would at times bury horses and wagons, necessitating the passengers to resort to the usual remedy of unloading baggage, carrying it beyond the limits of the snow, and extricate team and vehicle by main strength. All the stations between Horse Prairie and old Fort Lemhi are mere wakyups, some constructed from pieces of wagon covers, others from willows and straw, affording not the slightest accommodation for travelers. During my first day I had to subsist on one cold potato, which a herder at Summit station kindly furnished gratuitously. The descent on the Idaho side of the mountains is difficult, owing to the immense boulders impeding the progress of vehicles. Seven miles of an abrupt and narrow canon, which we passed during the darkness, leads into Lemhi Valley. At the junction of the Salt Lake, Boise and Montana roads, is another station, which we reached at 9 o'clock in the evening, and fortunately found Tom Caldwell, the pioneer stage driver of Montana, who kindly cared for the weary and hungry travelers with such mountain delicacies as bacon and bread, accompanied by a good cup of coffee, cooked with sagebrush. A whole days' ride without eating, over the mountains, is the best appetizer in the world, and ample justice was done to the viands, I assure you. The morning sun showed one of the finest views to our gaze we ever beheld. A broad, level valley, probably five miles wide at this point, where Lemhi river leaves the canon, a small rivulet yet, stretches as far as the eye can reach to the west, bounded on the north and south with well timbered hills. Numbers of families are now on the road to take up ranches in this valley, and next spring will find many well regulated farms where now only sagebrush and wild grass grows. Tom assuming the directorship of the cayuses at this (Junction) station, we bounded over a good road, following the course of the Lemhi for twenty miles to *Headquarters* station, the first log house, or house of any kind, that we had seen since leaving Horse Prairie. On again westward to old Fort Lemhi, the next station, where our friend, N. T. Hall, well provides for the traveler, and the trail from Bannack strikes the Salmon River wagon road. Fort Lemhi, if it ever could be called a fort, was erected in '55 by the mormons, who started a settlement in this valley in that year, but were driven from their agricultural pursuits by the Bannack Indians, in '60, in such a hurry that they left some 6,000 bushels of wheat behind them. Of the fort remains nothing but a wall 6 feet high, enclosing a space of ground 300 feet square, and not much credit is due the engineering skill of the projector, it being built so close to the low hills that a stone may be thrown in any part of it from the nearest point of the bluffs, and 200 Indians, with safety to themselves, might capture a garrison of greater number. The frame of a grist mill, now fast decaying, and a few dilapidated fences and irrigating ditches, still speak of the settlement of the Saints, and their prosperity in this lovely valley, which is only excelled by our own Deer Lodge. Lemhi River now becomes a good sized stream, after having received nine tributaries from the south and six from the north, none of which have a name. The road from the fort to the junction of Lemhi and Salmon Rivers was horribly muddy. At last the terminus of stage travel was reached, and I beheld the celebrated Salmon River, rolling its green waters northward at this point. On the opposite side of the stream rise the Salmon River Mountains, still covered with snow, and the only obstacle intervening between myself and the Eldorado of the present.

SALMON CITY,

On the first bench from the river, is a nicely laid out town, and from its natural advantages and position will be THE town as a base of supply for all the mines. The stir and bustle of busy workmen never ceases; houses, stores, corrals and all kinds of buildings, arise as if by magic, and as soon as trains arrive they will find a place to store their goods at Salmon City. The small hotel, now the only place of resort for travelers, is crowded to overflowing, and a look into the large front room, on the night of my arrival, would have disclosed to some readers a strange sight. Some twenty men—some bound for the mines, others bound for Montana—all stretched out in their blankets, with a goodly admixture of dogs, who, every now and then, would become quarrelsome, and thereby keep the sleepy travelers awake. But all this will change, a fine, commodious hotel will soon supercede the small affair of to-day, and Salmon River outrank any of her sister mining towns in Montana as a central point of supply for the mines. A good, substantial ferry boat, a *free* foot and horse bridge, and a large, rather lightly constructed, toll bridge, connect Salmon City with Lemhi City, a collection of eight houses on the base of the Salmon River Mountains, and the first houses built in this vicinity, intended to take the place that its sister city soon will occupy. I might go on and picture the sanguine hopes expressed by the people here about the future greatness of their several town sites, but shall in due time revisit this place and speak from observation. Of my trip to the mines and the fast mining cities, you will hear in my next. B.

Leesburgh, Idaho, April 29, 1867.

FROM HIGHLAND.

The Rubicon Passed—The Latter Day Democracy Badly Demoralized.

From our own Correspondent.

EDITOR POST: Perhaps the announcement of the result of the late election, held at Red Mountain City, on the 20th inst., for the purpose of electing township officers, will not be wholly uninteresting to the numerous readers of the POST, inasmuch as it is the first loyal victory that has come under notice since my arrival in the Territory, about two years ago. I hope, therefore, that in the future every Union man in the Territory will take the same interest in conducting elections that we did; that they follow our example and change the reins of government from copperheads and traitors to that of loyal men. About two weeks ago, the County Commissioners of Deer Lodge county conceived the idea of striking off a new township, to be known as Red Mountain township; ordered an election to be held at Red Mountain city, and appointed judges of election, *all* of the Democratic or copperhead persuasion; and they, to make it appear more obnoxious to loyal men, appointed two Democrats for clerks. This gave just cause for complaint; however, the Union men generally were disposed to bear the indignity or wrong, rather than have any disturbance on the day of election; so everything passed of quietly until the ballots were counted and the result announced as follows: Democratic nominees—of the caucus—were J. B. Van Hagan, ex-member of the bogus Legislature, and Major Packard for magistrates; and J. C. Kerley and Michael Owens for constables. The people's nominees—selected by a few loyal men—were E. S. Stackpole and George Searle for magistrates, and J. T. Longley and Wm. Everest for constables. Van Hagan received 165 votes; Packard, 169; Stackpole, 215; Searle, 208. Constables—Michael Owen, 164; Kerley, 144; Longley, 225; Everest, 187—making the Union victory complete. We will say, however, that we do not claim it is a Republican victory, for that would be doing injustice to some loyal Democrats who voted with us. We, therefore, only claim it as a loyal victory, and thank the few Democrats who voted with us for their votes. In conclusion, I will only relate a few unpleasant incidents that occurred on election day and the next day after, caused by the "rule or ruin" party, and close. On the day before the election came off, it was generally understood that, inasmuch as both of the judges and the inspector were Democrats, and that a square party issue had been made by the Democracy, that they should show us, *as Republicans*, respect enough to select from our number at least one of the clerks of election. They did not do so, however, as is usually the case with all parties. On the contrary, they elected one who had served in the rebel army, and the other one a Democrat of the latter day persuasion. We were quite willing to let all the foregoing indignities pass, providing we could have a public canvas of the ballots, which the laws of the Territory expressly provides for. This privilege or favor was asked for in a gentlemanly manner, but was refused in a chivalrous(?) and provoking way, that showed clearly that said board did not know their duty and were not willing to receive any information on the subject. The next day came, and with it came some very unpleasant controversies and scenes, which might have terminated in a general disturbance, had it not been for the good sense and reasoning of loyal men. I will here say to Democrats in this camp, or elsewhere in the Territory, if you are beat on a square issue of your own getting up, bear it like men and not stir up the passions of men by "going after" leading men on the opposition side, whom you imagine have done you a wrong; it is not altogether safe and will not be tolerated in the future. To Republicans and loyal Democrats throughout this Territory, I will say, be ever vigilant; meet the enemy at the coming elections; beat them at the ballot-box, and I think the time is not far distant when Union men will have the ascendancy throughout the confines of Montana—"and we may be happy yet."

Truly, A REPUBLICAN.

Red Mountain City, Highland Gulch, April 25.

FROM GALLATIN.

Regular Correspondence.

THAT POWDER.

The article, "Who is Guilty?" published in the POST of March 30th, was a little premature, and shows the source from which the information came to be from an individual too far gone from excitement to be either just or prudent. From its effect has sprung up a feeling "down the valley," that has gone so far as to threaten the hanging of John Richards without a trial! Now those of this portion of the valley regard John Richards as their best friend, as well as a friend to the whole country, especially at this critical period. This he has proved himself to be from valuable services rendered heretofore. And to-day we should be totally ignorant of and unprepared against the hostility of the Indians, were it not for him. He has furnished us all the Indian news that we have received. In reference to the "powder," Mr. Richards says that heretofore he has been in the habit of trading some powder to the Indians for the purpose of aiding them in procuring small game; but has sold it to them prudently, from the fact that he has known of Virginia and Helena merchants selling the article to any and every friendly tribe that came into those cities, and from this source has at length reached the Sioux. Since the Indian hostilities have assumed the attitude they have towards this valley and Territory, he has sold no powder. This last time he has been out, and about which there has been so much talk, he states that he did take powder over with him for his own special use. Out of this, he and his party have used nearly five pounds. The balance will be found at his camp by any person who desires to investigate the matter. If the people are prepared to proceed against him according to law, he says let them do it; but, in Heaven's name, cease railing upon him and starting wild stories, which, at this juncture of public excitement, might lead to rash movements. D. W.

Bozeman City, April 27, 1867.

"D. W." is, perhaps, "premature himself in jumping at the source from which the powder article emanated. It is not likely the people of Gallatin would hang a man without a trial; neither is it likely they will permit even "valuable services" to shield any one from punishment, guilty of such a crime as was charged upon him. If he is innocent, very good, and so much the better. The feeling of the people on the subject will probably exert a salutary and restraining influence upon those who might hereafter feel inclined to traffic in that article.

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Proposals.

Office of the Q. M. Gen'l Territorial Militia, Virginia City, M. T., April 20, 1867.

SEALED Proposals will be received at this office until Friday, May 10th, 1867, for the following Quartermaster stores, viz:

Three hundred (300) horses; Three hundred (300) saddles and bridles; three thousand (3,000) pounds of Bacon. Proposals will be received for all or a portion of the above from different parties. The horses must be sound in body and limb, and not less than three years of age. Proposals for second hand saddles and bridles, fit for service, as well as new ones, will be received. The Quartermaster General reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

HAMILTON CUMMINGS,
ap30w & tw tf Q. M. Gen'l Ter. Militia

Proposals.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE, Territorial Militia, Virginia City, M. T., May 8th, 1867.

PROPOSALS will be received at this office until Monday, May 20th, 1867, for furnishing the following quartermaster and ordnance stores, to-wit:

500 Saddles and Bridles;
200 Pairs of Spurs;
3,000 pounds cordage for lariats;
300 Cavalry Carbines or Rifles;
50,000 rounds of fixed ammunition.

Proposals for new and second-hand serviceable saddles will be received. Also for any portion or the whole of the above articles, to be delivered at Helena or Virginia City. The Quartermaster reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

A. CUMMINGS, Quartermaster-General.

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