

# THE MONTANA POST.

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## The Montana Post.

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### GOVERNOR DURKEE'S MESSAGE.

Governor Charles Durkee, delivered his annual message to the Legislative Assembly of Utah, Jan. 13. The most remarkable feature of it is its brevity. The Governor abstains from any suggestions touching the "relic," and the Mormon press accordingly commend him and the message. Governor Durkee is fully aware of the constant and defiant violation of the law of Congress regarding polygamy; of the manner in which the government is swindled by the local statutes exempting church property; of the election laws rendering selections of officers in the Territory the merest sham as an expression of the choice of the people; of the military organization and power of Utah being wholly in the hands of Brigham Young and inimical to the United States; of the puissance of the church in controlling every branch of the Territorial government, Legislative, Judicial and Executive, rendering the authority of the general government nugatory or at least secondary to that of the church. Under these circumstances, notorious and so flagrant in their character, that a bill, necessarily a statutory straight jacket, for the unruly inmates of the theocratic asylum, has been introduced in Congress and its passage demanded by the people of the United States. We think that the Executive of Utah would have been but doing his duty as the representative of the general government to call attention to these facts, urging a reform, and that he could have well sacrificed the adulations of the Mormon press for the consciousness of having performed an imperative duty. The ignoring of existing evils of that character by an Executive in a message to the Legislature, may be dictated by controlling prudential reasons, but they do not manifest themselves to those who regard Utah Mormonism as a vitalized, growing sin against God, the government and humanity. Regarding the condition of the country he speaks hopefully. Regarding national finances he favors the currency contraction and says the country has fully demonstrated its capacity to cancel its debts. As a subject of congratulation he announces that Utah is entirely free from indebtedness; condemns the working of Territorial prisoners with ball and chain on the highways, as calculated to deaden the sensibilities, and defeat the principle end of punishment, the reform of the prisoner, but sustains the policy of compelling them to labor within the walls of their place of confinement. He recommends action to give legal titles to real estate owners, and advises the passage of a statute of limitation. He declares against any laws establishing a general rate of interest, and thinks it should be left to the universal law of supply and demand, but recommends that a rate should be fixed for instances where no specific agreement is made between the parties. A corporation act is also recommended, and the passage of an act regarding limited partnerships, whereby the liability of any party to a firm shall be limited, due notice of the amount having been given under the statute; also, a bill to give mechanics, merchants and others, a lien upon buildings and lands, and in view of the approach of the Union Pacific railroad and the consequent influx of population and capital, a more complete Civil Practice Act is regarded as important. The statute in regard to divorces is regarded as an objectionable one, the proceedings now being only required to be *ex parte* and no notice required to be given the defendant. It is recommended that Congress be memorialized for the establishment of a land office, and the repeal of the obnoxious portion of the Postal law. As this applies equally to Montana as Utah, we give it, the concluding portion of the message, entire:

"Congress should also be again memorial-

ized for the repeal of that most oppressive law compelling the people of this and adjoining Territories to pay letter postage upon all books and transient newspapers forwarded by mail.

"The near approach of the Pacific Railroad would seem to have already removed all apparent reasons which ever existed for this discrimination against settlers upon the frontier. It would surely seem that Congress, instead of restricting the privileges of these settlers upon the Pacific Slope, who by their toils and sacrifices have founded a magnificent empire, should make them even greater than those enjoyed by citizens of the Eastern States, as a partial recompense for their life long battles with the regions, to some extent, of an inhospitable climate and desert soil."

WE learn that the Government survey of the Territory, under the direction of Gen. Sol. Meredith, Surveyor General of Montana, has progressed to the establishment of the base and meridian lines, and, in the vicinity of Helena, to the survey of county and township lines, thus putting the Land Office in a condition for actual operation. The appointment of Deputy District Surveyors, authorized by the act of Congress of July 26, 1866, will expedite this important work and enable owners of valuable mineral and agricultural lands to secure patents for them at the Government rates of \$5 per acre for mineral, and \$1.25 per acre for agricultural lands. The value of these patents from the United States to possessors of valuable mineral lands, cannot be overestimated, and it is the duty of agents and managers of companies to communicate with their principals, and be prepared upon the completion of the general surveys to secure patents for their claims. There are four prerequisites to obtaining patents. The mineral lands of the United States are only "free and open to exploration and occupation by citizens of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become citizens." The local laws, customs, and rules of the miners, so far as not in conflict with the laws of the United States, are to be observed. Individuals or associations must have expended in labor and improvements not less than \$1,000 on the mineral property sought to be patented, and there must be no controversy or opposing claim in regard to the possession at the time of application. Having already given to each subscriber of the Post a copy of the laws and instructions of the Commissioner on this matter, we deem it but necessary to call attention to these points, that the advantages offered by the Government may be secured without delay when the requisite surveys have been completed. In adjacent States and Territories, where the Land Offices are in operation, owners of property are very generally securing patents.

THE telegrams state that Dana has announced his new Republican paper to be issued from Tammany Hall, that institution having been fumigated, remodeled and furnished for the Telegraph. It starts under the most encouraging auspices. It will be the Republican organ of New York, is a member of the Associated Press by the purchase of the Sun, has hoisted the name of Grant for President, will be edited by Charles A. Dana and a brother of Senator Conkling, issued as a morning paper and sold at two cents per copy. The capital of the concern is \$600,000, which will be doubled if necessary, says the New York Herald, and is backed up by many of the most substantial and enterprising men of New York. The following persons put into it the sums annexed: T. A. Palmer, President of the Broadway Bank, \$20,000; Edwin D. Morgan, ex-Governor, \$10,000; Frederick A. Conkling, ex-Congressman, \$10,000; George Opdyke, ex-Mayor, \$10,000; Marshall O. Roberts, \$20,000; Wm. M. Everts, \$10,000; W. H. Webb, \$10,000; Isaac Sherman, \$10,000; Wm. T. Blodgett, \$10,000; A. B. Cornell, \$10,000; S. B. Crittenden, \$10,000; Amos R. Eno, \$10,000; Wm. Murphy, \$10,000; Theron R. Butler, \$10,000; Marshall B. Blake, \$10,000; Elliot C. Cowdin and Peter Martin, \$10,000.

SOME one who had been slightly gulled, wrote a letter of inquiry to the Tribune, asking if it was true the National Banks had made dividends aggregating 150 per cent in the last year. The Tribune says the city banks have made from 20 to 30 per cent; country banks, on an average, 7 per cent. It is thought many of them will have to wind up the coming year. Jay Cooke recently stated that owing to the limitation of National banking capital, there are some 1600 banks however in the country, the notes of the half dozen or so that had failed at once commanded a premium of 7 or 8 per cent. Bills of National Banks that have closed are more likely to be at a premium than discount.

The actors of San Francisco have signed a special protest to the Legislature against the Sunday law.

### HEARING ON THE CASE.

It will be seen by the telegrams of this morning that a resolution has been offered in the lower House of Congress in relation to the anti-Congressional election law of Montana, and that it has been referred to the Committee on Territories of which Mr. Ashley is chairman. Although Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, offered a hasty suggestion, which if carried into effect would result in material injury to the Territory, it cannot be regarded as of any moment, as the dispatch bears evidence on its face that the resolution was offered prematurely on the hearing of but a portion of the facts in the case, and the full investigation which will be given by the Committee before any report is made, will place the matter in its true light, and the matter will end. A history of the enactment that led to this action of Congress, and the subsequent act remedying it is, however, appropos, and we give it below. An act was passed by the Bannack Legislature, approved January 17, 1865, regulating the holding of elections in Montana. It being desired to make some amendments to the enactment at the last session, a bill was introduced in the Council by Mr. Corum, Nov. 11, to amend the above act. Sec. 1, which contains the clause conflicting with the act of Congress of Jan. 24, 1867, reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Montana Territory. Sec. 1. That section one of said act be so amended as to read, as follows: That all white male citizens of the United States, and those who have declared their intention to become citizens, above the age of twenty-one years, shall be entitled to vote at any election for delegate to Congress and for Territorial, county and precinct officers; provided they shall have resided in the Territory twenty days and in the county ten days where they offer to vote, next preceding the day of election.

The above is a verbatim copy of the original Bannack statute, with the exception of a superfluous tautology contained in the former, and if we recollect rightly, Mr. Corum afterwards disclaimed having noticed the conflict between it and the United States enactment prohibiting distinction on account of color. The bill, after several minor amendments, passed both Houses and went to the Governor, who approved it Nov. 23. In making an abstract of the laws a few days subsequent, we noticed the clause, and made inquiry of the Executive concerning it. Governor Smith stated that it had been represented to him as an inadvertency, that the other provisions of the act were good, and that he approved the bill with the express understanding that the Legislature would amend that section. Regarding it as wholly an inadvertency, we made no mention of it, until learning that a canvass of the Legislature showed that there was no disposition, or at least no effort being made to rectify the act, we called the attention of the Legislature to the subject in the Post of Dec. 7, and in view of past difficulties urged the importance of immediate amendment upon their consideration. It is not creditable to a Legislature exclusively Democratic, that upon a fair exposition of the case by an opposition paper, in a few hours after it was laid on the desks, passed the following act with scarcely any debate, and which was cheerfully approved by the Governor within the specified time. An act supplementary to an act entitled, "an act amendatory of an act entitled an act regulating the holding of elections in Montana Territory," approved Nov. 23, 1865. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Montana: Sec. 1. That nothing in an act entitled, "an act to amend an act entitled an act regulating the holding of elections in Montana Territory," approved Nov. 23, 1865, shall be so construed as to conflict with or abridge the rights of any person or persons enfranchised by a law of Congress approved (which became a law) January 23, 1867.

Sec. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act to take effect and be in full force from and after its passage.

Approved Dec. 10, 1867.

We do not attempt to excuse, except upon the ground of inadvertency, the act of Nov. 23, because, although the Democracy of Montana think they are opposed to negro suffrage in the Territory, as citizens of a territory they have no voice in the matter either as legislators or private citizens. Neither do we attempt to apologize for those who held that the act was not in conflict with the act of Congress, but it was amended before any injury resulted, and we point with gratification to the fact that in the strongest Democratic commonwealth in the Republic, among those bitterly opposed to the principles of the new era, and to the bestowal of suffrage upon citizens without regard to race or color, our elections have been uniformly marked by commendable good order and quietude, in city and town, and while the negroes have voted at every poll where they were entitled, we have never learned of an instance where insult or molestation was offered them. If our legislators have occasionally swerved from the line of duty, they have not, we believe, done so with the sanction of

their own sober second thoughts, or with the approval of that republican fountain of power—the people. Believing we harmonize with the Republicans of Montana and the Union, and sustaining the policy of Congress, we are free to assert that we do not desire nor have we merited a dissolution of our relations with the United States and Territories of America, nor do we think there is any necessity for a revision of our laws other than that which can, should, and probably will be made by succeeding Legislatures. Drive us not from the State gate of the Union, towards which we are steadily and speedily approaching with precious golden offerings in our hands to celebrate our entrance, and when in the fullness of time we shall enter in and be of you, Montana's will not be the least lustrous of the glorious galaxy that on our country's stately banner are the resplendent beacon lights of Liberty to all the earth, the emblems of the eternal.

### THEY HAVE REPORTED.

We see it noticed in our Eastern exchanges as telegraphic news that the Indian Commission whose doings last summer would have classed their immediate extermination, by the people of the west, under the head of justifiable homicide, have made their report. As might have been anticipated, the whites are denominated the aggressors, and are wholly to blame in the recent troubles. We understand that the Montana militia came in for a share of denunciation in having waged or meditated the intention of aggressive warfare against the Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, whose only offense has been the massacre of a few hundred emigrants, pioneers and United States soldiers, and the capture of a few hundred thousand dollars worth of property. They recommend the organization of a separate Indian Department Bureau and the establishment of two great exclusive Indian reservations, one to be what is now known as the Indian Territory, south of Kansas. The other to be a slice of Dakota, on the immediate northern boundary of Nebraska, the western boundary being the 104th meridian which is also the eastern boundary of Montana; the northern boundary being the 46th parallel, which is the southern boundary of Montana; the Missouri river being the eastern boundary, and Nebraska the southern boundary. This brings the northwest corner of the proposed reservation in conjunction with the southeast corner of Montana. We do not believe in the reservation system, but if we must have a reservation for the northern Indians and their friends, the commissioners, agents and superintendents, that is probably as good a place for them as any. It does not cover the Roseman or Platte routes, and is equidistant between the lines of the Central and Northern Pacific Railroads. The Report recommends the continuance of the Commission another year, and as this recommendation will probably be adopted and no definite action taken in regard to the establishment of these expensive humbugs at this session of Congress, we hope to see a revolution in the Congressional view of the Indian question and wiser counsel prevail. It is certainly a most incomprehensible mystery that on a question in which no political consideration can have influence, the people of the east, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, look upon those of the west as red-handed, bloodthirsty fiends incarnate, and have all their sympathies alive for the poor, injured, helpless Indians, while the universal testimony of the thousands of people who have passed through the gauntlet of fire and arrows on the plains and know the true situation of affairs, is completely ignored in all legislative action and by a large number of journals. We expect this Report is a jewel of its kind, and look for it with considerable interest.

VICIOUSNESS OF CHRISTIANITY.

Here is the latest tit bit of the *Deseret News*, founded on a New York Herald special, (sensation) that the "Christian authorities at Hong Kong had licensed gambling houses and the Chinese of Canton have protested." The Herald first plunges into a tirade against Christianity and the *News* chimes in. The Chinese are the most inveterate gamblers in the world, and if Christian authorities did license them and the Chinese protest against anything, it was because "licensing" contemplated restriction and was an inroad upon the universality of gambling. The *News*, however, makes this fallacy subservient its purpose. It is exceedingly foreign in its designated instances of the degradation of Christianity, but we think that to those who noticed with what spiteful animosity the Utah press assailed the "apostasy" of the missionaries of the Episcopal church of Salt Lake, the true

object of the article will loom up nearer home. The people must be educated to look with distrust upon the innovations of Christianity, and the *News* is the educator. The article needs no answer; we merely present it to show how dexterously our shrewd neighbors garrote any principle antagonistic to the Mormon Church.

"Why is it that, wherever so-called Christianity goes, results precisely similar to these against which the Chinese protest follow? It might be imagined that a pure system of morals, such as its preachers and missionaries declare it to be, would bring forth different views to these. But it does not. Visit every land where *not* *desert* Christian ministers have gone to propagate their creeds and evangelize (y) the heathen, and you will find the standard of morals among the poor, ignorant creatures lowered by the pernicious teachings of their visitors. Treading on their heels are all the vices of their false civilization, which are a blight and a curse to any nation among whom they are introduced.

The Christianity of this age has been of no benefit to any heathen nation to whom it has been preached. The visit of its missionaries to a pagan land, is the sure precursor of misfortune and evil to that hapless race.

In proof of this we need not refer to our own aborigines, to India or China; but only to the Sandwich Islands. For years that group of Islands were held up as the missionary paradise. There Christianity had achieved its highest triumph. And certainly missionaries never could ask for a fairer and more unrestrained field for the propagation of their system and the practical carrying out of their schemes for man's redemption than they had there. The entire control of the government, the education of the princes and nobles and leading men of the kingdom, and the dictation and the enactment of the laws, were all in their hands. They were virtually the rulers of the country. Had their system been anything but a sham, they might have made the people as attractive as their climate. But misery, degradation and prospective annihilation are upon and before the people. The laws which they enforced and the practices they promoted, have proved the ruin of the nation. The institutions of modern Christianity have crushed them, and they will soon be blotted out.

The people of this Territory should be thankful that pseudo-christianity finds no field for its operations here. It is true that owing to its absence we have no number of sanctimonious, devout-looking men—we have no churches and chapels; but neither have we any brothels, gambling saloons, and the other concomitants which flourish under its protecting wing. If its missionaries could operate to their satisfaction, our happy and peaceful Territory would speedily be transformed into a pandemonium. Under their fostering care, the institutions of Christendom, in all their rileness, would soon flourish here. In this manner would we be christianized, if they had their way.

To call such systems Christian, is a libel on the Savior. The fruits they bear give unmistakable evidence of another origin."

### REPUBLICAN DELEGATES.

In anticipation of the meeting of the National Republican Convention in Chicago, May twentieth, 1868, for the nomination of Republican candidates for President and Vice President, the following call is issued for the choosing of Delegates from Montana Territory. Members of the Committee should be present or send a proxy.

The members of the Territorial Union Central Committee are requested to meet at the Banking House of Geo. M. Pinney & Co., in Helena, on the 12th day of February next, for the purpose of choosing Delegates to the National Union Convention.

By order of Central Committee.  
Helena, Jan. 25, 1868.

The following are the names of the members of the Committee elected at the Convention held in Helena:

- Edgerton—Henry Thompson, John Poster, T. C. Jones, Geo. M. Pinney.
- Madison—N. J. Davis, E. L. Pratt, Jas. H. Mills.
- Jefferson—T. G. Merrill, C. P. Freeman.
- Deer Lodge—A. J. Simmons, J. D. Hutton, E. S. Stackpole.
- Mission—T. M. Pomeroy, Tyler, Woodward.
- Choteau—S. B. Hubbell, Geo. Steele.
- Beaverhead—A. J. Smith, C. S. Ream, E. F. Phelps.

THE California Legislature has up before it the Eight Hour Labor question. The mechanics of the State are organized and form a very strong political element. The Mechanic's Council drafted a bill which was introduced in its original form, wherein it is made an offense, punishable with fine and imprisonment, for any contractor on State work to work his employees more than eight hours per day. The bill was referred to the Judiciary committee who reported a substitute giving employers and employed the right to make special contract for any number of hours they choose. The mechanics are irate at this action, and Messrs. Lupton and Papy, who owe their election to Republican mechanics who went over to the Democracy to vote for them as advocates of the mechanics interests, were severely handled by the Council. At last account, definite action had not been taken on the question.

### What is in a Dictionary.

B. F. Taylor says in his lecture on "The Words We Use": "I turn over its pages much as Sinbad, the sailor, looked about him in the valley of Diamonds—bewildered to think how rich it is. Within those lids are the hues that Milton gave to Paradise, the living colors that lent reality to Shakespeare's people, as by the miracle of his mind they swelled the canvas of all time—colors that lapse of years cannot wear away, and the touch of death cannot fade. There are the words of eloquence that filled the world, and wait another's saying; there the wardrobe of the giants of the elder time yet meet a latter wearing. Old loves were breathed, old vows were said, old songs were sung in these same words. Old war cries are on the same pages; words for the glowing lips of prophetic voice; utterances for all truth. It is to the world of mind—the dictionary—that the simple elements the chemist gathers in his hand sometimes are to the world of matter; and we shall never be done wondering how myriad forms of strength and beauty are forever evolved from words; how the blind bard of England found therein the dialect of Eden; and Avon's son sinew for Richard and the song for Ophelia.

"What flowers of fancy; what truths with hearts of oak spring from those lanky words! what moments are built of them, what battlements of strength. How firmly they lie anchored, like mountain quarries in the ledges of the argument; how lightly they spread their dewy wings like the morning, in the flying of the song. What chimes are waiting to be rung; what blades are waiting for the yielding hand; what Gilead balm for the wounded heart;—trumpets to be blown for liberty; zephyrs to be breathed for love. And those are only words of which we are speaking; words in that volume whose pages are trampled thick with prints of barefoot thought, waiting to be sanded and go forth with resounding tread over the iron threshold of the press; forth into the world as went the diluvian dove, never to return again.

"Why, the compactness of our republic depends not so much upon the Fourth of July as upon the dictionary. There is an oneness of thought in an oneness of words; a common language is the dear repository of a common past, and those who have the same syllables for "home" and "mother," for "health" and "heaven," can never be less than kindred.

### Chronology of 1867.

1. A bill passes the State Senate for telegraph line between New York and France—Generals Grant and Sherman protest against furnishing Indians with arms by the Indian agents—Public debt, less cash in the Treasury, \$2,543,349,748 56.
  2. Consolidation of the Camden and Amboy and New Jersey Transportation Companies.—Death of ex-Gov. Washington Hunt.
  3. The Constitutional Amendment declared defeated, twelve States rejecting it.
  4. The bankrupt bill defeated in the Senate.
  5. The Tennessee House adopts negro suffrage.—The French evacuate the city of Mexico.
  6. Congress passes the Nebraska bill over the veto.
  7. The steamer City of Bath burned at sea, and 23 lives lost.
  8. The dry goods store of Chittenden & Co., corner of Broadway and Leonard street, destroyed by fire. Loss \$1,500,000.
  9. The military reconstruction bill passes the House.
  10. Rising of Fenians at Killarney, Ireland.
  11. Professor Bach dies at Newport, R. I., aged 61.—The steambot David White, from New Orleans for Louisville, explodes her boiler. Sixty-five lives lost.
  12. John H. Surratt arrives in Washington a prisoner on the Swatara.—The Tennessee Senate passes the negro suffrage bill.
  13. The Fenian excitement in Ireland announced officially to have subsided.
  14. The amended military reconstruction bill passes both Houses.
  15. The session of the First Parliament of the North German States opened.
  16. The New York Academy of Music inaugurated by the Fireman's Ball.—Death of Amor J. Williamson.
- Denver Union Pacific Railroad.
- We are indebted to Mr. House, connected with the engineer department of the U. P. R., for the information from Gen. Dodge that arrangements have been perfected for the construction of the Denver and Pacific railroad from Denver to Cheyenne next season. Colorado is to furnish five hundred thousand dollars in cash towards the construction of the road, and the U. P. R., the balance of the necessary funds to build the road and the machine shops for the mountain division of the U. P. R. are also to be constructed at Cheyenne.
- This is very gratifying news to both Denver and Omaha. It will be decidedly advantageous to the interests of both of them as well as of Colorado and Nebraska.—*Omaha Republican.*
- The Omaha Herald further says: The line will be built from Cheyenne as the initial point from Denver. The line will be 112 miles long. Machine shops, round houses and depots will be built at Cheyenne, the work commencing in early spring.
- The result here announced will be gratifying news to those who know the importance of the enterprise and properly value railroad connections with the new northwest. To Denver and Colorado especially the new road which General Dodge calls the Denver Pacific will be of incalculable consequence. Cheyenne will be stimulated to a still more magical advancement, perhaps, and the Union Pacific magnate can now turn their faces to the northward for the Montana Branch.