

THE MONTANA POST.

A Newspaper, Devoted to the Mineral, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of Montana Territory.

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WHOLE NO. 203

JAS. H. MILLS, - - EDITOR.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1868.
National Union Republican Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT,
GENERAL U. S. GRANT,
OF ILLINOIS.
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,
SCHUYLER COLFAX,
OF INDIANA.

Union Republican Tickets.

Lewis and Clarke County.
For Council—3d District.
RICHARD McNEIL.
For Assembly—3d District.

SOL STARR CHAS. HENDRIE
CHARLES RICE FRANK GETCHELL
CORNELIUS HEDGES

For Commissioner.
JOHN KINNA.
For Assessor.

JOHN A. NELSON.
For Justice of the Peace.

MAT. McGUIRK, (Helena Precinct.)
JOHN POOL, (Nelson Precinct.)

For Constable.
GEO. F. COWAN, (Helena Precinct.)
JOHN BELL, (Nelson Precinct.)

PLATFORM.

We do, with one accord, most heartily endorse the platform adopted by the Union Republican Convention at Chicago, and recognize in the nomination of Ulysses S. Grant for President, and Schuyler Colfax for Vice-President, the true principles of the great Union party and feel confident that they, as standard bearers, will lead the party on to victory, and secure for the Nation harmony and prosperity.

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ALMOST.

Mr. N. P. Langford, Collector of Internal Revenue, came near having a joke perpetrated on him on Monday discounting Jack Reynolds' of Saturday. He yesterday received a telegram informing him that a Mr. Morris had been appointed by the President as his successor, and confirmed by the Senate during the closing hours of the session. The interposition of friends procured a reconsideration of the confirmation, and Mr. Morris was but Collector for a few hours, while the official head of Mr. Langford so skillfully gullitinated was replaced as neatly as though Robert Houdin had done it. It is not half so desirable to know "who struck Billy Patterson," as "who is Mr. Morris?" Is he a descendant of George P. P. the poet; Gouverneur, the friend of Lafayette; Lewis, who put his autograph below Hancock's on the Great Declaration; Robert, the financier of the first Congress; Thomas, the statesman, or Thomas, the Bishop. By the way, who is Morris? Later.—It is now understood that Mr. Morris is "Ike" Moore, formerly of Virginia. He is presumed to be in the same situation as the Moor of Venice, "His occupation's gone."

GETTING UNEASY.

On July 18th, the *Herald* in noticing the passage of the Resolutions denouncing the Executive Committee in general and Geo. M. Pinney in particular, said: "We wish here especially to refer to the patriotism and wisdom of the Convention as evidenced by the promptness and unanimity with which it passed resolutions condemning the dishonorable course of G. M. Pinney, Chairman of the Union Territorial Committee, and the remainder of the members of the Executive Committee to whom were intrusted the control of the affairs pertaining to the party in this Territory."

And now from the *Herald* of the 29th.

It is a matter of supreme indifference to us whether Pinney be sustained or repudiated by a Territorial Convention of Republicans. Then we are to understand that what was "patriotism and wisdom" to you on the 18th, was ten days after "a matter of supreme indifference." Paying the way for "independence" again, are you? Your *Kick* fizzled, and the old "record rheumatics" is aching in your bones. You know a skillful hand is shaking up your "kill or cure" and you don't relish the idea of being dosed with the "Parson's Paragoric for Big Head Bilks." You squirm terribly, but you have the disorder and will have to take nine double doses of the remedy when the proper time comes, if you "have to stay home from school afterwards."

THE COUNTY ASSESSMENT.

We have yet to hear of a people that entertain fears of being too little taxed, and even were such a community to exist, the Territory of Montana would be the last place in which to look for it. What, with United States, Territorial and County taxes and licenses, we have enough to pay for the privilege of being governed, perhaps too much, but certainly not too well. Nevertheless, and at the risk of being charged with inconsistency, we must complain of the extreme and almost ludicrously small assessment that has this year been made in the County of Lewis & Clarke. We herewith give the figures showing the assessed values of property in the County as they appear upon the books in the Assessor's office:

19,533 acres of land.....	\$127,485
Value of town lots.....	501,482
Capital invested in Merchandise.....	454,590
Manufactures.....	70,815
620 mules.....	36,670
224 horses.....	21,230
1,081 sheep.....	67,840
1,989 cows and calves.....	78,223
10 oxen.....	60
567 swine.....	6,235
Carriages of every description.....	23,600
Money and credits.....	384,743
Clocks, watches and jewelry.....	12,175
Musical instruments.....	4,790
Household furniture.....	9,435
Shares in incorporated companies.....	21,130
All other property.....	74,985
Total.....	\$1,663,617

So this is the assessed value of the property of the County with a debt of \$50,000 hanging over it. We leave it to our readers to compute for themselves how long it will take to pay this debt with a tax of not to exceed one per cent. (the limit fixed by law) upon the above amount. But yet it is not the smallness of the assessment itself that we object to, for, as we said in the beginning, people are never found to complain of being too little taxed, and if the County Commissioners should see fit to levy a tax of only one mill on the dollar, and could keep the wheels of the governmental machine greased with that amount, we should be the last to find fault. But with the present rate of taxes we do complain that an assessment cannot be as small as that above given and still be just and equitable. We have failed to believe that there are some honest men in our community some who make true returns to the Assessor. It is equally true that there are many who strive by every slip-like contortion of conscience and slipping around of property to evade the payment of their just dues to the County. To see that no such evasion takes place is the principal duty of the Assessor. Has he performed that duty? Everything seems to show that he has not. A careful examination of the figures above given, even without comparison with any others, will show any thinking man that the amounts are not sufficiently large. Who does not know that the value of the town lots in this city, with their improvements, is double the amount given in the assessment roll? "Capital invested in merchandise \$454,590." Why, the freight alone on goods annually brought to this town will equal, if not exceed that amount. In the amount given as invested in manufactures there is a great discrepancy between the truth and the figures. We know of one instance in which property valued at \$30,000, was assessed for only \$8,000. The number of horses given is far below the truth; for we can find under the charge of three or four livery stables in town the "600" reported. The item of "moneys and credits, \$184,743," if true, would give a not very flattering showing of the financial abilities of our people, allowing them, as it does, only about twenty-five dollars each in currency. But, as the "roaring farce" after the comedy comes "10 sheep," the total number in the metropolitan County of Lewis & Clarke on the first of July. And yet the supply of mutton, all of it reasonably old has held out remarkably well at our hotels and restaurants since then, and even now there is no scarcity of sheep meat in the market. In excuse of the smallness of the assessment roll, we are informed that the listing of some of our heaviest merchants has been postponed until after the arrival of their stocks in order that they might be fully taxed. This is all very proper perhaps, but even when these additional returns are in, the total assessed value of the property in the County cannot exceed \$2,500,000. Madison County, in its depressed condition, abandoned by many of its business men, and from which a large amount of capital has fled to Helena, returns \$2,100,000. Regarding this as a true statement, and it is probably much too low, the amount of assessed property in Lewis and Clark should be, at least, \$5,000,000, or double; what will appear upon the books when the returns are all complete. The effect that is to extort double the just amount from the honest man, because the assessor pays nothing—to rob him who conscientiously makes proper returns for the purpose of paying the tax of the rogue, whom the assessor does not take the trouble to look after—to cause our honorable men to pay a tax of ten mills on the dollar when five mills would bring the same amount into the County Treasury if the assessor performed his duty in that energetic, impartial and fearless manner which should characterize a man in his position. While it is a notorious fact that the Territorial Assessors have never performed their duty in a proper manner, as a comparison of their returns, with those of the corresponding U. S. officers will show, it is also a notorious fact that the Assessor of Lewis and Clarke County has always been more culpably negligent in the performance of his duty than any other. While this County pays over half of

the United States' taxes, it has never yet equalled Madison County alone in the size of its assessment roll and will barely do so this year, even if the final returns are as large as promised. What is the remedy for this state of affairs? We answer, intelligent legislation and a change of officers. The bungling laws with which we have been thus far provided, show us no remedy in the case of a too low assessment, thus leaving open a wide door for partial and unequal taxation. The honest man must pay the tax of the rascal and there is no redress. Gov. Smith, in his message to the last Legislature, recommended that Assessors' compensation should be made to consist alone of a commission upon taxes collected; but, notwithstanding the fact that the total sum expended in collecting the United States' taxes is less than this percentage would amount to, the Legislature, failed to act upon the suggestion, and continued the per diem allowance to the officers, thus offering a premium to him who should occupy the most time in doing the least. That we may have this law changed, we must put in the Legislature men who shall consider their duty to the public paramount to any obligations to partisan office holders, and who will consult concerning the good of the people rather than concerning the best way in which to increase the emoluments of this or that office. The names of such men appear upon the Union Ticket and will receive the hearty support of all thinking men. But not only do we need new men to enact laws, but now to put them in effect. The present Assessor has been faithfully tried, with what result, we have shown. He is again nominated by his party, but we do not need him. Col. John A. Nelson, the Republican candidate, is the man to fill his place, to vigilantly and impartially perform the duties of the office, and give us such an impartial assessment, as shall take from dishonesty the premiums which it now receives and thereby reduce the taxes of honest men one-half. He will receive a heavy vote.

SHIPMENT OF ORES.

While many of the mills of Montana are saving a handsome profit on ores, it is still a fact as indisputable as unpleasant to contemplate, that machinery and the processes known and in use are inadequate to the proper treatment and separation of some of the richest assaying rock in the Territory. Ores are today netting a handsome profit, while the tailings run from the sluices will assay double and treble the amount saved in the mill; still others are intractable, the mill or furnace being incompetent under any treatment in practical use to effect a separation of the base and precious metals, with a margin for the owners. It is held that 90 per cent. of the fire assay of rock can be made in practical reduction of large quantities, and this guarantee is made both in New York, Swansea and Berlin. The fact that ores less valuable than those of Montana are shipped from California and Nevada, and more recently from Colorado to the East and Europe, and the fact demonstrated that they are capable of thorough reduction, has perhaps been the principal cause of a movement that will result beneficially to Montana; first in establishing the value of ores; second, the proper treatment of them and in the introduction of processes and reduction works suitable to the character of the ores. This movement is the shipment of ores, some to Jersey City and New York, others to Wales and Prussia. The first shipment was a ton and a half of smelted copper, in pigs, by Mr. Charles Hendrie, of the Helena Foundry and Machine Shops, and was sent by the Mountaineer about June 1st. It was shipped to Swansea, Wales, and a letter per last mail from Branch & Cooks, forwarders, St. Louis, advises him of its departure from there, per Atlantic Mail and Steamship Company. The freight from Montana to St. Louis was \$40 per ton; from St. Louis to Liverpool we believe the rates are but \$10 per ton. The copper was from the furnace of Harvey, Ray & Co., Butte City, and was smelted from the Parrott and Original lodes. The supply of ore is inexhaustible, and the furnace is capable of smelting two tons of ore per day. The percentage of copper is from 35 to 71 per cent.; the ore red oxide and green carbonate, the best quality, and its value from 20 to 25 cents per pound. With all this it is not manifest to the proprietors that, at the present rates of labor, etc., it can be made profitable, unless the gold and silver known to exist in it can be separated and a fatter margin had for contingencies. Fire assays have shown the presence of precious metals in paying quantities, and this shipment is made to ascertain by its separation under the most skillful treatment, the value, components, and best method of practical separation. If it pays metal will be shipped for separation, or the requisite means adopted for its reduction and separation here. The company has also a mill at Butte City to reduce milling ores. This was the first shipment from Montana to Europe, and returns from it are anticipated in a couple of months.

FUNDING THE DEBT.

The financial problem has finally been solved—the Gordian knot is cut by a general funding bill, the sure, safe and most direct method of egress from the labyrinth of perplexity, confusion and danger, in which the finances were involved. It is one of the few measures which, it is anticipated, the President will not veto; his views on this question, singularly enough, harmonizing with Congress. The exigencies of the war required the issue of bonds at a high rate of interest. The redemption of Five-Twenties after five years from issue, and before maturity—twenty years, is at the option of the Government. These 5-20s bear six per cent interest, payable in coin, semi-annually. There are three issues of them, dating from 1862-'64-'65. Those of 1862 amount to \$500,000,000, and was shown by carefully prepared tables, that by the original bill funding them with thirty-five per cent bonds, that the total saving to the Government on the one issue at the maturity of the 30-year bonds, in 1898, would be \$269,912,460.00; more than one-half of the total. The bill was however modified, making the interest 4 1/2 per cent, thus making a still greater saving. The entire amount of 5-20s of the three issues, and 7-3-10ths, convertible into 5-20s at maturity, contemplated as redeemable by the new bonds, is \$1,613,442,700.00, or three-fifths of the entire debt. The saving on the interest, and the \$135,000,000, annually set apart from customs, for this specific purpose, will pay the interest and principal at the maturity of the 30-year bonds. As the interest is now fixed, it is a fraction less than three dollars per annum to each person in the United States, with a wealth and population doubling and redoubling itself rapidly. In France the rate is \$2.00, and in England 3.26. There is no threatened revolutions there on that account, although the Johnny Bulls, with all their mature plans and smoochy working systems of finance, pay more than we, and the wealth and population gives no noticeable relief. Besides, under the new bill, Jay Cooke & Co., and others are cut out of a per centage on sales. Those holding the old bonds can convert them, or the Secretary of the Treasury can sell the new ones at par, and redeem the old bonds as they become due. This bill is one of the fruits of the expression of the Chicago Convention, distinctly demanded in the resolutions, which the *Gazette* said meant exactly what they did not say. We said "amen" to the resolution; say "amen" to the funding bill, and yet claim consistency. The New York Convention having

managed to incorporate in its platitudes, resolutions to the same general effect, and thrown Pendleton and his "irredeemable" ideas overboard, it may be accepted as a settled fact, that all men of all parties, will unite in acquiescence to this measure. The Democratic big gun was spiked before a shot was fired; its chiefs are stripped of the war paint and feathers, and stand disarmed on the day of battle. The faith of the nation is sustained, we have passed the ordeal unscathed, and the government has vindicated itself from the aspersion that in base ingratitude it would defraud its creditors and evade its honest debts. The Fortieth Congress has not done a better deed than this, and with this established and in effective operation, the further reduction of taxes and final extinguishment of the entire debt will be of easy accomplishment, and the nation will have borne manfully, heroically and honorably, the burdens that came of the Great Rebellion.

DUTY.

On Monday next, occurs the general election in Montana. On that day we give expression by our ballots of the judgment of the people of things past. It is the verdict of "well done thou good and faithful servant," or condemnation if they have proved recreant to their trusts. We do more than this, we delegate to officers the power of the people to make and execute our laws for another one or two years. Those we have entrusted bring their actions to the ballot box for review. A vote cast for the doer is an endorsement of the deed, and an instruction to the voter to continue in the future as in the past. Once a year those who are governed are the governing power. They have months for consideration, but a moment to act. The ballots that decide the legislation of the Territory right or wrong; that pass upon the ability, efficiency and honesty of officials; that indicate the will of the people for the future, make the irrevocable verdict of a tribunal from which there is no appeal, and it behooves those who vote rationally, as men worthy of citizenship in a mighty nation, demonstrating the theory that man is capable of self government, to consider well the principles involved in the simple act of casting their votes. It is not a question that should be decided by verbal miasma, raised by the heated imaginations of scheming, intriguing office-seekers, who flounder about in the filthy pool of politics, until every exhalation is a stench in the nostrils of honesty and judgment. It is not a question that poor whiskey at free bars, or Judas pieces of silver—bribery, either of the bowels or the breeches—should decide. It is not a question in which party predilections should be allowed to swerve men from a conviction of right, and impel them to acts of violence against their better judgment. It is a question whether the public servants have been faithful or unfaithful in the discharge of their trusts, and if you pass opinion on it let it be conscientiously, rationally. We have given an exposition of some of the acts of the last Legislature, somewhat limited by our space and time for review. We confess an inability to portray in the startling colors they deserve, the acts of that body, iniquitous in the evil they are working to the people of the Territory, no matter whether framed in gross ignorance or premeditated wrong. You have the statutes before you, judge whether the exposition is just or unjust. Not the least wrong are those of finances, and the impositions upon miners, which the near approach of the election may preclude us from noticing, yet these are matters the practical workings of which are patent to all, and against which the voice of Montana has been raised in stentorian tones. A portion of that Legislature remains; another portion must be chosen by you on next Monday. Democracy has a majority here, and that element presuming to represent it was unanimous in the Legislature last winter. You have trusted them and been betrayed; you have asked them for just and equal laws and they have given you statutes that no "white man's government" should be guilty of; that a black-and-tan carpet-bag, negro-equality Legislature would blush to acknowledge, and that even the field hands of Louisiana would repudiate. If you permit the opportunity to pass without a rebuke to those so shamefully misrepresenting you, it will be virtually approving their action, arming and nerving to further wrong those who have used their power for evil with every energy they possessed. The very end democracy strove to attain and succeeded in last year, is a curse to legislation—a body a unit on political issues. There never was a government with but one political party that did not become a tyranny; never a legislative body so constituted that was not corrupt. The experience of Montana is no exception to this general rule, and it will become worse and wickeder, as success

emboldens it to deeds of hostility to the United States, and mal-administration of local affairs. Neither does the minority want to be hopelessly in the minority—a presence that will only excite to brow-beating and contumely. It should have a strength that would command notice and respect, and without that, your laws, resolutions and appropriations will grow more grievous until a sudden tide of revolt will throw the entire political control of the Territory into the hands of the opposite party. Democrats can see this plainly working in Montana to-day, and while we ordinarily view it as a party journal, we can say independent of that, that to retain the majority in this Territory for 1869, Democrats are necessitated to yield liberally to Republicans in 1868. Taking this view of the case, it is the duty of every Republican to go to the polls on Monday and vote the ticket, that we may have denunciation of, and relief from, the monstrous burlesque on legislation that last winter issued its edicts from the Capital. It is to Democrats a point of honor and discretion, not to seek longer to foist the imposition upon this people that is well nigh shattering their party to fragments and bringing disgrace upon their name, and to repudiate its acts. It is the duty of all to see that good Republicans are sent to the House and Council, that bad may not become worse. We submit this view of "duty" to the electors of Montana and hope that it may be given consideration and meet approval.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

We are indebted to a friend for a copy of the Reports of Mr. J. Ross Browne and Mr. J. W. Taylor on the Mineral Resources of the United States. It is a volume of nearly 750 pages, and is, without question, the most valuable report ever made upon the precious minerals of this country. In it we find, pertaining to Montana, the report of W. S. Keyes, M. E., to Browne, 20 pages; the report of J. R. Blatchley, to Browne, 15 pages; Mr. Browne's personal report, 9 pages, and Mr. Taylor's personal report, 1 page—in all 45 pages. The reports of Messrs. Blatchley and Keyes, from a hasty examination, appear to us as nearly correct as could be approximated, and evidence a thorough research, a careful collation of such statistics and facts as are obtainable, and a manifest desire to tell the truth. The difficulties of collecting statistics is perhaps underestimated, but let any one however familiar with the working, and those conversant with the operations, in any one gulch, be commissioned to ascertain and report its product, and he will find what a Herculean task it is. Having tried this in Alder Gulch a year ago our experience was in ascertaining from one that the total yield was between \$17,000,000 and \$18,000,000; from another that it was not less than \$60,000,000, and from a third that the other two "were crazy"—yet either of these men would unhesitatingly condemn any estimate differing from theirs. Such are the difficulties of making up reports in the Territories. In so far as pertains to the geology, agricultural resources, history, climate, etc., the reports are doubtless beyond question in the main, and Montana, although not receiving that elaborate notice bestowed on California and Nevada, has yet been accorded a reasonable space. There are many points in it not given in the summary published from the *American Journal of Mining* which we shall hereafter present to our readers.

SOLD.

The *Gazette* was deliciously gratified yesterday over "a good joke," perpetrated by the Republicans of Gallatin county, in nominating Mr. Philip Thorpe for the Assembly. The *Gazette* has been most egregiously sold on the matter, and set up the halloo before it was out of the woods. Mr. Thorpe is about as thorough a "black-and-tan" Republican as there is in Montana; can date his affiliation in Montana back to the organization of the first Union League and demonstrate it with as many straight votes for the Union party as any man in the Territory (Republicans only vote once at any one election). Notwithstanding this the *Gazette*, with dignified pomposity, asserts, parenthetically, "He is a democrat." In mercy to the *Gazette* we hope the wags of the town will be less severe in their practical jokes. The Republicans of Gallatin have some idea what they are about, as you will appreciate by next Monday, and they neither mistook their men, or nominated those who had been dead half a year as the wide awake democracy of Ohio did a few days since. Mr. T. was not present at the Convention, but he will be at the next session of the Legislature, which will answer the purpose fully as well.