

THE MONTANA POST.

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

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WHOLE NO. 225

The Montana Post

JAS. H. MILLS, - EDITOR.
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The stock of the Erie railroad has been watered into shares aggregating \$80,000,000. No wonder it cuts a figure on the Stock Exchange.

SENATOR DOOLITTLE, whose term expires March 4th, will locate in Washington and practice law.

To November 25th, 1868, 200,452 emigrants arrived in New York. During the same period in 1867, the number was 238,278.

The revenues derived from National, State, County and Corporation taxes are estimated by the Statistical Bureau to exceed \$700,000,000 per annum, collected in thirty-seven States, containing 2,159 counties and a larger number of municipalities.

Custar found considerable U. S. mail matter, that had been stolen from trains and coaches, in Black Kettle's camp; also money and other property. He forwarded some of the *males* to the dead letter office.

The Keystone Bridge Company, of Pittsburg, has contracted to build a railroad bridge across the Mississippi at Kookuk for \$1,000,000. The bridge will be of iron and be finished in one year.

As indicated by the vote on the adoption of the minority report, the Council has passed the bill locating the seat of government in Deer Lodge. If it passes the House, is approved by the Governor and the people, Virginia may take "A long farewell of all her greatness." Helena contemplates these things with serenity, and reflects that "The best laid plans of men are mice gang aft a-gle."

A famous minister said, "I lived in a country seven years, and all that time I never heard a profane oath or saw a man drunk." "And where was that country?" "It was New England."

How fortunate it is for some people to be blind and deaf.
No farther news regarding the Capitol question. Mr. McLaughlin's notice of a motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was rejected, was a little filibustering movement to gain time, which might have been nipped in the bud had there been necessity for it. It is possible that there is a desire on the part of the Legislature to present the Capitol to Helena for a Christmas or New Year's gift.

The Eastern situation is becoming interesting. It is reported that Austria and France will act in concert and they will probably sustain Turkey. In the meantime the Russian flag has been publicly burned in the streets of Constantinople. This will have a tendency to rouse the ire of Russia, and instigate an alliance with Greece. The excitement is intense, and it would not be surprising if 1869 should open with a war on the old battle fields.

MONTANA POST.—We are indebted to our old friend, J. J. Davidson, for copies of the Montana Post, published at Helena. They are full and running over with western life and activity; and astonish one with the thought that where we are in the habit of thinking of nothing but wild savages, bears and buffaloes, a paper should be issued daily which equals in mechanical skill, typographical appearance, business enterprise and editorial ability, the best of those published in our eastern cities. Wonderful is the West!—*Wisconsin Mirror*, Dec. 2d.

That is an agreeable reflection in a *Mirror*, and although our native modesty suffices us in becoming blushed at the flattering view, we acknowledge the indebtedness and are glad to know another eastern skeptic has received true light, and been pleased with the golden glow of the glorious west. Hold the *Mirror* up to nature. You have but caught a fleeting glance of the wondrous scene.

WANTS TO REVISE.—Brigham has the following in the *News*:

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.
Salt Lake City, Dec. 12, 1868.
I desire the printers of Salt Lake City, who are my friends, to do me the favor to submit my remarks to me for correction before publishing them to the world. Those who do not I shall hardly consider as friends.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.
That is a left-hander at "Bro. Stebbins" of the *Telegraph*, for publishing his sermon on the death of President Spencer. We are not surprised, for the *News*' version is decidedly different, and an improvement on the *Telegraph*'s, which we came near clipping, supposing it to be one of Josh Billings'. Brigham could get up the biggest kind of a reputation for eloquence by suppressing his sermons altogether.

TO BE.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* styles the West the "bread basket of the world." Quoting from the report of the Agricultural Bureau, it says "the territory between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean, which in 1859 yielded about 25,000,000 bushels of wheat, this year harvests 65,000,000 bushels, while the country east of the Mississippi has made no increase as a whole." Nine years ago the West produced only one-seventh of the wheat in the country; now it produces fully a third, and when the Pacific coast quadruples its yield, as it is easily susceptible of doing, it will produce more grain than the entire United States in 1850. From such facts as these, and the remarkable increase of population from 3,000,000 to 39,000,000 of people within the lifetime of a man, can the wonderfully rapid growth and development of the Republic be fairly considered. We have 1,600,000,000 acres of agricultural lands. With a population of 400 to the square mile, less than the densely populated countries of the Old World, the United States would have 1,000,000,000 of people. The Census Bureau estimates the population in 1870 at 40,000,000, and in 1900 at 100,355,802. These estimates are based upon actualities, and if the same facts hold good until the children of "the coming man" are a little gray, in the year 2010, America will have 968,000,000 of people. These estimates may seem visionary, but consider the past, look to the future as its counterpart, and contemplate that with Asia tributary as well as Europe, the unnumbered mountains and valleys of America will team with millions, and echo with busy industry.

ROADS FOR THE PEOPLE.

In an endeavor to impress upon our legislators the importance of providing facilities for travel in Montana, we are confident we only speak the desires of their constituents. No one will question the fact that we are now suffering from the extortions of toll keepers, and that it results injuriously to the Territory. The mere fact of not chartering any more such monopolies is not sufficient. The charters may not be revoked, or the parties bought out at enormous sums, but the Territory should inaugurate a system of public highways free to all travelers, and thus materially encourage industry and immigration. The principal highway in and out of Montana, viz: that extending to Utah, should be improved by changing the route, and the tolls lightened wherever practicable. The suggestion to memorialize the general government to construct a military road from Fort Benton to the nearest point on the U. P. Railroad, will not meet the exigencies of the case, as providing an appropriation for that purpose could be secured, it would not be available to prepare the road for the travel of the ensuing season. Our Legislature cannot control the roads outside of Montana, but it can for \$5,000 open a road from Silver Star to Snake river, shortening the route forty miles, and avoiding the stormy ascents of the Pleasant Valley range, locate a thoroughfare with grades as slight as those of South Pass, enabling teams to load fully a third more freight, and make the trip in three days less time. This road should be opened from Jefferson bridge up the Jefferson, until intersecting the Bannack road, thence to Bannack over a fine natural road, thence by Horse Prairie where the ascent is easy to the pass in the main range, where Medicine Lodge is struck, from which point to Eagle Rock bridge there is an easy grade or level prairie. This is the natural road which is demonstrated by the fact that those great path finders, the buffaloes, whose faculty is unerring instinct, and whose trails the Indian, the explorer, and the surveyor have ever found upon the best engineering line, made this the line of ingress and egress from the South to the Deer Lodge and Missouri valleys. The deviation from this to the Pleasant Valley and Beaverhead Canyon route, was purely from the effect of ignorance of the country by emigrants and local circumstances, and improvement will only be by a return to first principles. The Bill of Mr. Estes whose property is on the toll road, was introduced for the purpose of strangling the project by the excessive appropriation asked, and it is right that our legislators give attention to a road that opens up direct communication, shorter, easier, and free from tolls, to eight of the ten counties of Montana. Another desirable public improvement is the opening of a public road from Gallatin Valley to Helena, and by the erection of bridges over the Jefferson and Madison above their confluence, obviate the dangers, delays and excessive ferrage rates on the Missouri. Helena is the principal market for the products of that valley, and it is here the store supplies are principally purchased. It would immensely benefit the industrious agricultural population of that county, and the expenditure of a small amount of money in public bridges would be practical encouragement to agriculture, render transportation of the products of the valley possible at all seasons, and be worthy of all commendation. While pleased to see the Legislature memorializing the Government on the subject of free roads, it is not well to neglect practical evidences of good faith. The

manifold advantages that would result from a judicious expenditure of a small amount of money would amply justify the appropriations necessary for the purpose, and a desirable reform and retrenchment in other directions render it no strain upon the public purse. The reduction of fifty per cent. on extra compensation alone would provide a fund ample for the objects we have named, and it is to be hoped the Legislature will not adjourn for two years until they have provided for these needed public improvements.

STARVATION ECONOMY.

The New York *Tribune* is committed against any further appropriations to Pacific Railroads until the Government debt has been funded at a low rate of interest and specie payments resumed, but gives significant preference to the Northern Pacific, as follows:
"Take the proposed Northern Pacific Railroad, and suppose that thirty millions in money and twenty millions of acres of public lands were granted to secure its completion within the next ten years, we hold that our remaining public lands would be worth far more, whether to the Government or to settlers, than the whole would be without the road, and that the thirty millions of dollars would be paid into the Treasury because of the new settlements and extra consumption of tax-paying products which that road would insure."

With this admission, its objection is the present impoverishment of the country and the disorder of the finances. We see no reason why all this may not be satisfactorily adjusted at this session. The *Tribune* favors the completion of the U. P. and C. P. roads, which have been constructed since the debt was incurred. It must offer, as a reason for this, that the consequent advantages to the country in development and facilities for transportation will more than compensate the outlay. The inadequacy of one road to the full purpose is admitted. Is a belt of country as large as the Atlantic States to be retarded for a generation in its preparation for settlement until we are clear of debt? The idea is absurd, for the presumption of the Government is, that before our national debt is extinguished, the country thus opened up will compensate the expenditure many fold. When men suffer for water they dig for springs instead of lying down supinely, awaiting the subsidence of thirst. If the Government need revenue, a comparatively small expenditure in this railroad will open up the great fountains of wealth in the North-west that can be attained in no other manner. Mr. Greeley's economy, in this respect, is short-sighted.

By reference to the legislative dispatches it will be seen that Mr. Bagg, Chairman of Council Committee on Federal Relations, ambitious for notoriety, even if it be of that unenviable character attained by the dotards of the Oregon Legislature, has exposed his native character by shaking his lionine skin at the Federal Government. A legislator who would deliberately report that the party (which has been in fact the Government) has, "under assumed higher law practiced unnecessary intolerance and hate in violation of the Constitution of the United States" is unfitted for the position he occupies, and should be expelled by the Council. It is not possible that the Council will adopt or receive a report which is merely a low insult to the Government to which they are subject and by which they are paid. A charge of this kind comes with ill grace from a member of a Legislature that enacted and has on its statute books laws in direct violation of those of the United States, and he has gone a long way out of his path of duty to incur obloquy and public censure, which will not be confined to party.

The present will evidently be a good winter for hotels and saloons in Washington, as the "lobby" membership, it is estimated, will be very large. There will be the Northern, Southern, and Central Pacific Railroad Companies, mustering their strength by hundreds, with plenty of money to use, as is evidenced by the desire of members to get on that Committee. Loyal Southern claims will be plentiful, iron-clad contractor's losses, Indian spoils, Southern applications for Government encouragement to industry, will each have a corps, and the applicants for appointment and confirmation under the incoming administration will be numbered in legions. With 60,000 offices liable to "rotate" at this juncture, and half a dozen aspirants, on an average, for each, who are prepared to put up money for the good of the country, it is a sad thought for a humanitarian to contemplate the amount of heart-breaking and soul torture to which they will be subjected by the dispensations of Providence and the stubborn blindness to exalted abilities by the powers, that be. If the Ways and Means Committee could devise some method of taxing ap-

plicants and lobby members it might derive a revenue sufficient to pay a neat little installment on the Government debt, and prevent the diversion of an equal amount of money into channels whose subsequent derangement is so invariably attributed to "that infernal Washington whisky."

GENERAL SHERIDAN'S official report of the recent fight between Custar and Black Kettle's bands on the 27th of November, shows it to have been a more brilliant success than would have been inferred from the telegrams. The command, consisting of eleven companies of the 7th cavalry, were started in pursuit of the marauding bands on the 23rd in the midst of a furious snow storm, and in the pursuit they traveled through a foot of snow all the time. Little Raven and Santana, with the Arrapahoes and Kiowas in large force, assisted Black Kettle, but they were defeated with the loss of 102 killed, (including Black Kettle) who were left on the field, all their stock, ammunition, arms, lodges, robes, fifty-three squaws and numberless paposes. Some 800 or 900 of their horses were shot and the best retained for military purposes. Our loss was: Major Elliott, Capt. Hamilton, and nineteen enlisted men killed; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Barnitz badly wounded; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. W. Custer, Second Lieutenant T. Z. March, and eleven enlisted men wounded. The Indians murdered a white woman and a white boy prisoner when the fight commenced. Two white children were rescued. From all accounts this was just and merited retribution on the atrocious fiends who have made the frontiers of Kansas a field of blood, and it is to be hoped Sheridan will fight it out on that line, notwithstanding the fright it occasions to the sanctimonious, mealy-mouthed Indian Department.

The "act locating the seat of government at Deer Lodge City" (and for other purposes) struck an unexpected snag in the House. Fourteen to ten (McLaughlin merely changed his vote to the affirmative to make the motion to reconsider) is an obstacle insuperable to those great un-commoners of Deer Lodge, Messrs. Rand and Bagg. The bill now goes back to the Council; there will be a non-concurrence; committees of conference; filibustering on amendments, substitutes and references; motions to indefinitely postpone and adopt; previous questions and subsequent answers; speeches, spread eagles and dead ducks, at a cost of several hundred per day to tax payers, and the final result depends upon whether spite towards the metropolis or an appreciation of and respect for the best interests of the Territory shall have sway.

THE frauds in the Alaska appropriation now under investigation consist in the alleged fact that while \$7,300,000 in gold was drawn from the United States Treasury to pay for that Territory, only \$500,000 have been received by the Russian government. This leaves a deficit of \$6,800,000 which has unaccountably leaked out between our Treasury and that of the Czar. It is said Mr. Robert J. Walker, a lobby advocate for the appropriation was robbed of \$7,000 in gold which he told the Washington police was a part of the appropriation, and that \$10,000 each was paid to prominent New York journals to secure their advocacy of the appropriation. The opponents in Congress on the final vote were all Republicans but two. A little ventilation of this affair may prove interesting and profitable to the government.

HIGH WORDS BETWEEN GENERAL HOWARD AND CHAPLAIN BOYNTON.—The leaders in the Congregational Church quarrel at Washington—Rev. Dr. Boynton, the pastor, and General Freedmen's Bureau Howard, who raised the money that pays him—had a little interview the other day, and this is what they said to one another:
General Howard—I take this occasion to pronounce all you have said of me an unmitigated falsehood.
Dr. Boynton—Do you mean to call me a liar?
General Howard—I mean what I say, and I pronounce your statement an unmitigated falsehood.
Dr. Boynton—Then you mean to call me a liar?
General Howard—Yes, sir, I say that you have lied.
Dr. Boynton—If, sir, you had two arms, I should thank you for insulting me.
General Howard—Never mind my arm; try it, and thrash me if you can.
Which Rev. Dr. Boynton did not do; but turned away, more in anger than in sorrow, we fear, at his rebellious parishioner.

Eberhardt, one of the owners in the famous mine which bears his name, in the White Pine District, left Kern county, Cal., two years ago, packing his blankets upon his back and penless.

MONTANA LEGISLATURE.

An Orr-ful Illustration—An Appropriate Joke on Jags!—The Legislature Rejected—They all go Sleighting—Capitolian Conjectures.

The first heavy snow of the season fell yesterday. The ground is covered to-day to the depth of four inches, and every vehicle that goes on runners is in requisition.

The Council passed the homestead bill and adjourned.

The House was taken up with divers little discussions of no importance—adjourned at 11 o'clock in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. During the discussion of the bill proposing to tax Chinamen, a speech was made by a gentleman from your county, which Sample Orr replied to on the instant, and introduced his remarks by saying, that he believed he had never yet spoken on any subject without taking sides, but that the gentleman from Lewis and Clarke had most successfully avoided doing so. "He reminds me," continued the speaker, "of the man who who went out hunting and discovered an animal in the bushes which he supposed might be a deer, but he was not quite certain that it was not a calf. In this dilemma he made up his mind he would aim and fire so as to hit it, if it was the former, and miss should it prove the latter. The result was, that he had never heard that he had hit either. This is the most successful effort at an anecdotal illustration that has yet taken place in the Council. So Sample Orr thinks. An effort worthy of note, however, as a very remarkable specimen of legislative wit took place in the House. Mr. Kerly introduced a resolution appropriating one dollar to buy nails, which was read twice, and passed with an amendment reducing the sum to fifty cents. This was referred to the Committee on Judiciary Affairs, of which Mr. Lowry is Chairman. The business of that Committee not being very urgent, this young gentleman distinguished himself in a report of considerable length, the upshot of which was, that the draft upon the Treasury was so heavy the Territorial indebtedness so great, and the appropriation of government for territorial expenses so trifling that the authorities seemed unable to make any new expenditure, and a substitute was adopted requesting the Sergeant-at-Arms to obtain the required number of nails by drawing them out of some unoccupied and unclaimed house in Virginia City. If the Sergeant-at-Arms is as good as formerly he was on the "draw," the honorable House will soon have nails to sell after supplying one for the use of each member. This report was certainly very smart, (and we presume the author is smarting for a nail) in fact a little ahead of the resolution, and showed pretty clearly the material of which this promising new member is made. Of course the government will feel very bad when they see it, and the Governor is in great distress over it. It is believed that a few more efforts like this, and the resolution on postage stamps, will render it impossible to displace the Democratic party in this Territory for some years to come. The sarcasm is so very keen, so withering, and betrays such a profound knowledge of legitimate legislation, and for the purposes for which men are elected legislators, that it is impossible for any party to rise against it.

The Council adjourned at an early hour yesterday, so that the hall might be prepared for the Governor's reception, which took place last evening. Sleights were out at an early hour gathering the assembly. Most of the ladies of the city were in attendance, and dancing commenced between 7 and 8 o'clock. The Governor, assisted by the estimable lady of W. G. Barkley, Esq., received his friends very courteously. The Hall was crowded to repletion, and the display of handsome wardrobes, bright eyes, cherry cheeks, (no paint used here) and pouting lips (social equality in earnest) was worthy the Capital in its better days. The witty winged hours wafted us into the numerals before we were aware of it, but still the "many twinkling feet" moved on untired and undaunted, through quadrille, polka, mazourka, and wound up with those old movements, Virginia reel and money musk. The ladies were all smiles (save the pouting lips) and enjoyed their portion of legislative honors with grace and dignity. Would that I could say as much for the sterner sex. That they enjoyed themselves hugely, as a general thing, there can be no doubt, but whiskey is a bad institution for a partnership. I understand that there are to be several repetitions of this legislative interlude during the session. An evening of merriment and social interchange is one of the most delightful recreations of mountain life, and glads over the heart aches and distresses of the day. Our Legislature needs this accommodation to relieve it of some of the dullness of repeated speeches and the monotony of business. The ladies are in favor of receptions to a man, and the brilliant one of last evening has had its effect upon the occupations of to-day. (Some sore heads.)

The fine sleighing was too much, even for the profoundest of our law makers to resist, and so to-day the Legislature adjourned early, and went in for winter sports. The Judges joined in, and the merry game of balls has enlivened the city since morning. All sorts of "turn outs" and all sorts of crowds to fill them have been in constant motion. Half a dozen members in one sleigh, half a dozen equally divided of sexes in another, a jovial crowd of Bacchantes in a third, the Governor and Judges in a fourth, and so on, all full of glee, loud laughter, jolly singing, (we know that singing) and all the pleasures which "Ice and snow" bring to mortals here below.

While I write the fun thickens and progresses. Well, there is to be a ball at Summit on Christmas, and this, with

the receptions which lie before us, will leave us in no want of enjoyment. Some fears are expressed that your city will yet step into the Capitol bill. The Beaverhead members have not forgotten the unceremonious manner in which they were robbed of the Penitentiary at last session, and unless they can have it back I understand they will join with your members on the Capital, for their assistance in the prison location. The Deer Lodgers do not want to lose the Penitentiary, and so there is a muss, which a few days will probably dispose of one way or the other. I can think of nothing more to interest you.

ONCE MORE.
Virginia City, Dec. 19th, 1868.

The President's Salary.

Since the proposition has been made to increase the President's salary to \$100,000 a year, some facts as to the cost of keeping up the White House during Washington's administration have been published.

A Washington paper gives the following schedule of expenses furnished the committee that reported the present Presidential salary, by Tobias Lear, Washington's Private Secretary. An estimate of the expenses incurred by the President (Washington) of the U. S. from April 15th to July 15th, furnished by Mr. Lear.

	£	s.	d.
House expenses, including serv'ts' wages, clothing, &c., paid by T. Lear.....	553	18	11
Cash supplied Mr. Frances by Mr. Steel.....	52	0	0
Expenses of liquors, &c., not included in the above for 114 weeks, viz: from April 25 to July 15, at £30 ls. 6d. per week, as per account kept by Mr. Frances for one week.....	345	17	3
In New York currency.....	951	16	2
Equal to \$2,379.50, which, at the same rate for one year, would amount to \$10,790.			
Contingent expenses, from April 15 to July 15.....	323	8	1 N. Y. currency, equal to 805 1/2 dollars.
Stables and carriages.....	145	19	0
10 tons of hay in the stable, at £3 10s.....	35	0	0
50 bushels oats in do. at 6s.....	6	5	0
(New York currency) 187 4 9 equal to 468 dollars.			

RECAPITULATION.
House expenses..... \$2,379 50
Contingent expenses..... 805 50
Stable expenses..... 468 00
\$3,656 00
for eleven weeks, would amount to \$17,218 per annum.
This does not include house rent nor fuel. House rent is, of course free. It will be noticed that about 25 per cent. of the whole bill was for "liquors." Washington's whiskey bill seems to have been decidedly respectable.

Gen. Grant's Report—A model of Brevity.

The following is a report in full of the General of the Army for the present year:
HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, November 1, 1868.—General J. M. Schofield, Secretary of War: Sir—I have the honor to submit the report of Division, District and Department commanders for the past year. These reports give a full account of the operations and service of the Army for the year. I refer to them for details.

I would earnestly renew my recommendation of last year, that the control of the Indians be transferred to the War Department. I call special attention to the recommendation of General Sherman on the subject. It has my earnest approval. It is unnecessary that the arguments in favor of the transfer should be restated. The necessity for it becomes stronger and more evident every day.
While the Indian war continues, I do not deem any general legislation for the reduction of the Army advisable. The troops on the Plains are all needed. Troops are still needed in the Southern States, and further reduction can be made in the way already used and in operation when it is safe, namely, by allowing companies to diminish by discharges without being strengthened by recruits, or by stopping appointments of Second Lieutenants. If it should be deemed advisable, the veteran regiment ought to be discontinued by absorption, and retirement of officers and discharge of men, without detriment to the service. Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT, General.

FROM RED MOUNTAIN.

EDITORS POST.—The usual serenity of our camp was disturbed yesterday by one of those fearful accidents to which drift miners are subject. Mr. J. C. Baker, one of the owners of the gulch, and bar claim No. 35 below upper discovery, was caved upon while drifting yesterday about 10 A. M., and although willing and experienced miners did all that men could do, some three quarters of an hour elapsed before he could be reached. When reached life was extinct. Mr. Baker was a native of the State of New York. He was a civil engineer of fine attainments, a quiet, unassuming gentleman, respected by all who knew him. He will be buried to-day. Yours truly, E. H. J. Red Mountain City, Dec. 18, 1868.

Brigham Young's daughters are buying the finest goods from the Gentle merchants, notwithstanding the pulpit threat to cut off all who were guilty of such sin. The matter was brought up in the "School of the Profits" but squelched.—*Reporter*.
The Oregon Legislature has decided that U. S. convicts shall not be placed in their penitentiary.