

# THE MONTANA POST.

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

VOL. V, NO. 17.

HELENA, MONTANA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1869.

WHOLE NO. 226

## The Montana Post

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NEW YORK did not pay up its Internal Revenue Assessments very well last year, the collections falling short four millions. The entire assessments of the county were \$270,000,000 and the collections \$254,000,000.

Last night's telegrams, dated London, 29th, announce a huge hoax on the entire London press. In an account of the loss of the ship *Starry Banner*, and 122 persons. Later dispatches show there was no shipwreck or any such vessel.

WENDELL PHILLIPS thus disposes of "ideals": "The South creates an ideal Yankee; he does not exist; he never did exist. The North creates an ideal Southerner; he never existed. The United States lavishes thousands of millions of dollars in an endeavor to deal with an ideal Indian; he never existed."

The new postal treaty with Great Britain takes effect on and after June 11, 1869. The Government pays 15 cts. per ounce for ocean postal service, and charges 12 cts. for half-ounce letters, leaving a margin that should make it self-sustaining. The postage on newspapers is reduced from four cents to two cents. Letter postage remains unchanged.

LONDON advices state that Lopez, the South American tyrant, is desirous to make full reparation to the United States for his recent cruelties to American citizens. It will be remembered that he put to death the Portuguese Consul, prevented the American steamer *Wasp* from approaching the Capital, captured, and it is believed killed Messrs. Bliss and Masterman, two Americans with Minister Washburne's legation, and compelled the latter to leave the country. The reparation in such a case will be no trifling matter.

THE Pennsylvania Central railroad has consolidated with the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, and the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis roads. This gives direct control of all these roads into the hands of one company. Their aggregate value is \$280,000,000. This probably accounts for the recent loss of the Atlantic and Great Western road by the Erie company, which is so much the better for St. Louis, as it now has two lines, one direct to New York and the other to Philadelphia, with a prospect of desperate competition.

HAVING incurred the displeasure of the *Independent*, *Democrat*, and *Horald* paragons of manliness, veracity, gentility and courtesy, we have to acknowledge quite a shower of reversed compliments. It never rains but it pours. While the prosecution has its witnesses on the stand we advise it to make a clear case if possible, for it is very probable we may "speak a piece" before this game of compliments closes, and it would be an unpleasant reflection to have omitted any evidence. We beg the *Democrat* therefore not to be at all diffident, but come square to the mark.

THE St. Louis *Democrat*, on behalf of the West, protests against the immediate resumption of specie payments, and favors instead, the gradual approximation of greenbacks to gold value, as less likely to derange business. It assumes, also, that the West, being on general principles a heavy borrower from the East, and debts being contracted with the greenback dollar as the standard, a sudden appreciation of their value to that of gold would be an unjustly created loss to the debtor. To enable borrowers to provide in time against such a contingency, the legalization of gold contracts is urged, as otherwise, in case of immediate specie resumption the stock to trade would result disastrously to the whole country, out of all proportion to the benefits derived.

HENRY N. BLAKE, in a letter published last evening, twiddles his plans and silly threats of spiteful schemes. To those who know him, no confirmation was needed of the characteristics ascribed him in a former article; but if they were, his puerile, spiteful mullings and ravings in his letters would be sufficient. Having greedily accepted his fees for procuring the discharge in the very case of bankruptcy he now threatens to demolish, he must certainly esteem himself a paragon of honesty and aspire to canonization in the calendar of deities. We bid the impotent, all success. In the meantime he will pay his little printing bills; even though repulsive to his Falstaffian ideas of compulsion. The tongue that is ever tuned to disparagement of all save his own superior virtues is too contemptible to merit further notice here.

### POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

There is a project now before Congress fraught with beneficent results to the people, but against which will be concentrated the efforts of gigantic corporations, that may temporarily defeat it. This is Senator Ramsey's Postal-Telegraph Bill, incorporating the "United States Postal Telegraph Company" which shall contract to convey messages at the rates specified in the bill or the incorporation become void. These rates as will be seen below, are such as to universalize telegraphy and substitute it in a great measure for letter service. In Belgium, where this system was adopted the number of messages has increased from 5,000 to 100,000 per month, and one dispatch is sent for every fifty letters, while in our country there is but one dispatch to 400 letters. The rate in England has been, or soon will be, reduced to one shilling per message, the postal telegraph system having been adopted there. The Chicago Board of Trade, and St. Louis Board of Trade have recently adopted strong resolutions in favor of the system, and the press of the country very generally favors it. The only opposing argument offered of any weight is the objection to the government entering into competition with individual enterprises, but the intent is to benefit the entire people to the possible temporary disadvantage of a few corporations and should have precedence to those interests. Besides they have the privilege of contracting with the government just as mail carriers do, and the consequent increase of patronage would amply compensate for the reduction in rates. It is to be hoped favorable consideration will be given the proposed bill, the provisions of which the following is a summary.

First—For the establishment of postal telegraph offices at every city and village on the line of the wires, and at such other places as the business of the company may require.

Second—The prepayment of all messages by stamps, and their reception at every postal telegraph office, Post office and street letter box.

Third—The transmission of messages by telegraph between postal telegraph offices by contract with a telegraph company.

Fourth—The immediate free delivery of messages.

Fifth—The transmission of messages by mail, wherever required without extra expense.

Sixth—The transmission by telegraph of postal money orders and other special money.

Seventh—The forwarding of the original of all messages to the dead letter office.

Eighth—Such other provisions as from time to time are necessary to carry out the objects of this act.

The Postmaster General is authorized to receive bids from any telegraph company for the lowest rates, for the transmission of the following classes of messages for each and every 300 miles.

First—Messages of twenty words, including date, address and signature.

Second—Similar messages when transmitted by night.

Third—Similar messages from a day firm when they average 200 a month.

Fourth—Local messages.

Fifth—Messages of an average length of not less than 500 words a day for a year; provided no bid shall be received in which the rate for messages of twenty words exceeds twenty cents for each and every 300 miles.

**MISSOURI SENATORSHIP.**

From all indications, Mr. Henderson, whose term as Senator expires on the 4th of March, 1869, has not a shadow of chance for return. The sentiment is all against him, and in the crowd of aspirants for the succession, the chances appear narrowed to the contest between Gen. Carl Schurz and Hon. Ben. F. Loan.

The St. Joe *Union* boldly entered the arena and is rather more earnestly than discreetly doing battle for Mr. Loan on behalf of Northern Missouri, with a fair support from the press of that portion of the State. Par contra, some twenty or thirty of the Southern Missouri papers are championing General Schurz against whom but one objection rises—he is from the city of St. Louis, which already has one Senator in the person of Mr. Drake. Unless some unforeseen circumstance should intervene, Carl Schurz is likely to be Mr. Henderson's successor. He is an able, eloquent and liberal minded gentleman, and as a Senator would do credit to the West and exert a powerful influence in its behalf. While other gentlemen named are eminently qualified and have advantage of State locality, his fine abilities and sterling character have won him a place in the esteem of the people that will doubtless find practical expression in his election to the Senate at this session of the Legislature.

GEN. ROSECRANS has positively been heard from in Mexico. He was received by Juarez. The Mexicans are holding public meetings favorable to the Cuban revolutionists.

### TERRITORIAL FINANCES.

The annual report of Wm. H. Rogers, Territorial Auditor, shows the total assessments in the several counties during the year were \$33,581.29, of which \$21,730.53 were collected, leaving \$11,850.76 uncollected. The amount collected for licenses was \$0,708.48, making the total receipts \$64,289.77. The expenses of collecting were \$6,952.87, leaving a net receipt to the Territory of \$57,336.90. The bonded debt of the Territory, on which 15 per cent. is paid semi-annually, is \$58,761.66, and the other indebtedness of the Territory, exclusive of certain outstanding interests is \$39,304.60; total, \$98,066.26. Mr. Rogers states that the Territorial debt was, at the time of his appointment, \$104,038.90. This would show a reduction of \$5,972.64, but we find the statement in another place that there are still outstanding warrants, issued prior to Nov. 1, 1867, and which, amounting to \$6,558.95, gives an increase of \$866.31 during the year, making the total indebtedness of Montana \$104,625.21. The recommendation is, that this \$6,558.95 be also funded at 15 per cent. With the heavy taxation, and licenses collected, the absence of any public improvements to show for this expenditure, and the continued increase of the Territorial debt on a large proportion of which ruinous usury is being paid, even the most enthusiastic Democrat will admit there is necessity for more rigid economy, while the fact that 33 per cent. of the assessments are uncollected is an eloquent appeal for amendment of the laws. The total assessed valuation of property in the Territory is \$2,177,519. Of which Lewis and Clarke possesses \$2,435,972, Madison \$2,159,877 and Deer Lodge \$1,028,631. The preponderance in favor of this county is mainly in the capital invested in merchandise, which is \$1,042,892 against \$364,327 in Madison. The abstract does not show Lewis and Clarke county in as favorable a light as had been anticipated, and if we recollect aright, the matter is under consideration by a special committee of the Legislature. The U. S. Collector's returns show that since the beginning of 1867 this county has paid more revenue than all the other counties combined; the Territorial abstract shows that it only pays about one third. The Territorial assessments of Madison are, however, augmented by her rural advantages, while the Government assessments in Helena are increased by manufactures, incomes, etc. The exhibit of the Auditor should certainly incite an effort to reduce the Territorial debt by economy of expenditure and a closer collection of taxes. With wise legislation, efficient officers, and a period of two years between sessions, there might be some hope of a reduction of the Territorial debt.

### UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY.

The telegrams state that the President celebrated Christmas by the issuance of a Proclamation of Amnesty to all for participation in the late rebellion. His authority to do this is conveyed by the Constitution in the clause "he shall have the power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States except in cases of impeachment." Opinions as to the propriety of this universal amnesty will be diverse but those whom the most strenuous would exempt from participation in its benefits are so few, and the instances in which judicial action has been taken, have proven such utter futility, that all things considered, without questioning the motives that prompted it, the country will be content with his action to the extent of his authority. Leading Republican papers have declared for "universal amnesty and universal suffrage," as a mutual concession between the two parties, and the one has been granted while legislation tends to the other. Mr. Johnson probably holds that his declaration of "restoration to all rights, privileges and immunities under the Constitution and laws made in pursuance thereof" invests them with suffrage as he did in the proclamations of exceptional amnesty which preceded this, but his views were not sustained or will they be now. The number of persons in the Southern States excluded from amnesty, in the three classes excepted in his proclamation of Sept. 8th, 1867, was about 45,000, while the number of disfranchised persons under the reconstruction laws in the Carolinas, Virginia, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Arkansas, Florida, and Alabama is 62,500. The authority to pardon is vested in the President, but not the authority to subvert the State laws. Neither do the terms of the proclamation cover cases of piracy or acts against the usages of civilized governments in time of war, but it is scarce probable that hereafter proceedings will be instituted in such cases. The substance of the proclamation is a formal release from accountability under the Constitution and United States laws, of all persons for their participation in hostilities recognized as in accordance with the rules of war during the rebellion. Whether with this power of pardon vested in the President, is conferred authority to enfranchise, restore property, etc. is a question for the judiciary to settle. Heretofore, in the four or five proffers of amnesty by the Executive, the first of which was made by President Lincoln Dec. 8th, 1863, there have been provisions, restrictions of specified classes, varying from 45,000 to 300,000, and oaths of allegiance as pledges of subsequent conduct. Mr. Johnson has leaped clear of all these, and exhausted the full powers conferred upon him, if he has not indeed over-estimated them. No evil results are likely to follow; the government is now strong enough to maintain itself and protect its loyal citizens throughout all the land, if its effects shall be, as assumed, "to re-

new and fully restore public confidence and fraternal feeling among the whole people, and increase respect for, and attachment to, the National government," it is well that it is done.

### HELENA THE CAPITAL.

The Council having by a vote of 8 to 5 concurred in the House amendment inserting "Helena" instead of "Deer Lodge" in the act locating the seat of government, the question may be regarded as definitely settled, and Helena will, by a majority of the votes cast on that question at the next general election, become the Capital of Montana. Messrs. Bagg and Rand, on reconsideration of their position, and in view of the impossibility of securing the Capitol to Deer Lodge, thought it best to locate it in the metropolis, and came over at the eleventh hour. We do not consider it within the possibilities that Acting Governor Tufts will veto the bill, all rumors to the contrary notwithstanding. The vote is decided, and his character for honesty and integrity is too well established to permit a suspicion that he could be influenced beyond his sense of right, by proffered bribe or otherwise. Intimately acquainted with Secretary Tufts and believing him unapproachable by fraud, we have no fears of his action on this bill. The action of the Legislature will meet with hearty approval throughout the Territory, and public convenience be greatly promoted by the location of the Capitol in this central and accessible city. In this and the speedy disposal of the question more than for other cause, we are gratified with the action, and trust the business of the session will not be frustrated by further local squabbles.

### HOW THE MESSAGE IS RECEIVED.

In the transmission of the President's message by telegraph we had thought it possible some errors might have occurred as the propositions on some points were utterly absurd and in others neither more or less than repudiation of the national debt, guised under the flimsy artifice of solicitude for the welfare of the tax payers. Eastern exchanges to hand show that few errors occurred in the report received here, and the denunciation of the message on this point by the leading Republican journals is unmeasured. The *New York World* candidly admits that his financial propositions are "wholly indefensible." The *New York Tribune* says: "He is right in urging that provision be made for the steady reduction of the debt, and in declaring that the time has come for immediate payments of specie. But this truth is lost in his monstrous proposal that the nation shall cheat its creditors, foreign and domestic, dishonor the American name, and run up the black flag of the pirate over the dome of the Capitol itself. Other repudiators have only dared to propose to pay the principal of the debt in paper, but this new apostle of infamy advises the American people not to pay the principal at all!" The *Rochester Express* says: "This proposition is the most infamous which any American President has ever made, and we do not wonder that Congress, after hearing the message read, laid it on the table without moving the usual reference to committees." These quotations might be multiplied with but little variation of sentiment, except in papers like Pomeroy's *Democrat*, which are devoted to repudiation and ruin. Not only is the proposal one of fraud, but the arguments adduced to show the condition of the finances are dangerous, are founded on falsehoods and a perversion of facts, and so shown in the very reports which accompany the message. He says the annual expenditure of the War Department was \$100,000,000, while the expenses for the last year were only \$68,743,047.1, as shown in the Secretary's Report. He says the estimate for the current year is \$65,682,388.85, while the report shows it is \$49,375,555.47. He says again that \$1,600,000,000 have been paid for the ordinary and current expenses of the government in three years and seven months, when the report of Secretary McCulloch shows that nearly seven hundred millions of this money was paid on the public debt, and of the remainder the preponderance was paid for interest, pensions and unsettled war accounts. If the intention had been to make a fair statement of the financial condition of the country he would not have found it necessary to resort to such prevarications of truth. His assertion that the Government received 300 or 400 per cent. less than the value of the bond which it gave, is turned over to the mathematicians for their consideration, with a recommendation to revise the system extant wherein it is held as a rule that 100 per cent. less than a fixed amount is nothing. Aside from the financial portion which is calculated to cause distrust of the nation's solvency and determination to redeem its bonds, but little remark is devoted to

the message, which was in a great measure a repetition of old obstinacies. It is recognized as the last malicious insult he will have opportunity to hurl at the representatives he hates, and its temper was anticipated. Its effect has been counteracted by the prompt expression of Congress and the press, and Andrew Johnson's last annual message will be merely an official tombstone, its epitaph pointing a moral in much the same manner as a freighted gibbet, to all who may look and learn wisdom.

THE report of the Secretary of Interior shows that over 6,500,000 acres of public lands were disposed of, and 1,405,866,678 acres still remain. During the year \$23,658,598.78 were paid for pensions, of which \$16,000,000 was to widows and orphans. The Secretary very naturally opposes the transfer of the Indian Bureau from the Interior to the War Department. Over 20,000 applications for patents were made, and 14,153 issued. The average cost per mile of constructing and equipping the U. P. R. R. is estimated at \$34,977.32 per mile. Its length from Omaha to Salt Lake would be 1,110 miles, and the aggregate cost \$38,824,821. The subsidies and first mortgage bonds exceed the actual cost per mile about \$16,000. A profit of \$17,700,000 on the mere construction of the road is rather comfortable for the half hundred owners of that enterprise. The Secretary recommends the erection of a new Presidential mansion and also residences for the Vice President and Cabinet officers.

THE Report of Mr. Bagg on a portion of the Governor's message, to which we referred a few days since, will be published in the *Gazette* this morning, if that amount of exuberant genius can be locked up in ordinary phrases. Having read it, we are happy to know that through our persecution it is given to the world. Certainly such an absurdly amusing fructification of ornate conservative patriotism should not rest unknown in the musty archives of the Montana Legislature, or he, whose soul is pregnant with Cromwellian fires, have his genius circumscribed by half plastered walls, and the dozen admiring auditors whose hearts beat responsive to their country's call and sixteen dollars a day. As an astronomical and gastronomic feat it will challenge the admiration of Herschel and the envy of the Champion pie-eater. As a specimen of verbal sinuosity and labyrinthian ambiguity it is susceptible of rivalry only by former lucubrations of the same order by the message it will require the services of several interpreters and a dozen clerks with extra compensation.

THE LEGAL TENDER CASES.—The following refers to the cases now before the Supreme Court, to test the constitutionality of the Legal Tender Act. It was telegraphed a few days since that the Court was almost unanimous in the view that it was unconstitutional, but no decision has as yet been published:

"The first cases to be argued in the Supreme Court when it meets next week will be those involving the constitutionality of the legal tender act. There were several cases of this character, but two of them were advanced on the docket at the last term, and were ordered to be argued on the first Tuesday of the December term. At the same time leave was given for the appearance of the Attorney General in behalf of the United States, and Mr. Evans is now preparing his argument. The cases are No. 80—S. P. Hepburn, plaintiff in error, vs. H. A. Griswold, defendant in error, appealed from Kentucky; and No. 225—Frederick Bronson, executor, &c., plaintiff in error, vs. Peter Kodes, defendant in error, appealed from New York.—*Wash. Cor. N. Y. Times.*

The *Superior Gazette* (Superior, Wis.) says:

"The Northern Pacific road by opening the great wheat farm of the world, and the Southern road by opening communication with the great stock farm of the world, will give cheap beef and cheap bread to the people, and populate their lines with a denser population than exists anywhere on this continent, and that population will control the commerce of this hemisphere."

Our Superior neighbor still neglects the important facts that there are on the Northern road copper mines only equalled by those of the Superior region, lead mines besides which those of Galena are trivial, and precious metals of which that already produced is but as the breath of promise to the fulfillment of desire.

Montana Territory, aged four years, has a debt of sixty thousand dollars bearing interest at the rate of fifteen per cent. and payable in five years. Like Colorado she has some political dodgers who wish to make her into a State on purely patriotic principles—their own profit.—*Cheyenne Argus.*

The *Argus* being Democratic has inadvertently fired on its own crowd. The mistake does not lessen the effect of the shot.

### GENERAL JAMES W. FORSYTHE

[For the MONTANA POST.]

This hero of the most obstinate and bloody Indian fight since the battle of Bear River, deserves more than a passing notice. He is a native of north-western Ohio, a graduate of the Military Academy, and at the breaking out of the rebellion was on duty as a Lieutenant on the North-western coast, with that brave boy—for he was scarce more very nature knew no rest until he found it under the heights of Kenesaw Mountain.

They were both ordered by Mr. Cameron, then Secretary of War, to report at Washington, were given leaves of absence from their commands, and being commissioned by Governor Dennison, Col. Forsythe assumed command of the 64th Ohio Volunteers. His regiment reported to General Buell for duty, was brigaded with the 65th Ohio, which Harker commanded, the 51st Indiana, commanded by Col. Streight, who afterwards became noted in the war, and the 3d Kentucky, commanded by Col. Bramlette, who afterwards became noted of the army as Governor Bramlette of Kentucky. This brigade Forsythe commanded, and to his excellent discipline and endless labor it owed, to a large degree, its reputation as being one of the most efficient forces in the armies of the Ohio and Cumberland. Here the keen eye of Sheridan fell on Forsythe; he judged him to be the man he wanted, and he was ordered, at Sheridan's request to report to him, and was henceforth, in a field which, if it did not promise rapid promotion, was certainly one of wider usefulness. Forsythe's labors and fame are identified with those of his great General and commander. At New Orleans he was often assigned to the most difficult duties, but his soldierly instincts and rare tact made him equal to every task. During the war Gen. Forsythe was married to the most accomplished daughter of Gov. Dennison, and to him did Gen. Halpine address that rhyme wherein "chemisettes" and "pantalettes" did jingle splendidly, and the idea, it is said, had been, that a valorous soldier, who never surrendered to cavalry, artillery or infantry, had bowed to the scepter of the foregoing rhythmic garments. Gen. Forsythe is yet on duty according to his brevet rank, but on the increase of the army he was appointed a Major in the regular forces.

The soldier who so bravely and well does all his duties, is entitled to honorable mention, and his name is an inheritance of the Republic. To those who knew Forsythe, the tenacity with which he clung to his position in his recent fight near Fort Wallace, was no surprise. Wounded himself, his most trusted officers as helpless as he, his men dying around him, and savages swarming in every direction; that was an hour to inspire. Forsythe in his hands at such a time the good name of our army was secure, and when at last desire through the pencil to preserve a story of courage worthy frontier wars, no more appropriate spectacle can be selected than Forsythe, wounded, yet on his back in a trench dug for that purpose, giving his command to his willing soldier, surrounded by his dead, his dying, and his fighting men.

A RELIC OF BARBARISM IN CHANCERY.

—We are pleased to see that the admissibility of Chinese testimony, in criminal cases, against whites is about to be insisted upon under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees equal rights before the law to all men. A Chinaman was recently stabbed by a white man in San Francisco, and the only witness being the assaulted Asiatic himself, the prisoner was about to go free, when the Prosecuting Attorney raised the question that the Chinaman's testimony was admissible under the Amendment. Judge Provinces said he believed the question was now before the Supreme Court of California, and the general opinion of the bar was favorable to the construction of the admissibility of Chinese upon the witness stand in all cases. He therefore entertained the motion of the Prosecuting Attorney, and set a time for argument.—*Territorial Enterprise.*

The railway bridge project between England and France has assumed definite shape. A company has been formed with a capital of £8,000,000, in shares of £4 each. Half of the French capital has been subscribed. The model is to be finished in two months. It is to be a model of a bridge from the Shakspeare Cliff, Dover, to Cape Blanc Nez, a short distance from Calais. The soundings across the Channel between these two points show a regular and gradual descent from each shore, and the greatest depth of water is 157 feet. The length of the bridge will be 32,822 yards, divided into ten arches, resting on piers rising 300 feet above the level of the sea, which will permit the passage of ships of the largest class. These piers are to be of meta'ic frame work, with foundations 400 feet long by 250 feet wide, tapering to 200 feet square at the top. They are to be constructed on land, and floated out to their destined position, where they are to be sunk and fixed.

Mr. Ellis, proprietor of a saloon in Cincinnati, says an exchange has in his possession the first greenback issued by the Government. It is No. 1, a series, signed in Chase's own hand, and is in a good state of preservation. It was received the other day in payment for goods by a merchant in that city, who presented it to Mr. Ellis. Mr. E. has since refused \$50 for it. Some curiosity collectors would pay a big price for the first greenback, but there are those who would give much more to see the last one.

Reverly Johnson carried a musket as a private soldier in the battle of Bladensburg.