

DAILY INTER MOUNTAIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1902.

NOT A QUESTION FOR COURTS.

In yesterday's Inter Mountain County Attorney Peter Breen gave his views at length upon a question which is agitating the public mind. Mr. Breen felt moved to make public expression of his feelings because of an article published in a morning paper, headed "Bricks Without Straw." It is unfortunate that Mr. Breen was obliged to rush into print in defense of his good name and in reply to an article captioned so glibly as the newspaper story which provoked his ire. Time was when Mr. Breen shed newspaper abuse with the same ease that a duck's back deflects water, and bricks with or without straw were unable to turn him aside from his settled purpose. Of course the Inter Mountain published the county attorney's side of the controversy. What he had to say was in the way of news, and at any rate it is only fair to give both sides a hearing. The public has not as yet fully grasped the meaning of all this buzzing in official circles. It has been clouded by so much personal bickering that it has not been easy to make head or tail of the case. The light the county attorney shed upon the situation by his open letter was principally in the nature of disclosing his determination to see the matter through to the end. As a straw showing which way the wind was blowing, the county attorney's letter was a brick.

Seriously viewed, the controversy between the policemen and their chief is a simple matter. It arises mainly from a difference of opinion with regard to the meaning of a certain section of the state statutes. The chief and mayor read the law one way, and in this view are supported by the opinion of the county attorney. The four policemen and their friends and supporters, including the county attorney, place a different construction upon the statute. They maintain that to suspend a policeman it is necessary to state to the council the cause of suspension. Inasmuch as there is not one chance in a thousand for the parties to the quarrel to come together and agree upon the proper interpretation of this section, it would seem that the next move would be to bring the matter before the courts. A statute is never injured by being interpreted by a court, and neither party will fear to risk its case in the proper tribunal. It is plain from the county attorney's letter that he is still in a belligerent mood, and it's a safe bet that the police chief is not through with the fight. It's a pretty row, a ruction of the variety that has often sprung up in the ranks of the parties in the principals range. By all means let it be kept out of the courts. The bricks to which the county attorney made reference yesterday can be made the foundation for legal proceedings that will be costly.

THE MINES RESUME.

Most cheering is the news of the resumption of the Boston & Montana mines in Butte. The brief period of idleness and depression through which the city has passed is finally at an end. Whatever fears have been entertained regarding the future are now dissipated. The announcement of the resumption of mining operations, made in last evening's Inter Mountain, brought joy to every home in the city. It is the earnest wish of every citizen of Butte and of all the people of the state that conditions will not again arise requiring even a temporary suspension of operations. Butte's vital interests are centered in the prosperity of its mining operations and the well being of the state's industries is the concern of every Montana citizen.

South Carolina has adopted a law which prevents the sale of all revolvers less than twenty-two inches in length. This is designed to prevent a weapon being "concealed," and there would appear to be small danger of a twenty-two-inch gun being hidden upon the person.

Recently at a fruit-growers' convention in a New York town a resolution was passed opposing irrigation for the arid West. It is such proceedings as these that make the three tailors of Dooley street immortal by keeping their celebrated resolutions fresh in mind.

There seems to be a difference of opinion concerning the law governing the suspension of policemen. A correct understanding of the laws and ordinances governing this subject would settle the whole controversy.

Congressman Grosvenor has joined the penny-wise-and-pound-foolish crowd opposed to national irrigation.

MONTANA'S VITAL INTERESTS.

All that is now lacking to fill Butte's cup of joy to overflowing is the news that copper will go back to the top notch and stay there. If following on the heels of the resumption of activity underground in Butte there would come the tidings that arrangements had been made whereby the present copper surplus may be quickly absorbed and rational business methods followed to keep clear of the rocks upon which the red metal has lately struck, then Butte would leap forward with tremendous bounds.

It has been a long and hard fight on the part of the copper producers of the West to place mining operations upon a basis that would admit of plans for the future that could be made without figuring upon the contingencies incident to closed mines. Mines operating outside the state have profited by the high price at which copper has been kept. They have taken advantage of the market that Montana producers have maintained, running full blast to secure the lion's share of the benefits which they did nothing to deserve. That has been the situation for such a time that it was supposed the red metal could be kept up to the 17-cent mark for an interminable period.

But when production fell away and a surplus accumulated there were signs of trouble which could not be misunderstood. Had the East combined with the West to control the situation for a brief period, even to the extent of dropping back to normal production, all would have been well. But short-sighted managers neglected to avail themselves of the opportunity in time, and as a result the price of the red metal responded to the influence of the diminishing demand and dropped.

Since the clouds lowered over the copper situation in Montana an effort has been made to curtail production by making the dull period the time for necessary improvements in the mines and smelters. This work has now been finished. Efforts made to bring Eastern producers to see that they injured themselves by refusing to enter into an arrangement beneficial to all have not been successful. It is possible for Montana producers to mine and sell copper at a figure that will teach Eastern interests a needed lesson. The fight has been and is in the interests of Montana, and every citizen interested in the state's prosperity will rejoice when Montana producers win the battle. Every business man, every workman and every other person dependent upon Montana's prosperity for a livelihood has a vital interest in the fight to keep Butte in command of the copper situation.

COPPER PRODUCTION.

The Engineering and Mining Journal for the current month contains a review of the copper production for the year 1900. The figures given for the total production of the United States during that year are 600,832,595 pounds. Of this amount Montana furnishes the largest share, 254,460,713 pounds being hoisted from the shafts of this state. Michigan produced 144,227,340 pounds, and Arizona yielded 115,402,846 pounds. For several years before 1898 the increase in the world's copper production amounted to 10 per cent each year. In 1899 the increase was not so great, and in 1900 the production reached 492,625 long tons, the highest mark of the world's production. The United States furnished 55 per cent of the total output, or 272,536 tons. Spain ranks next, but lags far in the rear, the production for the year totaling 53,715 tons. Japan produced 23,285 tons; Chile, 26,111 tons; Australia, 23,363 tons; Mexico, 22,493 tons, and Germany, 20,635 tons. It is a flattering commentary upon American enterprise that the countries showing the largest increase in copper production during recent years are those into which American capital has been taken and where skilled miners of this country are given employment. In Mexico, in South America and British Columbia, copper production has increased in response to the influence of capital and brains sent in from the United States. In other copper producing countries there has been but little change. The deposits of copper pyrites in Spain showed a slight increase in production owing to the introduction of improved machinery, and the same is true of the mines of Japan. The United States occupies a commanding position in the copper world, and Montana and Butte rank first on the list of the world's great copper centers. The eyes of every student of the copper situation are turned to Butte, gladdened by signs of a rift in the clouds that settled over the camp when the production was lessened by prudent curtailment.

Inside history is cropping out in the settlement of awards at the Pan-American exposition. It transpires that prize winners have had to buy their medals at every exposition recently held. This knocks most of the sentimental nonsense out of the medal-winning business. A medal bought and paid for by the winner is very much of an empty honor.

The last issue of the Engineering and Mining Journal makes announcement that Mining and Metallurgy has been consolidated with the former publication. The current number gives a comprehensive review of the leading mining district of the world and is an extremely interesting and valuable publication.

Yesterday the county commissioners awarded the contract for furnishing the new county hospital. This public institution will be an improvement that cannot fail to be appreciated. A county hospital has been on the list of the city's pressing needs for several years.

COST OF COPPER PRODUCTION

[American Mining News.]

The sensational movements in Amalgamated copper stock have prompted a searching investigation into the copper situation in all its bearings, in an effort to solve the mystery surrounding this great speculative enigma. The ordinary investor or investigator is embarrassed by lack of official data from which he may draw his premises, but whatever facts are withheld from the public regarding the stock, this much is known: that the Amalgamated controls practically, or very nearly all, of the Boston & Montana property and Butte & Boston mines; in addition a large portion of the stock of the Anaconda, Parrot, Washoe and stock in other less prominent companies.

The superlatively valuable asset of the company is the Boston and Montana outfit. Under the Lewisohn-Bigelow management its rich mines were developed in superbly scientific style, and this one company showed net earnings last year of \$7,019,721.27, after charging off over \$1,000,000 for special construction at its Great Falls electrolytic refineries.

The Boston & Montana paid in dividends last year \$6,450,000, after which it began the year 1901 with a balance of assets amounting to \$5,655,872.91. If we leave out of the calculation the sum expended for new construction at the Great Falls plant last year, and that set aside for bonds maturing last February, together with interest payments, we find that the net income of the Boston & Montana company for 1901 was \$3,161,583.09.

As a money earner the Boston & Montana has surpassed the Anaconda, notwithstanding the larger output of both copper and silver by the latter property. If the Boston & Montana were able to maintain its rank as a financial success equal to that of one year ago the net income of more than \$8,000,000 which this single company showed on operations for 1900 would enable the Amalgamated company to pay 5 per cent per annum on its entire capitalization of \$155,000,000, and apply more than \$250,000 to its surplus fund from this one source alone.

Great Falls feels the cheering influence of the change for the better in the labor market. The fires have been started in the Boston & Montana smelter and the payroll is again in evidence. The smelter shut down October 25. Since then repairs and improvements have been made and new machinery installed that will increase the capacity of the smelter 60 per cent. In one year the smelter can turn out 112,000,000 pounds of copper if it is operated at full blast.

Admiral Schley has admitted that he did the proof-reading in a book published by War Correspondent Graham. The volume lauds Schley and castigates his enemies. It is safe to say the admiral enjoyed his task of proof-reading completely, and cheerfully acknowledged that Graham had written a book that should be in every home.

President Palma, the newly-elected head of the Cuban government, has lived long enough in America to know the value of the public school system of education as an aid to good government. He will wisely make education along practical lines the cornerstone of his administration.

Corn King Phillips has fallen again. Greatly to the regret of the men who trust him with their money, Mr. Phillips has the failure habit in a chronic stage and is liable to acute attacks when his customers are most deeply involved.

All parties in Porto Rico have united in support of the administration of Governor Hunt. There is every prospect of a harmonious and progressive administration for the island.

A Musical Note. [Boston Globe.] It is reported that 150,000 pianofortes were sold in the country last year. How many of them conduced to thoughts of harmony.

New York's Improved Conditions. [Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.] Several military men will assist Mayor Low in giving New York City a government different from the uncivil Tammany administration.

No Joke. [Boston Journal.] King Edward has decided that there will be no court jester at the coronation ceremonies. Waiting so many years for the crown is a serious matter.

Making Light of a Spirit. [Cleveland Leader.] That Detroit widow who is reported to have married a spirit husband will find very little comfort these cold mornings in a spouse who can't get up and start the kitchen fire.

Not Up to a Thinking Part. [Denver Republican.] The Milwaukee club woman who refused to engage Clara Morris for a lecture because she was once an actress will probably never rise above thinking parts on the world's stage.

No Change Wanted. [Omaha Bee.] The United States starts out the year 1902 with the balance on the right side of the ledger. The people are satisfied with the operating crew of the country, and those who are working for a change are likely to receive scant encouragement.

He Creates a New Record. [Denver Post.] An Iowa man, who took a sudden notion that he must have a wife, crossed the turbulent Missouri to Omaha and proposed to fifty-six girls in 120 minutes, without securing even an encouraging smile or having his case taken under advisement.

But conditions have changed at the Boston & Montana mines since last year. Mr. Helme has succeeded through litigation in restraining the free carrying out of the policy of the company in the development of its mines and the payment of dividends. With every embargo removed, however, the Boston & Montana is able to preserve its laurels as a cheap producer and an enormous money earner. Of course, its great earnings of last year were based on a 17-cent lake copper market. If copper should sell lower, earnings would recede in proportion.

The other Montana mines cannot show the low cost sheets of the Boston & Montana. Anaconda is not the cheapest producer by any means, and with all its magnificent equipment, it has cost Anaconda more than 9 cents a pound to lay down copper at the Atlantic seaboard. While an outcry has been raised about 17-cent copper, it may be interesting to consider the fact that some of the best equipped copper mines in operation have expended, when construction payments and all expenses have been included, from 9 to 12.63 cents a pound to bring copper to surface, stamp it, refine and deliver f. o. b. cars at the consumer's works.

With all costs included, the copper costs more to mine and place on the markets of the world from the old producers than it did in 1893 and 1894, and the wise consumer will have to be on the alert the moment the copper market scrapes bottom.

He Scattered His Forces.

[Baltimore American.] An Iowa man proposed to 56 ladies in two hours, and was rejected each time. He should have devoted 56 hours to two ladies.

Not a Howl Went Up.

[Detroit Free Press.] It will please the London newspapers to learn that Mrs. Patrick Campbell's first performance in Chicago was not disturbed by the howling of prairie wolves.

PERSONAL.

The death of the distinguished historical painter, Egipto Sarril, is reported from Florence. Among his best known pictures are "The Duel of Dante da Castiglione" and "The Florentine Poets."

"Steeple Jack" Roberts of Jersey City, who for years has climbed high chimneys and steeples without accident, fell from a wagon last Tuesday and was so badly hurt that he may never be able to climb again.

George Humburg, an old gentleman residing in Long Stream, L. I., has fallen heir to a neat little fortune of \$10,000, and despite the ominous sound of his name he is now besieged by ladies who would like to marry him.

Stuart Robson, the actor, was once a page in the United States senate, his appointment having been due to the efforts of such distinguished Southerners as John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis, Henry Clay, Robert Toombs and Alexander Stephens. He and his playmate, Arthur Poe Gorman, went from Baltimore to Washington, and the man who is now senator from Maryland succeeded in being appointed page at once, but Robson was kept waiting for a time.

Not a Meteorological Rainbow. [St. Louis Post Dispatch.] The flagship Rainbow is to go to Manila, but it will scarcely have much effect on the Philippine rainy season.

Cold Comfort for the Consumer. [Pittsburg Times.] Kansas is already finding some comfort in the fear that the winter wheat crop has been damaged. This is a little in advance of the peach crop alarms, but then Kansas is early in discovering sorrow.

SENATORS AND THE CONSTITUTION

[New York Tribune.]

The fact that the legislatures of six states have signified their wish that the federal constitution should be amended to provide for the popular election of United States senators, four of them in so doing having observed the required formalities, does not point strongly to the adoption of such an amendment in the near future, though it may serve to stimulate interest in a somewhat languid discussion.

It is practically certain that of the two methods of calling a constitutional convention the one permitting the states to take the initiative will have to be invoked if a change in the organic law in respect to the election of senators is to be attempted.

At present there is not the slightest reason to suppose that the upper branch of congress would voluntarily consent to a convention for that purpose, which leaves the advocates of the proposal under the necessity of persuading the legislatures of two-thirds of the states to unite in demanding one.

Four have already taken that course, which is doubtless a beginning, but the end still appears exceedingly remote. Twenty-six more must follow suit before anything can come of it, and even if the requisite support for the first step could be procured, obstacles of a formidable character would remain.

BUTTE CURRENT NOTES

A. P. Thatcher of Helena is in Butte. Orton Bros.—Pianos and organs. N. D. Hitchcock is over from Helena. Wyman Ellis is over from the capital. Frank J. Dahler of Helena is at the Finlen.

W. M. Cannon of Helena is staying at the Butte. H. Burrell of Great Falls is registered at the Butte.

J. G. Bates, tuner, Montana Music Co., 119 N. Main st. Tel. 501. H. E. Woodman of Helena was in the city yesterday.

N. S. Kuhn is registered at the Butte from Omaha. John Cort and wife of Seattle are at the Thornton.

M. J. O'Farrell left yesterday for San Francisco. Paul Derange left last evening for Calumet, Mich.

All the January magazines at the P. O. News Stand, 57 W. Park. Frank Shaw departed yesterday for Horr on business.

H. S. Johnson is registered at the Finlen from Denver. R. M. Kenear and wife are registered at the Thornton from Seattle.

N. P. Woods of Stevensville came in on last night's train from the west. Dr. Hansen, surgeon and specialist, Silver Bow block, X-ray examinations.

E. C. Jones of Asheville, N. C., is in Butte on his way to the Pacific coast. D. A. Macdonald was one of the arrivals on yesterday's train from Helena.

V. B. McComb, a Gallatin county rancher, is spending a few days in Butte. Sacramento Cafe now open, basement Luxton's market, 113 South Main. Best for least money. Meals 15c and up.

R. N. Campbell of Lewiston, Idaho, came in on the eastbound train last evening. The county treasurer continued his sale of property for delinquent taxes yesterday.

Alex Livingston, a prominent banker from Livingston, is making a business trip to Butte. A marriage license was issued yesterday to James Simpkins and Annie White of Boulder.

Sherman, the undertaker, has moved his undertaking business to his new and commodious quarters on East Broadway. A daughter was born yesterday to the wife of Thomas Olds, 141 East Daly street, Walkerville.

J. M. Mordock, a Chicago millionaire, is in the city negotiating a large mining deal in which he is interested. A. M. McClelland, assistant general passenger agent of the Northern Pacific railroad, is in Butte on business.

Frank J. Churchill, George Robson and James Dawson, buyers for the Hennessy company, left last evening for New York. T. S. Hogan, former secretary of state, accompanied by his brother, William Hogan, returned yesterday from Wisconsin, where they have been spending a few weeks.

John Cort, manager of the Grand opera house of Seattle and Cal Hellig of the Marquam Grand in Portland, who associated with Manager Sutton in the Northwestern Theatrical syndicate, are in the city in conference with Mr. Sutton in matters pertaining to the syndicate. Lack of Public Enterprise. [Minneapolis Times.] The New York Herald declares that gambling as a public enterprise has ceased for the time being in that city. What will the holiday visitor from up the state do for amusement?

The Red Man's Burden. [St. Louis Globe-Democrat.] Commissioner of Indian Affairs Jones is at work upon a plan to make the Indians self-supporting. The trouble with former policies has been that they were compelled to support too many white men.

This Week Cloth Brush Bath Brush Sale at Newbro's 50c Cloth Brushes Now 25c \$1.00 " " 50c \$1.50 " " 75c \$2.00 " " \$1.00

50c Bath Brushes Now 25c \$1.00 " " 50c \$2.00 " " \$1.00 Have a look at our window. It is good for sore eyes. NEWBRO DRUG CO North Main St., Butte.

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