

DAILY INTER MOUNTAIN

Issued Every Evening, Except Sunday. INTER MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING CO.



Address all mail to Inter Mountain Publishing Company. M. A. BERGER, Manager. 24 West Granite Street, Butte, Mont. Official Paper of Silver Bow County and City of Butte.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. Per year, by mail, in advance, \$7.50. By carrier, per month, \$0.75.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1902.

MONTANA CATTLE INTERESTS.

Alarm has been felt during recent months by cattle raisers of Montana, who have been wrongly persuaded to believe that stock interests in the state were bound to be of less importance with each year of progress toward a state of cultivation. The chief source of this alarm has been news from Eastern cattle markets telling of the falling off in shipments of Montana cattle. The fact of the matter is Montana cattle are going West in large numbers. They supply the enormous demand in Coast sections and in Alaska, and the statistics of Eastern shipments no longer indicate the state of the industry. Probably a million cattle range in Montana at the present time. This is a smaller number than is found in many of the more thickly settled states. Iowa and Kansas have, respectively, 5,266,000 and 4,495,000 head. Texas, the largest cattle-raising state in the Union, has nearly 10,000,000 head. Other states have larger numbers of cattle than Montana and an area that is not one-half that of the Treasure state. With the settlement of the state the cattle industry will increase in importance. Smaller herds will, of course, be the rule, but the theory that the disappearance of the enormous herds and the passing of the border cowboy indicates a decline in the state's cattle industry is wrong. The cattle interests of the state are being built upon a new foundation and on an enormous scale. In time Montana ranch cattle will be famed as greatly as Montana range cattle have ever been.

HELP THE POOR.

An account of the privations of a family in Anaconda was printed in yesterday's Inter Mountain, giving a truthful, unadorned story of conditions actually existing. The case was not a rare or remarkable one, although its pathetic appeal to the charitable impulses of Anaconda citizens was strong enough to move them to immediate and radical measures of relief. It appears the husband and father was away in search of work. His absence left the family without means of support, and when relief was given by the authorities the plight of the unfortunate wife and children was pitiable. The cause of the family's destitution was simple enough, and the effect was what might be expected in such a case. Such incidents are, unfortunately, not uncommon. They form a dark background for a picture of life that in other respects is pleasing and inspiring. Out of the pathetic incident may be gathered a crumb of comfort. It is the fact that citizens of Anaconda were touched by the evidences of misfortune and promptly gave necessary aid. There is not a community in the Northwest where the same generous measure of relief would not have been instantly forthcoming. In the severity of the winter weather of the past few days is a suggestion that there are poor and helpless who need assistance to tide them over to brighter days. What the citizens of Anaconda did when this case of destitution was discovered should be made an example to be followed in every city where poverty and the cold are both pinching helpless women and children during the terribly severe winter weather.

Forty degrees below zero is cold weather for Montana, but the weather of last night was not a circumstance to the conditions brought about in Eastern states when the mercury drops toward the bulb. A high altitude gives Butte a rarefied atmosphere that prevents such consequences as cold in a lower level brings about. There will be little distress or privation of a severe nature during the present cold snap. Well clothed and housed, Montana's residents will weather the storm without discomfort.

Not even a cold snap can stop the flow of Montana's oil wells. The account of the "sixty-barrel" well eighteen miles from Red Lodge, published on another page of the Inter Mountain today, is proof that Montana oil wells are what they are claimed to be. In several sections of the state supplies of oil have been tapped and wells are yielding a satisfactory flow.

A shy pension attorney wrote to President Roosevelt and threatened to kill him for ruining his "graft." This is a testimonial to the improved condition of the pension bureau that old soldiers will not be slow to appreciate.

A review of stock conditions in Montana discloses the remarkable fact that the horses of the state have been thinned out by buyers until few good animals of marketable age are left.

THE SHAMROCK III.

The fact that Sir Thomas Lipton refuses to learn the lesson taught by successive defeats is regarded as an evidence of pluck and thorough sportsmanship that is not often equaled. Another Shamrock III is under construction. The Shamrock III will make an attempt to lift the cup, and Americans hope it will be an unsuccessful attempt. So far, however, from resenting the ambitious designs of Sir Thomas, the public and press accord him unstinted praise. As a sample of the recognition given the owner of the fleet of Shamrocks, the following from the Baltimore News is fair:

"Tenacity of purpose was never more clearly illustrated than in the announcement that Shamrock III has been ordered. Twice defeated, but still undaunted, Sir Thomas Lipton will make another attempt. Pretty soon, Englishmen will be talking of the 'challenge trust' as a 'horrible example' of American methods. Sir Thomas having acquired them on his visits to this country. But, seriously, we are at a loss which feature of this perpetual challenge business should better command attention. Really, Sir Thomas puts us Americans in a most embarrassing situation. He evidently has set his mind on 'lifting' the America's cup, and has no regard for the cost of labor involved. If one yacht can't turn the trick, why, what is there to do but to build another and a better one? Sir Thomas is probably saying to himself, 'And another one after that, and another one after that, ad infinitum,' he would perhaps continue. Such fixity of purpose can but add to the admiration we have already conceived for Sir Thomas' plucky and thorough-going sportsmanship, and makes us almost wish that such persistence should meet with its just reward."

THE ANACONDA SMELTER.

Yesterday the machinery of the monster smelting plant in Anaconda was started at work on ore for the first time. This plant is the pride of the mining community of the Northwest. It is the largest and costliest plant of its kind in the world, and its machinery and the construction of its buildings are marvels of mechanical perfection. Nearly half a decade before the first hammer stroke fell in Anaconda the work on the plans of the great undertaking began. The project moved through its various stages to completion with absolute accuracy. The buildings through which ore has begun moving will stand until those who read the news of yesterday are well advanced in years. As a permanent addition to the mining industry of Montana and the Northwest the new smelting plant is the most important work completed in the later history of this state.

Two pages of the Inter Mountain's supplement today are filled with beautiful, clear half-tone pictures of well-known residents of Butte. They are members of the Meagher Guards, an organization which has recently disbanded; also the clever Scotchmen who celebrated in dancing and music the natal day of Bobbie Burns. Both pages are designed appropriately for the occasions they were intended to commemorate—the first passing of a notable military organization, and the other the birthday of Scotland's immortal poet. Much that is of historical interest is contained in the excellent accounts of the doings of the representatives of these two nationalities in Butte.

The session of the inter-state commerce commission, which began yesterday at Chicago, will be one of the most important ever held. Harriman and Hill have been called to testify regarding matters into which investigation is being made. The board should be given additional powers in conformity with the suggestions made in President Roosevelt's message. Then the action taken after a complete knowledge of all the facts is secured would be effective. As the matter now stands the commission is merely a board of inquiry.

In every section of the state interest is being shown in the coming of homeseekers. All signs indicate that this will be a memorable year for Montana. The greatest increase in population the state has ever had will take place during the spring months if measures are taken to influence homeseekers journeying through the state to tarry long enough to become familiar with the advantages of locating here.

The Yellowstone Journal suggests that the task of painting historical Montana pictures for the state capitol building be given into the hands of a Montana artist. Unless those whose business it is to provide the mural decorations want to risk having the scenes typical of Western life done by the brush of a novice in depicting Montana scenes they would better heed this suggestion.

The county attorney of Silver Bow and the attorney general of Montana seem disposed to engage in controversy, and the public sees no good reason why each should not be given a license to practice on the other until the theory and practice of the "knock-out blow" is added to the varied stock of experience of both.

San Francisco has a brand new murder horror added to its already long list, and the latest is a mystery—a dead body found on the sidewalk; no clue, no suspects, no arrests—just a plain murder mystery such as develops almost nightly in the Golden Gate city.

THE PACIFIC CABLE

[Minneapolis Journal.]

The Commercial Cable company has begun work on the construction of its cable line across the Pacific, via Honolulu to Manila and the Chinese coast and Japan. It has made government business precedential over all other business and from points reached by the lines. It has given business firms assurance that the future cable rate to Manila shall be fixed at not more than \$1 a word. The company proposes to accommodate the government and the business world without government aid. The house committee on commerce has under consideration a couple of bills providing for a cable laid by the government and owned by it. It does not appear necessary for the government to construct and own a line, if the Commercial Cable company is already proceeding to lay one, affording the government all the cabling facilities it needs and at the lowest rates.

Firms in this country doing Asiatic business have been spending \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year cabling at \$2.46 a word to the orient via London. At the hearing of the house committee on commerce Mr. John Ford, secretary of the American Asiatic association, argued in favor of a cable under private control, showing that if the government undertook to lay a cable between the Pacific coast and the Philippines, it would enter into competition with another cable line, now constructing by a private corporation at its own risk and cost, and the corporation has complied with the law of 1866, accepting the conditions which give the United States the right to purchase the line at an appraised valuation, and, in the event of private control continuing, the postmaster general is to fix rates for government messages, which are to have priority over all other messages. Mr. Ford urged, as to the disadvantages of a government cable, the large cost, \$15,000,000; expense operation, \$1,000,000 against probable income of

\$150,000; inability of the government to land and operate a government-owned cable either in China or Japan, which would limit the income of the cable between the United States and the Philippines and Hawaii. The Commercial Cable company will have its cable in operation to Honolulu by November 1, next.

Thus far, there have been no sufficient reasons given before the house commerce committee why the government should undertake an enterprise which private capital is already undertaking and is fully able to effectuate to the advantage of both government and the business world as to the transmission of messages.

The company has already pledged itself to make maximum rates to business firms less than one-half the present rate, while the government, under the law, fixes its own rates. If the government must own and operate a cable from our Pacific coast to the Philippines and China and Japan, it has the option of purchasing the Commercial Cable company's line when completed, at an appraised value.

For the government to construct a competing cable to the orient seems entirely superfluous under the circumstances.

Two Chances.

[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.] Politically, Indiana seems to be proceeding upon the theory that it will be best for the state to have candidates both for president and vice president.

Hard to Cultivate.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.] A medical authority is responsible for the statement that genius is akin to gout. This may account for the present scarcity of genius. It costs money to acquire gout.

PERSONAL.

The latest distinction conferred on Professor Virchow is his election as honorary president of the Gesellschaft fur Volkskunde (ethnologic society).

The well-known Greek statesman, Th. Delyannis, has nearly completed a political history of Greece during the years 1852 to 1900. He is also writing his political reminiscences.

Gen. Nelson A. Miles has just been presented by the government with two handsome bay coach horses, to be kept at army headquarters in Washington, and to be used exclusively for carriage work for the general.

Dr. See of the United States naval observatory in Washington, D. C., has just concluded a measurement of the planet Mercury with the large telescope of that institution. Its diameter is found to be 2653 miles.

"Oh, Mr. Reed!" gushed a young woman to the ex-speaker, the other day, when he was in Washington on business; "I would so like to hear you make an epigram!" "Excuse me, madam," he replied; "this is my day for composing epic poems."

Grover's Nomenclature.

[Minneapolis Journal.] Mr. Cleveland refers to the little Bryan events of 1896 and 1900 as "afflictive visitations." Possibly that is what they were, but they are more commonly alluded to as "jolts."

Restraint of Trade.

[St. Paul Dispatch.] They do things differently in Russia from South Dakota methods. Peasants swap wives as they do knives. And the authorities are becoming so moral that they object to this simple antique custom.

PHASES OF THE SUGAR WAR

[New York Tribune.]

Rumors of peace in the sugar war may cause some concern to those persons who have been extravagantly taking an extra lump or two in coffee or tea because the product has been cheaper than usual.

But these are grievous times for the sugar trust. There are so many anomalous conditions to consider that he would be rash, indeed, who would offer to show the sugar magnates a way out of their difficulties.

Those who refine the cane product have noted with alarm the vast increase in the beet product of this country, and they have adopted about the only means possible for checking this development—that of cutting the price so that the beet farmer will long for the opportunity to go out of business.

But this onslaught is dangerous at present because the political hen is on her nest, and there is no knowing what may be hatched.

As a pure political entity the beet is a much more formidable affair than the sugar cane. There are more voters behind the beet than is true of the other agricultural product, and legislators quickly note such things.

If the cane sugar trust becomes too belligerent in bringing pressure upon its beet competitor while congress is in session there may be much reluctance to reduce the duty on sugar for the benefit of Eastern refiners.

The sugar dilemma thus has three horns. If the war in prices continues there are no profits. If it is not continued the industry will increase. If the agitation over sugar is continued congress may do something which will make matters decidedly unpleasant.

The outlook all around is not promising except to those who have a sweet tooth and want an extra lump. There is

MONTANA CURRENT NOTES.

Missoula—A case of smallpox was reported to the health authorities last night.

Helena—Thomas Flynn, 45 years of age, dropped dead on the sidewalk here yesterday.

Dillon—R. L. Shaw has purchased 400 head of cattle from Neise Nelson. The price is \$50 per head.

Hayre—The new steel bridge across the Milk river was completed and put into commission yesterday.

Missoula—Mrs. David Edwards died yesterday afternoon from a shock brought on from an operation for appendicitis.

Bannack—The Bon Accord dredge boat has been sold to Butte junk dealers for scrap iron. The boat cost something like \$30,000 to build, but was not a success.

Missoula—According to a report just issued by the assessor of Missoula county, the assessed valuation of new buildings erected since May of last year is \$107,500.

Helena—Theodore Mayer has filed an amended complaint in the supreme court in the disbarment proceedings instituted against former United States District Attorney E. D. Weed.

Hayre—Robert M. Rathbone, a Great Northern switchman, was caught between an engine and caboose yesterday. His hand was crushed and he will lose a thumb and several fingers.

Dillon—Articles of incorporation of the Dillon and Big Hole Basin Telephone company were filed here yesterday. The concern is capitalized at \$5000 and it proposes to connect all the towns of the Big Hole basin with the county seat.

Missoula—Alex Dow, a well-known merchant of Frenchtown, has made an assignment for the benefit of Frank L. Worden. Dow's action is a surprise to his friends, as it was generally understood that he was doing a good business.

Helena—The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company has decided upon a policy of expansion and will build lines from Butte to Pony, Missoula to Durmond, from Helena to Townsend and from Helena to Great Falls. A new line will be built from Great Falls to Fort Benton.

His Fool Friends.

[Chicago News.] Only a man's fool friends will refuse to allow him to use his own judgment as to whether he wants a drink or not.

But Has Done Nothing.

[Boston Globe.] It would not give exactly the right idea to say that the Massachusetts legislature has now been working for two weeks.

Secured the Plum.

[Omaha World-Herald.] Perhaps it was while Leslie M. Shaw was peddling trees that he learned what were just the right sort of poles to reach persimmons.

Twice Branded.

[Salt Lake Tribune.] The Dr. Steers who was married here in 1899 turns out no maverick after all. A California Mrs. Steers claims to have run her brand on him some time prior to the Salt Lake round-up.

Art for Art's Sake.

[Providence Telegram.] This is the way the Boston Herald mixes up society and art in that city: "The collection of 12,786 photographs in Boston's rogues' gallery bears further testimony to our comprehensive appreciation of art."

Knew His Sphere.

[Exchange.] She—"I was so happy. I just had to go around telling everybody about our engagement." He—"That just proves the old saying, 'Love makes the world go 'round.'" She—"I said I went 'round, not—'" He—"Well, you're all the world to me."

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Burlington Route

THIS IS NEW'S

Harry S. New, vice president of the Indianapolis Journal, tosses the following bouquet into the Burlington conservatory: "I think I have never made a railroad journey freer from annoyances of every character or one more satisfactory in every respect than that which I have just completed over the Burlington route from St. Louis to the West and return. The road-bed itself is fine, its passenger equipment new and well cared for, the employes of the road are particularly attentive and polite, and the dining car service is the best I have ever seen anywhere."

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