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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1902.

IRRIGATION BENEFITS.

The Chicago correspondent of the New York Commercial takes a very intelligent view of the benefits likely to result from the reclaiming of arid and semi-arid lands of the West under the irrigation law as recommended by President Roosevelt and passed by the first session of the present congress.

"It is obvious," says the correspondent, "that the resultant construction of railroads, the building of cities and towns, the opening of mines and farms, and the many public and corporate enterprises will give employment to a vast number of people, and their wants will be multitudinous." He foresees, too, a mighty influence from irrigation in building up trade with the Orient and the Pacific countries. And in view of all this he finds it easy and natural to make this prediction: "There will be no danger of a protracted period of commercial depression in the United States for generations to come. This vent for the useful energies of the working classes will also be an insurance against political and social discontent." He takes the ground that the almost immediate and widespread effects of this work will prove to be an important influence in preventing the recurrence of another period of industrial and commercial stagnation in this country. This will be felt in the markets for all manufactured commodities, he thinks, but more especially that of steel.

Referring to the points presented by its correspondent, the Commercial says editorially: "Without questioning the correctness of the figures and estimates of this enthusiast, we cannot help agreeing with him in his general contention. Aside from the agricultural and industrial possibilities incidental to the reclaiming of many thousands of square miles of land in a region of exceptionally diversified and rich natural resources, the intelligent expenditure of \$500,000,000 within the next 25 years on an engineering work of this magnitude must help very materially to keep employed a vast amount of labor that might otherwise become a surplus and idle; and the requisite machinery, tools and other appurtenances of the work cannot fail to have a great influence on most of our markets."

No wonder the democrats would like to take credit for the irrigation bill, which they opposed so vigorously for so many years. The Commercial, taking a business view of the matter, adds with much pertinence: "It required a president of Theodore Roosevelt's enthusiasm, courage, consistency and indifference to political criticism to take up the advocacy of this policy in the way that he did. The passage of that bill is the greatest achievement of his administration so far."

A RUINED SHEEP INDUSTRY.

The latest intelligence from Australia confirms the worst that has been told of the destruction of the sheep industry by drought. It is said that in some districts, notably on the Darling, millions of sheep have died, and on some properties where only a few years ago sheep could be counted by the hundred thousand, there is not now a single hoof remaining. But the Darling, like all the western division of New South Wales, has always been subject to droughts, and it is only the recurrence of so many successive dry seasons that has created such an abnormal state of things.

The unfortunate conditions which now obtain among the shepherms is well indicated by the letter of a correspondent. "I have," he writes, "been selling sheep as hard as I can, and have now disposed of 24,000, some in the wool, in order to get them off quickly as possible, and others shorn. I have 10,000 more in the market, for which I will take any reasonable offers I can get. This will make 53,000 disposed of when they are gone, and go they must, unless a big fall of rain comes immediately. I have 15,000 wethers in hired paddocks, which I expect will also have to be sold; but I will take the wool off them first, because the place they are in is fairly well off for feed, and I can carry them all right to the end of October. I anticipate, according to present prospects, that I shall require the whole of the hill country to save the breeding ewes; therefore, if the season is as bad as I now anticipate, I cannot expect to save much more than the breeding sheep and the lambs. Of course, rain may come and alter the posi-

tion, but there seems no prospect of it at present. Day after day the glass lowers, and a downfall is threatened; but it all passes away without a drop, and this, of course, is the worst sign of a drought. Several times during the last fortnight rain seemed a certainty, but I have ceased to expect it, and therefore have not been disappointed."

The contrast between the condition of the shepherms of America and their brothers of Australia is most marked. There has been but one period in the history of the United States when American sheep and woolgrowers felt the pinch of hard times as the shepherms of Australia are now feeling it. That was during the free wool foolishness of Mr. Cleveland. As between free wool and a drought extending over several years "the odds are about even," as the Hiobian says.

ENORMOUS AREA OF ALASKA.

The enormous area of the territory of Alaska is well brought out by the Popular Science Monthly. The figure of the big Northwestern territory is put in black upon an outline map of the United States, both drawn to the same scale. The northern limit of Point Barrow is placed upon the map at the northern boundary of Minnesota. Mount St. Elias falls near the Ohio river between Western Kentucky and Indiana, and the main portion of the territory covers almost the entire area of the Great Plains and the Mississippi valley as far south as Arkansas. The extreme southeasterly portion of the narrow strip of Alaska, upon which Sitka and Juneau are situated, would extend to the Atlantic ocean at Georgia; the celebrated Nome district would fall in Western South Dakota, near the Wyoming line, and the most westerly of the Aleutian island group would lie upon the Pacific coast line near Los Angeles; the intermediate islands touching the Mexican border in Arizona and New Mexico.

In other words, the territory of Alaska is sufficient in geographical extent to reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to Mexico. Placed in this portion of the United States, Alaska would cover, in whole or in part, 23 states and territories, and the western third of Lake Superior.

When the resources of Alaska come to be developed, the territory, according to present promises, will be as rich as it is enormous in size. Its mineral resources seem to be practically unlimited. The climate of a large portion of Alaska is better than the public idea of it. President Roosevelt, in his message, shows a commendable interest in this "new possession," which, by the way, has been ours for 35 years.

Those whose business it is to furnish railway facilities for travel on the Northwest frontier are doing what they can to meet the demand. A dispatch announces that the White Pass railway has converted its fast winter mail stage each way between White Horse and Dawson into an Arctic Limited Flyer by providing 14 relays to cover the distance of 323 miles. The posts are from 18 to 25 miles apart. Four horses will be driven to each rig. Once a week the Arctic Limited will go each way over the route with passengers, mail and express matter. Other rigs carrying passengers and light freight will cover the same route by relays at less speed. Two hundred and sixty hardy Washington horses are used on the route. When the snow road gets in good shape the trip between Dawson and White Horse will be made regularly in three days. The fare will be \$100 to \$125. Comfortable road houses have been built at each of the relay stations and passengers over the new winter road will be better cared for than in previous seasons. Where there is gold to be found means will be provided to reach the locality, no matter where it may be.

Turkey has ordered new guns to the value of \$3,950,000. In the sweet by-and-bye she will pay for them. It may even take other guns to compel the payment.

MONTANA HORSE INDUSTRY

A Big Dealer Expresses Some Interesting Views on the Subject.

[Dillon Examiner.]
 J. M. Conway of Billings, who has in all probability handled more horses than any other individual in Montana during the past three years, has been in this section for the past week looking for heavy horses.

"It is up to the stock raisers of Montana to raise more horses and heavy ones, too," said Mr. Conway. "The market for this class of stuff is constantly on the increase, and as the country to the north and west of us becomes settled up, the demand will increase instead of diminish. These train loads of immigrants, of which you constantly read about coming West means that the country is settling up, and as they are located on farms the first thing they look for is work horses. They need them in their business, for the age of electric plows has not yet arrived and man will depend upon his best friend—the family horse—for a great many years to come before he will be obsolete."

"In my opinion, there is no better opportunity open for the small farmer of Beaverhead and Madison counties than the raising of draft horses. The day is past when large herds can be raised on the range at a good profit. The ranges are too restricted and overcrowded. But I do think that the man who has from a dozen or twenty good mares and breeds them to either a good Norman or some other draft stallion will become a winner within the next few years. These horses, when properly cared for, will develop early and at the age of four years they are ready for the market. Then, if they have been properly handled, that is, if they are gentle and tractable—and where among the Montana farmers is there a man who does not understand the handling of horses—they will find a ready sale at a price which will reach three figures. The demand is constantly more than the supply for this class of horses and I predict that draft teams weighing from 2,400 to 3,000 per span will be worth from \$250 upwards within the next few years."

PEOPLE WE MEET

"LOU" E. JOHNSON of Boise, one of the best known mining men in the country, has been in town for several days. Johnson has been hunting for

Rocked the Cradle of the Butte Camp. mines, mining and dealing in mines all his life. He was one of the placer pioneers in Montana and helped to rock the cradle of the Butte camp in the days before quartz mining here was dreamed of. Johnson has looked over Thunder Mountain and believes that the big Idaho prospect will fully vindicate itself.

While out prospecting on one occasion Johnson was lost for 17 days, and during that time had nothing to eat except what he rustled in the woods. His partner, who was with him on the trip, was drowned while crossing a stream, and Johnson himself had a narrow escape. His adventures in one way and another would be an interesting chapter in early-day mining in Montana. Mr. Johnson has some good New York connections, and makes frequent trips to the metropolis in connection with his mining business. He expects to make another trip to Gotham before the holidays.

"Bitter Root fruitgrowers are not discouraged by the low prices that prevailed this season," said J. W. Curtis of that valley in Butte today. "Though the prices for our apples and other fruit men are not good, no one lost money and we are all hopeful for next season. One thing, the cost of production is going down steadily. Uniform methods of shipping and packing are making our goods stand out in the market. We are also working a saving in labor. This, taken in connection with the fact that our production per acre is on the increase, with the aging of the orchards, make it good for the orchardist."

"Our chief complaint is on freight rates. Thus far we have been unable to get a rate that can be termed reasonable. For instance, in shipping to Butte we have to divide the price with the railroad company. Matters of freight rates, however, usually adjust themselves in time. I believe the railroads in the course of a few months will treat us better. If they do it will be a measure of economy for them, for the production will increase marvelously, and the fruit business is one the railroads can afford to encourage."

There were doings at the Holland street rink last night. Charles Thall, a gentle youth who was born and bred in the glorious climate of California and who travels in advance of the Florence Roberts company, arrived in Butte the other day. He had never seen ice, so his good friends, Manager Marks of the Grand and Adolph Heilbronner, took him out to the rink last night to show him what it looked like.

They were kind with him at the start. He wore low shoes, which they assured him were just the thing for skating, and he moved cautiously. Guided by the two staunch friends, who wouldn't do a thing to him under any circumstances, he drifted about the rink, gaining confidence at every yard.

"I think I can make it alone," said he at length. "All right," said Heilbronner. "Come along."

They let go all holds and struck out. Thall, on a pair of big hockey skates, lunged forward after them. Something happened just then. What it was Thall didn't know, but both feet went out from under him, his body bent upwards in the arc of a small circle and he spread-eagled over the ice. When he landed, which he did in a second or two, his chin ground a hole in the glass-like surface.

WHAT HAPPENED TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO TODAY?

Why Just Read These Extracts From the Files of the Inter Mountain of That Date and Be Made Wise.

One of the first things that will be brought up in congress is the settlement of bills incident to the late President Garfield's illness. Drs. Agnew, Hamilton and Bliss will consider \$25,000 apiece about a fair compensation for their work, so it can readily be seen that the bill of expenses will come to an enormous figure.

Reports from New York have it that John W. Mackay is in that city, much disgruntled over the fact that he has lost about \$4,000,000 on the Comstock mine in the past two years. Mr. Mackay has signified his intention of settling abroad.

Charles Dawson, honorable member of parliament for Carlborough, is elected lord mayor of London.

President Arthur's message to congress is being anxiously awaited by everybody in this neck of the woods.

The Salt Lake Herald favors the admission of Dakota as a state. The editor claims that Utah has the prior right to statehood on account of its population and its material resources, but he recognizes the fact that polygamy will prevent Utah from becoming a state.

It is generally expected the republicans will have a majority in the next house. The house is composed of 293 members and the republicans number 145. There are 10 members who may be classed as third party men, two readjusters from Virginia and seven greenbackers.

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Wedekind of Pony are at the Butte. Mr. Wedekind is a well-known member of the Madison county bar and county attorney-elect.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Durand of New Chicago are registered at the Butte.

William R. Jones of Anaconda was in town last night.

Dr. William C. Riddell of Helena, a member of the state board of medical examiners, is at the Thornton.

A. W. Martin, the Helena mining man, is at the Thornton today.

L. J. Price, a Dillon dealer in real estate, is in Butte today.

R. A. Luke, who writes insurance policies in Helena, is a guest at the Thornton.

S. L. Jameson, a prominent citizen of Bozeman, is at the Thornton.

G. Gray Lambey of Great Falls arrived in Butte this morning and is at the Finlen.

C. L. Murray of Great Falls is a guest at the Finlen.

T. L. Penrose came in from Fort Benton last night and is a guest at the Finlen. Rev. Dr. Eisenberg, the Jewish rabbi,

THEY WILL RUN THE GAUNTLET

Elks Are Going to Initiate a Bunch of Novitiates This Evening and They Will Do the Thing Up Right, in a Way to Cause the Unfortunates to Long Remember the Occasion.

Ten tender fawns are to be put over the jumps at the session of the Butte lodge of Elks tonight. In the words of the society editor, the occasion will be one long to be remembered.

All Elks know of the initiation cere-

DAVID MEIKLEJOHN



Who Will Be One of the Victors Tonight.

monies of the Butte lodge of Elks. These ceremonies have frills and frescoes on them that make the initiates bear them in

will leave tonight via the Short Line for Chicago.

C. H. Alexander has gone to Helena for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Montgomery and Miss Edna Waterbury of Anaconda were in town last night to witness the performance of "Foxy Quiller."

Mrs. Herbert McNulta and Mrs. Spencer of Anaconda were in the city last evening visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Le Marsh, lately of the Montreal house, have left to spend the winter in California.

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF BUTTE SENDS A LETTER

To the Mayor and Council of the City on Matter of Importance to the Municipality.

At a meeting of the Butte Municipal league held last night it was decided to take part in the promotion of needed legislation for the city of Butte and to join in the joint meeting to be held tomorrow night by the council committee and the committee from the Business Men's association.

The following letter, signed by Green Majors as president and Alex DeVine as secretary, was sent to the mayor:

Dec. 2, 1902.
 To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Butte, Montana:

The Butte Municipal league offers the following suggestions to your honorable body relative to needed legislation, which we feel would be in the interest of our people as a whole:

An act providing for the filing with the city clerk of sworn statements during the first week of March of each year, subscribed by the president, superintendent or general manager in each case, of each and every public utility corporation doing business within the city; every such sworn statement to show the total investment in each corporation, so itemized as to give an intelligent and comprehensive understanding thereof; the total income, with the sources thereof, together with the detailed expenses and the total net profits of each preceding year, such sworn statement to be also published once in some local newspaper of general circulation, as soon as it is filed; and providing for heavy penalty for non-compliance.

An act requiring the city council to establish, between the 1st and the 10th day of March of each year, the rates to be charged the rate payers for water, gas, electric lights, telephones and street car fares for each succeeding year.

An act providing that no municipal franchise shall ever be granted, amended or extended, without first submitting such question to a popular vote at the next succeeding general city or town election, a majority vote of the qualified electors so voting at such election to decide the matter for or against the proposed granting, amending or extending of such franchise.

An act permitting the city council to submit on the ballot for approval or rejection by the qualified voters at any general city or town election, any and every question of public policy, or otherwise, which might be up for solution, such decision by the majority of the qualified electors to be used in an advisory sense by the city council in the disposition of such public question or questions.

An act providing for the appointment of a city auditor, whose duty it shall be, in addition to his other duties, to inspect, expert and make a specific report to the city on each and every department of the city government once every month.

An act providing for the acquisition by any city or town in the state of Montana on the filing of a petition duly certified, of 5 per cent of the qualified electors of any such city or town, with the city clerk thereof, after such question shall have been voted upon at the next succeeding city or town election and decided in the affirmative; in no case, however, shall such public service utilities be paid for at a price above the actual cost of duplication, after a proper discount shall have been made for depreciation.

Rosebud County Contests.

Forsyth, Dec. 4.—Contests have been filed against J. S. Hoopkins, state senator, and Charles Bailey, county clerk. It is expected that every democrat holding a certificate of election will have a contest on his hands.

mind for many a long day afterward. Now the grand lodge of the body, at its session at Salt Lake last August, took steps to curtail initiatory ceremonies, and a doubt existed as to whether the Butte style of doing things accorded with the new rules.

The matter was submitted to the grand exalted ruler, and he has declared that the Butte system goes. Therefore, the system will be seen in all its glowing beauty by the local herd tonight.

The gentlemen who are to become acquainted with the mysteries of Elkdom tonight are as follows:

David Meiklejohn, deputy United States marshal; George Knox, foreman of the electric street railway shops; Charles W. Fish, L. O. Evans, the lawyer; Charles P. Nevin, time-keeper of the Never Sweat mine, who doubtless will sweat tonight; James A. Bryan, J. L. Templeman, a well known member of the bar; J. Harrington and A. H. Vorholz of the Butte Brewing company, and A. W. Jones of the Montana steam laundry.

Following the ceremonies there will be a social session, which means an evening full of mirth.

At the meeting the committee on arrangements for the Elks' memorial services, to be held at Sutton's Broadway theater next Sunday afternoon, will present its report. The committee consists of Charles Copenhaver, W. E. Reynolds, E. L. Mayo, John Scovill and Alexander Mackel. It has prepared an elaborate program, including many musical numbers. The memorial address will be delivered by Hon. C. P. Connolly.

The roll of honored dead of Silver Bow lodge includes the names of J. M. Andrews, H. A. Neidenhofen, Julius Reinhardt, John R. McGarry, J. E. Van Gundy, S. J. Reynolds, F. X. Giard, Louis Best, Neil Gillis, W. W. Dreyfoos, Dr. M. Rockman, R. F. Turner, Cornelius Hayes, Dr. H. A. Cayley and John M. Farrell.

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We have the honor to announce—and take pleasure in inviting the public to attend—an art exhibit of paintings from the easel of Mr. Charles M. Russell, the "cowboy" artist, to commence at our art rooms, 14 West Broadway, Tuesday, December 2, 1902. Awaiting your pleasure, we beg to assure you that there is a grand treat in store for connoisseurs in art, as well as for those who would lend their presence and admiration to the genius of Montana's world famous artist. Yours truly,

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