

Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

R. N. SUTHERLIN, Editor.

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The legislature being in session, affords a constant theme for conversation. Among the many subjects that agitate the public mind, and second only to the matter of railroads, is the proposed measure raising the revenue on liquors and imposing a tax upon all that are brought to the Territory; also, the prohibition of its sale on Sunday and election day. The latter is, we think, the most important, and while we are not altogether persuaded as to the virtue of prohibition laws, it does seem that if there is a time when men should exercise wisdom, unbiased by the influence of designing men, being free to fully understand and act upon the questions of the hour, that day is election day. We do not propose to enter into any discussion upon the subject, but the *Missoulian* speaks wisely and well when it says, "there are many earnest, temperate, and God-like men in this far off land, who are zealously working for the elevation of this people. They deplore the debauchery in matters politic, and seek to have laws passed that shall lead to a sober exercise of the right of suffrage and a more decent regard for the Sabbath."

We are opposed to ultra laws—think they should be framed with great precaution, in order that they work no hardship upon any legitimate branch of industry—but when passed; when once they become laws, in order to test their practicability, that the people may feel and know their effect and profit by their provisions, if good, or secure their repeal if bad, we believe in faithfully carrying into effect every enactment. It is therefore, well that due consideration be given this subject, and that all laws be made with a view to their rigid enforcement. For nothing is more demoralizing to a people, than the neglect and disregard of the laws, and the absence of measures by which to secure their proper respect.

AN ACT amending the present law relative to bonding the indebtedness of the several counties of this Territory, is much needed. The rate of interest on county bonds, now being paid by many of the counties, is exorbitant. Meagher county is paying 12 per cent. per annum on about \$27,000, interest in cash semi-annually. The assessable property, according to the assessor's returns, for 1875, amounts to \$600,000. Three thousand five hundred dollars interest is being paid yearly. A law giving the county commissioners authority to issue and sell at say eight per cent. per annum interest, on a sufficient amount of bonds to redeem those now outstanding, would be a great relief to the farmers and stock men of our Territory. Bonds bearing eight per cent. per annum will sell in the New York market for as much, and we believe, more than the sum parties realized on the \$27,000 of this county now in the hands of eastern capitalists.

Under the present law, we are paying about two mills on the dollar of our assessed valuation more than is necessary; the county only collecting enough to gain a small amount over the interest and running expenses, saving nothing with which to pay off the principal of the bonds. Our Legislature has started out on an economical basis, and we hope they will continue to economize. This matter of relief to the counties is of much importance to the tax-payers and should not be overlooked.

GOVERNOR POTTS recommends that the mines of our Territory be taxed. We see no reason why the mines should not pay a little tax too. A mine that is worth one thousand dollars to its owner, has the same right to be taxed as does the farm which cost that sum.

There are thousands of acres which have been claimed as mineral land, which, if taxed at a reasonable valuation, would create a handsome revenue. A person is required under the United States Mineral Law, to do \$500 worth of work before he can receive a patent, besides the entry fee per acre. If the lands are worth expending \$500 in labor upon, for representation, they are worth that sum to the owner, and it is as just for them to pay tax on that amount as for a farmer or stock-grower who owns the same amount of property.

"In view of the probable passage of an act to aid the construction of a railroad to Montana, a question of moment arises on which it would be well to have some light. Has a Territory the power to grant such aid to a company in the building of a railroad outside of its domain, over which it has no legislative control, and which will not be subject to its laws? We do not recall an instance of any Territory, or even any State, making such loan or gift, or any decision bearing upon the point. The question turns upon whether it is a 'rightful subject of legislation' delegated to the Territories. In the event of aid being given the Utah Northern, a large portion of the road would be constructed in Idaho and subject to the legislation of that Territory. Will some of our legal luminaries please dawn on this point and enlighten many who have grave doubts as to the constitutionality of such legislation?"

The subject named by Bro. Mills, of the *New North-West*, is important. We are not one of the "legal luminaries," but cannot assign any reason why the legislature of Montana has any right to subsidize a railroad to be built outside of our Territory. We are of the opinion, however, that the farmers and tax-payers would oppose such a scheme, or any other project wherein there is a doubt of a return of full reward.

THE first number of the *Bozeman Times*, under the editorial management of Mr. E. S. Wilkinson, is at hand. It has a bold and fearless tone, characteristic of its veteran editor, who in a full column salutatory, clearly defines its relation to the people and the course to be pursued. We admire its boldness, and believe it will prove a valuable auxiliary in the development of Montana's hidden greatness. He speaks particularly of the improvement and navigation of the Yellowstone, but promises "to treat all subjects of public or local importance with fairness, candor and impartiality." In politics, it is to be an "independent Democratic newspaper." Its columns are well filled, and the price of subscription is \$5.00 a year. We are not like some who feel envious, and consequently claim that the business is greatly overdone. We hold that the more papers there are, the more our people will read, and the more they read, (provided it is of a proper character,) the wiser and better citizens they become. We therefore greet the *Times* with a hearty welcome, and wish it a long, prosperous, and useful career.

In the *Benton Record* of December 25, the editor devotes two columns to the subject of legislative representation for Chouteau county. He says: "As we understand it, the present apportionment is made from the Census of 1870. Six years have elapsed since, during which, Chouteau county has emerged from comparative obscurity, her population has increased, many acres of her soil is under cultivation and her stock-raising and agricultural advantages have become an acknowledged source of unlimited wealth."

Our neighbor has taken a bold stand in behalf of the citizens of his county, and is entitled to a proper hearing from our lawmakers. A fair and equal representation is one of the essentials to the prosperity of our country. Chouteau, as a stock-raising and agricultural county has but few equals, and it is but justice that she should have equal representation with the other counties of the Territory.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

Notice of the following bills was given in the Council, on the 7th: An act to amend Sec. 3, relative to the collection of revenue, chapter 85, codified statutes. By Cullen, an act to repeal chapter 80, codified statutes. Hays introduced C. B. No. 4, concerning live stock, which was read and referred to committee on agriculture and manufactures. Cardwell introduced C. B. No. 5, an act to amend Sec. 14, chapter 31, codified statutes.

Council bill No. 2, was introduced by Hays, of Gallatin, and is entitled "An Act, to require Butchers and Slaughterers to give bonds and keep a record of animals purchased and slaughtered." The title explains the object of the Bill.

In the House, notice was given of the introduction of the following bills: By Mead, an act to amend the apportionment law. By Rotwit, an act in regard to the taxation of church property; also, an act in regard to

selling or giving away intoxicating liquors on election days. By McCormick, to amend the election law. By Brooke, an act amendatory of an act concerning live stock, and to better protect the stock growing interest.

Mr. Sanders offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That C. B. No. 1, be re-committed to the committee on the Judiciary, with instruction to report

1st. Whether the Public Printer created under said bill is a Territorial officer.

2d. Whether the method of designating such Public Printer accords with the provisions of the Organic Act of this Territory.

3d. Whether the provisions for paying for printing for the Legislative Assembly is not in controvention of the laws of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Word, the resolution was laid on the table by the following vote: Ayes 17; nays 10.

A motion was made by Sanders to strike out sections 11, 13, and 14, that part of the bill relating to county printing, which was lost by a vote of 16 to 10. The bill was then read a third time, and after a recess, was put upon its final passage, and passed.

In the Council, on the 8th, the following notices were given: By Bass, to annul section 12, chapter 21, codified statutes; by Tatem, a bill to annul an act entitled "Notaries Public," and a bill to prevent the slaughtering of diseased animals. A bill was introduced by Bass, to annul section 3, of the revenue law which was read a first and second time and referred to a special committee.

A statement was made by J. E. Calloway, Secretary of the Territory, that he had entered into contract, on the 20th of December, 1875, with R. E. Fisk, of the *Helena Herald*, to print all the laws and journals of the ninth Legislative Assembly of the Territory; also, to execute all the incidental printing, including the Governor's message. That the money was furnished him by the Treasury Department of the United States; the work to be paid for at certain established rates, fixed by the Government, the same to be measured as heretofore, at the Treasury Department.

In the House, on the 8th, H. B. No. 1, relating to roads and highways, was reported back by the committee, and its passage recommended without amendment.

Reed gave notice of the introduction of a bill in relation to ditches.

By unanimous consent, Sanders introduced several bills without previous notice amendatory of the Civil Practice Act.

H. B. No. 2, in regard to what is known as the round up law, was read in full and passed to the second reading by title, after which it was referred to committee on agriculture and manufactures.

House bills Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6, amendatory of the civil practice act, were read first and second times, and referred to judiciary committee.

Among the bills introduced by Sanders is one providing for the taxation of church, Masonic, and other sectarian property.

H. B. No. 1 was re-committed to the committee on roads and highways.

Sanders moved that, in consideration that this is a general anniversary day, and that it was meet that this body should show due respect to the memory of the heroes of war as well as peace, the House do now adjourn until ten o'clock a. m., Monday, January 10, in respect to the memory of ex-President Andrew Jackson.

GENERAL NEWS.

In reply to the resolution of the Senate, President Grant has submitted a report relative to the establishment of a United States mint in the western States or Mississippi valley, for the coinage of silver. The report made by Dr. Linderman, director of the mint, and who is charged with the duties of making inquiries, recommends Indianapolis if for the coinage of silver only, but recommends St. Louis, Mo., as being the proper place for the establishment of a thoroughly equipped mint, of a capacity for both gold and silver.

A resolution was offered in the House, instructing the committee on Indian affairs to enquire into the expediency of opening the Black Hills to settlement, by purchasing it from the Indians.

Delegate Maginnis has introduced a bill

amending the coinage act; also one for the improvement of the upper Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, and a bill for the sale of timber lands in the Territories.

A Washington dispatch says the prospect for a settlement of our difficulties with Spain and her renewed energy and wisdom in the pacification of Cuba, are good.

Joseph Brock, treasurer of Buffalo, N. Y., is said to be a defaulter to the amount of about a quarter of a million dollars. He has made a general assignment, amounting to \$999,000.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Missouri Pacific railroad company in New York, the directors threatened to leave the meeting if a resolution offered by a shareholder was passed, requiring the directors to abide by the action of the meeting.

A Berlin dispatch says a meeting of American residents to protest against the comments of the German press on America, has thoroughly attained its object. The offending journals have withdrawn their unfavorable reflections. A *Standard* Berlin special says the *National Zeitung* alone reiterates its offensive remarks in regard to the Bremen-haven crime.

Advices have been received from Rio de Janeiro that the Brazilian exhibition was opened in that city on the 2d of December, which was the fiftieth birthday of the Emperor, and on the same day his grandson was baptised by the name of Pedro. There were great demonstrations of rejoicing at these events, and, as usual on birthday occasions, gifts were given to the poor, and many slaves were liberated, apart from the law of gradual emancipation. The choicest products exhibited in Brazil will be sent to this country for the Centennial display. The entire sum voted by Brazil for its representation at the Centennial Exhibition, is \$150,000.

President McMahon has written a letter to Minister Buffet thanking him for, and expressing his approval of, his speech in the assembly on the press bill. Ex-President Triers has accepted the invitation of the town of Belfort to stand for the Senate. He has received and declined similar invitations from eleven departments.

The republican leaders are confident that in the general elections the partisans of a moderate republic will secure a majority of both houses of the new assembly.

A Madrid dispatch of a late date says the royal palace at Barcelona has been almost entirely destroyed by fire.

Two of the crew of the *Lennie*, who are not implicated in the alleged mutiny, have been sent to England for examination.

The committee on the American Centennial exhibition have received 600 applications for space in the Italian department. A large part of the exhibitors will send works of art.

The total number of teachers in all the States and Territories is 247,300, being nearly one to every nine children in constant attendance, and of the teachers about one-half are women.

Scarlet fever is quite prevalent in Louisville, and also in various sections of the country of the Ohio Valley. Many children and some old persons have fallen victims to the disease.

The Italian Government was induced to purchase all the railways in the northern part of its dominions because they were chiefly owned by foreigners. The French, especially, have too big a finger in the railroad stock.

France and Italy are negotiating a new treaty of commerce through their respective representatives at Paris. The duties and obstructions are to be lessened in accordance with free trade principles.

At the Paris Maritime and Fluvial Exhibition, lately closed, England took the greatest number of prizes for objects connected purely with navigation.

The orange crop of Los Angeles, Cal., will not be more than one-half as large as last year. The lemon crop is also small, and the trees are said to be fast dying.

A prize has been awarded by the Belgian Academy to Karl Marchal for his "History of Sculpture in Belgium in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries."

The largest polished plate ever exhibited was the work of the Thames Plate Glass Company of England, measuring 19 feet 5 inches long, and 10 feet 3 inches wide.