

## Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1876.

WE THIS week lay before our readers the full text of the Northern Pacific railroad law passed by the recent session of the Legislature, as furnished by the *Herald*. We give it entire, since it is one of the most important measures that has ever been brought before the people.

We urge upon every citizen the importance of reading the bill and digesting it well before deciding upon their course of action in regard to it. It is plain and easily understood, and we hope every voter in Montana will, after reading it, be governed by his own judgment. We do not feel inclined to bias the opinion of any one, and hence shall not attempt to make an argument. We are in need of a railroad. It would revive the energies of the country, cause it to settle up rapidly, its mines to be developed to a degree little dreamed of to-day, but the principle of letting railroad companies build their own roads is unquestionably the safest. It involves no risk on the part of the people, and admits of no possibility of a steal, while extending aid in any shape opens up a possibility for a swindle. The Northern Pacific bill is one of the safest we have ever read. It seems to involve no risk other than the question as to the amount of traffic we will yearly be able to send over the road, which, though the amount is not certainly known, it is fair to presume will pay sufficient—at least in the course of a few years—to save the Territory from cost. And if any swindle comes of it, we think it will be by future legislation. There are times when people find it very much to their interest to aid public enterprises. As to whether that time has arrived to the people of Montana, remains for them to decide. We are prepared to accept their verdict, be that as it may, without any attempt to influence it to our liking, save by a brief reference to facts that will enable our readers to make up their minds intelligently, that in case they err it will be the result of incorrect judgment, and not of ignorance.

ON our agricultural page will be found the description of a new method of destroying grasshoppers. By this we perceive that the Minnesota farmer can easily destroy the grasshoppers that hatch out upon his premises, but still finds it difficult to master those which hatch out on the commons. While our Montana farmers, by running their ditches full of water, are effectually fortified against the latter, they have yet hit upon no means by which to destroy the former; and thus if the mode spoken of proves a success, our farmers may battle with these pests very effectually. Especially can this be done in the spring when crops suffer most. And usually the best plan to avoid the destruction by emigrant grasshoppers, is to sow early that grain may be so far advanced when they come that they will do it but little injury.

IT IS TIME our people were beginning to learn to be self sustaining. We are purchasing too many articles in the east that should be purchased at home. Grain can be grown as cheaply here as in most of the States. Hogs can be raised here with as much success as anywhere; yet we are buying bacon in the States. Thousands of dollars are paid out yearly for canned fruits and vegetables; yet vegetable growing here cannot be beaten. Small fruits may also be raised in great abundance.

If our farmers would only turn their attention to these things, it would be a great saving to the Territory. To say the least, enough can be supplied for one's own family, which would be a great improvement upon the present mode.

WE call the attention of our numerous mining patrons to our mining department. It is a new feature in the HUSBANDMAN, introduced with a view to the benefit of a large class of our patrons, who patronize our paper for general information, but are in no wise interested in "deep plowing." We invite our friends who are interested, to contribute to this column.

IT IS our intention to publish, from time to time, as we can get possession of them, the most important laws passed by the recent Legislature.

SATURDAY morning we mounted our horse and started out for a few day's visit among the stock ranches of the east side. We found less snow upon the mountains than we ever saw before at this season of the year; yet the grades were full, making travel for several miles rather tedious. Where a year ago the snow was five feet deep upon a level, it is now less than a foot. Now, the dug-ways are only full; then travel made its way over snow banks ten to twenty feet in depth. Two miles beyond the range we came to Mr. Alexander Watson's sheep rancho. Here in the midst of the lofty snowy peaks of the Rocky mountains, within two miles of the summit, Mr. W. is wintering his little flock of two hundred sheep, without hay or feed other than what they are able to forage from the hillsides. It is a little remarkable to see this miners' home converted into a sheep rancho. The sheep are doing well and show but little sign of scab, notwithstanding they were driven from Red Bluffs, California the past summer.

Three and a half hours after leaving Diamond we arrived at Rader's rancho. While our obliging host, Mr. E. J. Harris—merchant and landlord—was preparing dinner, we sauntered forth to reconnoiter Auerbach & Rader's flock and sheep sheds. The former are not in the best condition, being very thin and afflicted with the scab. The latter was built of small fencing poles, and covered with willows and hay—a good covering, and a good shed if the walls had only been proof against the winter blasts. But they were rather low and altogether too temporary.

Leaving our horse here, we walked over to Camp Baker, one mile distant, pulled at the fist of Major Reed and Captain Clifford, called on our friend Gaddis, attended the sale of Government stock, met many of the most prominent citizens of the valley and some from the Missouri valley, then turned ourself about for J. T. Moore's, about twelve miles to the north. We called by the way, on Mr. Stephens, and looked through his flock of sheep, numbering one thousand three hundred, which notwithstanding it is their first winter in the country, are in good condition, and owing to their having been dipped since their arrival, show but little sign of scab. This flock is of the Spanish Merino breed. We were shown the big calf which, owing to the fact of its being a heifer, will be pretty hard for our ranchmen to beat.

Bidding our friends good-day, we went on our way, arriving at our destination in good time. Mr. Moore has an excellent rancho, good house, commodious stables and pastures, and is getting out poles to fence in a large meadow the coming summer. Mr. M. had no fine stock to tempt us with, his entire herd being upon the Muscleshell, from which place he had just returned. He reports stock interests in that section flattering, and likely to improve with each succeeding year.

Sunday evening we rode over to L. Lewis' Beaver Creek rancho. This is, we believe, the best thoroughbred stock rancho in Meagher county, and is not second to many in Montana, so far as our knowledge extends. The residence is neat and sufficiently commodious, and built of large hewed logs, with a dirt roof, and a large bay window fronting the road, in which we noticed a number of rare and beautiful house plants which added much to the coziness of the room within—rather a new feature for a frontier home. Having spent a few hours in pleasant conversation, we sallied forth to see what we could find that would be of interest to our readers. To those who are looking for romance, we would say we saw nothing calculated to please them. But the lover of stock may follow us with some degree of interest. We first visited the poultry yard, saw a nice lot of graded fowls and several of fancy breeds, among which was a pair of brahmas imported from the east last summer, and a fine cochon hen which is a remarkable layer, having upon one occasion laid three eggs in one day, one of which contained a double yolk. Her eggs are usually double yolked. From the chicken house, we went to the sheep corral. This is one hundred and twelve feet square, built of large pine logs with the cracks well daubed with mud, and sheded on three sides with a shed fourteen feet deep and twenty-six feet on each side. It is covered with pine boughs and wild rye grass, making it the most substantial sheep quarters on the val-

ley. Mr. L.'s flock of 1350 sheep are looking finely. Some little scab makes its appearance in spots here and there, but nothing serious. With quarters like these, there are no chances to take, be the winter ever so severe. Mr. L. is crossing his flock with half-breed cotswolds, and intends to import thoroughbred rams the coming summer. From this we went to the cow yard, and saw several very fat cows whose great amount of flesh seemed a burden to them. It would be impossible to convince any but Montanians that such cattle are to be found in the midst of winter on our range. His thoroughbred shorthorn bull is in fine condition, but he has the advantage of hay. Belknap, the property of Messrs. Moore & Freeman, is at present quartered here, and is thriving finely in his new home. We noticed a few good graded cows and calves, but the principal portion of Mr. L.'s herd is on the Muscleshell. Mr. L. has three thoroughbred Alderneys—two cows and one two-year-old bull. Each of the cows has a calf and they furnish the entire family with butter, besides some to sell. We next examined the swine, and found them to be as fine a type of Berkshire as we ever saw in any country. This is Mr. L.'s favorite breed of hogs. He says he can produce two pounds of flesh on this breed with the same amount of food required to produce one pound on a common hog. Evening coming on, we gathered in the pleasant family circle and were entertained with some excellent music by Miss Kennicot assisted by Mrs. L. Among the many pieces performed, was one of Sankey's favorite hymns. We retired early, arose early, and proceeded to the California sheep rancho near Benton gulch. We found our friend, Mr. L. D. Burt, busy at work doctoring a few sheep that were beginning to show signs of scab. Mr. B.'s flock were driven from California last season and did not arrive at their present winter quarters until the latter part of October; yet they are fat and remarkably healthy. Mr. B. has a good double corral with a shed across one end, and running against a hill. It is about thirty by one hundred and fifty feet, built of logs and covered with willows and dirt, affording a dry, warm house. His double corral, with shute arranged with gate to swing either way, for the purpose of separating those which are diseased from the balance of the flock, is something for many of our new beginners to learn.

After spending a few hours here, we returned to Diamond, having had a pleasant trip, but with many regrets that we were unable to visit the stock ranches upon the upper portion of the valley. But as we had the pleasure of seeing most of the stock men from that section, we beg their indulgence, promising to pull their latch-string the next time we cross the mountains.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Telegraphic advices from Washington state that the House committee on appropriations has decided to report a reduction of the salaries of Territorial officers, which are appointed by the Government. It is proposed to reduce the salary of the Governor, and Supreme Court Judges to \$2,500, and a reduction of the salary of Secretary \$500.

Gold opened on the 18th, at 113, advanced 113½, and afterward receded to 113. The carrying rates were 5, 2, 3½, 4 and 3 per cent.

Money on call loans was quiet at 5 and 6 per cent. Prime discounts are unchanged. Foreign exchange closed steady. Prime asking rates, 4.86; selling rates, 4.85½ and 4.88½ a 4.89; reichmarks, 95½ and 96½; cables, 97 a 97½; prime Paris, 5.13½ and 5.11½.

Dr. Linderman has informed the House Committee on coinage and weights and measures, that he sees no necessity at present for the establishment of a new mint in the West.

There is no doubt that the telegraphic correspondence which has been pending for some days between the Department of State and Minister Schenck is concerning his probable resignation.

Sherman is the best authority for stating that the steamer Despatch, which has been reported by telegrams from this city as being prepared here to go to sea with sealed orders, supposed to have connection with Cuban matters, will not depart with sealed orders. She is at the Washington Navy yard being put in order for sea service.

The *Times* Washington special says. "To-day the Committee on the Pacific Railroad will take action on Scott's scheme, and from a careful canvas of the Committee there is no doubt but they will make a favorable report on the bill. The rumors to the effect that the Committee will tie on the question being far from true. There will be a majority of three at least out of the 13 members."

Pools selling for the mile race began to-night. There was a large attendance and bidding was lively. The first pool, Rutherford sold for \$1000; Change, \$12½; Katie Pease, \$25; Revenue Jr., Golden Gate, Foster and Hock Hocking, \$25 each. Subsequently Rutherford sold for \$100; Chance 37½; Pease, \$22½; Golden Gate, \$20; field \$30. Closing sale, Rutherford, \$100; Pease, \$32½; Chance, \$27½; Golden Gate, \$20; field \$25. Grimsted will not start.

The ship W. J. Hatfield, from Philadelphia for Bremenhaven, was discovered at sea dismasted and waterlogged, by the bark Flake, which sent off a boat, but it could not get alongside. Three men jumped overboard one of whom was drowned and two were picked up. The remainder of the crew could make no effort to save themselves, being exhausted for want of food and water. The Flake hove too from six in the evening until the following morning, but during the night the vessel went down with all on board.

A fire broke out in Rutland, Vt., to-night, destroying the Bates House, *Herald* office, and several other buildings. The loss has not yet been ascertained.

The inflationists in the House seem to have got full control of the caucus, as shown by the complexion of the caucus committee appointed yesterday. Of the nine members of the committee representing the House, five are inflationists and four nominally advocates of hard money. The five inflationists are in favor of the repeal act of 1875, requiring the resumption of specie payments Jan. 1, 1879, and doing nothing more.

## SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

## To Our Patrons Throughout the Territory.

We are preparing our circular for 1876, and desire cordially to thank you for your patronage and support during the past nine years, and venture to hope that by square and liberal dealing we may merit your continued confidence. Would solicit special attention of persons who have purchased machinery of any kind from other parties in the Territory or in the east, wishing repairs. They should not delay sending their orders later than March first, as we make our requisition for the coming season at that time. Threshers, Engines, Saw Mills, etc., will not be ordered unless by special request.

T. C. Power &amp; Co.

Helena, Montana, December 30, 1875.

## To the Dry Goods Trade.

Under our CASH SYSTEM of doing business, we propose to sell goods at such SWEEPING REDUCTIONS as to make it to the interest of the cash paying portion of the trade to buy their goods at HOME instead of sending money OUT OF THE COUNTRY for anything in the

## DRY GOODS LINE.

Having taken the lead, and put down the prices of goods in this market, we continue to offer superior inducements, and propose not only to meet the market prices, but will CUT UNDER in every instance FOR CASH. Buyers will please examine the market, and then compare our prices with others. ORDERS SOLICITED. Samples and prices sent on application.

J. R. BOYCE &amp; CO.

Helena, December 2, 1875.

## Interesting to Cash Buyers of Dry Goods.

GOODS AT THE LOWEST PRICES, IN A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF FIVE PER CENT. FOR CASH.—Notwithstanding the great reduction in the selling prices of our goods, which brings them down to figures as low, and LOWER than any prices that have been or are quoted, either in circulars for advertisements by competing houses, we propose to make still further concessions to our customers by allowing, for the next ninety days, a special discount of FIVE PER CENT. on all CASH purchases amounting to five dollars and upwards.

SANDS BROS.

Helena, December 2, 85.

## Brown &amp; Weisenhorn.

CARRIAGE AND WAGON MANUFACTORY.—This is the largest establishment of the kind in the Territory, and is turning out work equal to the best in East. Our Horse Shoeing Department is under the supervision of the best horse shoer in Montana, and we are prepared to do work in this line to the satisfaction of any one who may favor us with their patronage.

Give us a Trial.

BROWN &amp; WEISENHORN.

Helena, December 2, 1875.