

## Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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THERE is a desire on the part of many of our citizens to have our Legislature make some alteration in our school law; amend it so as to do away with the office of County School Superintendent. There are many of our best citizens that believe it would be economy, and in no wise, effect the efficiency of our public school system, and to substantiate these conclusions, they refer to the inefficiency of a large majority of these officers. Now, we are not inclined to favor any change likely to be made, for it is certainly a very important office. Education of the young should certainly be the first concern of our intelligent people; it is the very foundation of true greatness, and every means to promote our public school system should be employed. We are well aware that thousands of dollars of the people's money have been squandered on these officers without a particle of benefit being derived therefrom; but this has not been because there was nothing for them to do, no duties to perform. On the contrary, they have a broad field in which to labor, and could if they would properly apply themselves, as fairly earn the fees allowed by law, as any other officer. We regret that there is so little attention paid to the duties of this office by those who have been chosen, and if the future is to be marked by the same indisposition, indolence and neglect, it would, of course, be economy to abolish the office altogether. But we believe some measures may be taken to compel a performance of the duties devolving upon such an officer—in which case as much good would result from the money spent in this way, as would result from it if devoted to the pay of teachers. One of the greatest evils from which we suffer, is the want of competent teachers, for this, the superintendent is, in a great measure, responsible. A teacher may have a brilliant education and still not be competent to instruct children. It is much easier to impart instruction to a class of advanced students than to those who are only in the primary branches. A child, for instance, needs more attention while learning to read than at any other time. How often is it that when a class of little fellows are called up to recite, the teacher, instead of giving them his undivided attention, is working an example in mathematics for some of the larger scholars, while the class mumble away and get through the best they can, and as they retire to their seats, are told to get the next lesson. Thus, through the negligence of teachers, habits of stammering and blundering are formed, and the possibility of the pupils mastering the greatest of accomplishments known to the common school—that of becoming a good reader—is forever ruined.

It devolves upon the Superintendent to visit the schools, learn the manner in which they are conducted, and if necessary, take charge of the school and illustrate the proper and best method by practical example. He should also be prepared to make a few pleasant remarks to enliven and make the school feel cheerful, study to make the children love him, that they will strive to make advancement ere he would come again, and would all give him a cordial welcome. It these, and the many other obligations devolving upon the County Superintendent, were well and faithfully performed, the small sum allowed by the law, as it stands at present, could not be more judiciously expended, and the people would soon become convinced of its importance and necessity.

The season has arrived for farmers to select their reading matter for the coming year. Good papers and magazines are a source of knowledge, pleasure and profit. The home that is well supplied with these, is not merely a stopping place; it has about it something that may be enjoyed—a wife of some intelligence, bright sunny faced children, all the modern appliances of cozy neatness, which require nothing but intelligence and a little systematic labor. To this end we are offering the HUSBANDMAN in connection with some of the best journals published, at a much less rate than the same amount of choice reading matter and practical information can be had from any other source.

ONE of the most important duties of the present Legislature, is to make some changes in our present stock laws. The measures suggested in our last issue, in regard to making it a finable offense to brand another's stock, whether by mistake or otherwise, and make the owners of rams which are allowed to escape and enter another's flock during a certain season, responsible for the damage done, are very important. It is equally necessary for our horse interest, that the law respecting stud colts be altered. At present, such colts are allowed to run at large until two years old, which often comes in June or July, while the colt may do as much damage during the spring previous, as if two years old. The law should be so altered as not to allow these colts to run at large after the first of March, of the year in which they would become two years old.

THE first number of the new publication, *Lewis' Rural*, the advertisement of which will be found elsewhere, made its appearance this week. It is handsomely gotten up and neatly printed journal, and has a very able corps of writers. Prominent among these are many of the old contributors of the *Western Rural*, Mr. Lewis' old paper. Mr. H. N. Maguire, late of Montana, who is well and favorably known throughout the Territory, is contributing a series of articles devoted to eastern Montana, entitled "The New North-west," in which the wealth and attractiveness of our young and promising Territory are brilliantly illustrated. These articles, so far as we have seen, are founded upon facts, and will no doubt be of good service to our Territory. Mr. Lewis was the former proprietor of the *Western Rural*, but his unceasing warfare upon monopoly combined against him this element, which attempted to crush him to the earth, but truth smitten to the ground will rise again. The new paper is furnished at the extreme low price of \$1.50 per year.

THE Governor's message to the tenth session of the Montana Legislature, now assembled at Helena, is a concise and practicable document. The recommendations, would if heeded, prove beneficial to the people. Unlike former messages, the subject of railroad subsidy is only mentioned in brief, without reference to what would be a proper course to pursue. This is evidence that the Governor, like many other anti-subsidy men of Montana, has been converted over to the faith. But we believe that our executive is by no means fanatical, and trust will, if these matters be laid before him be governed by the same spirit of economy and judicious actions which dictated his message.

WE would again refer our law-makers to the necessity of protecting the feathered tribe. At the convention of governors, held at Omaha, Oct. 25, 1876, this was one of the most important recommendations, it being the opinion of that body, that birds are the most formidable enemy to grasshoppers that can be found, besides they are comparatively harmless.

LIKE upon like has been given upon this subject of caring for machinery; yet, how many farmers heed it not. Fully one-half of the sulky and gang plows in the Territory are standing in the field, with the shares buried in the half cut furrow where it was last used. This is not economy. Sun and storm rusts racks and ruins machinery worse than constant use.

USE judgment and forethought in all your undertakings. Weigh well the subject before drawing conclusions. Never allow yourself to fly into a passion. Always consider before you speak, remembering that words once spoken can never be recalled, but will stand against you for all time. Be kind and courteous to all. Win the love and respect of even the lowest, always measuring your duties by the purest standard of a gentleman or a lady.

OUR farmers are buoyant with the hope of good crops the coming season. Every indication points in this direction, and we trust their anticipations may be realized.

THE supply of farm products in the Territory is so scant at present that our granaries will be entirely empty before another crop is harvested. And, even if our entire agricultural population put forth an extraordinary effort, and are blessed with full crops, it is not at all likely that prices will decline below what will be fair and remunerative.

## TERRITORIAL NEWS.

From the Missoulian, Jan. 9.

J. P. McClain passed through town last week with a short horn bull he had purchased at Helena. He has the finest stock range in this county, and he intends to raise nothing but first-class stock. He has been unfortunate with his horses, about thirty of them having died since he lived on his present place.

From the New North-West, Jan. 12.

We notice a few bars of bullion from the Dexter mill laying in the express office. The mill has been running recently on low grade ores, but doing first-rate work. There are two hundred tons of rich La Plata ore yet to receive on the contract, but the mill caught up with the miners and so is running on other ores until the La Plata gets ahead again.

From the Helena Independent, Jan. 14.

Dr. A. H. Mitchell was yesterday summoned to Butte to attend upon Mr. Charles Murphy, who while working in his saw mill, was caught by the belt and drawn under the fly wheel, and terribly mangled.

## LEGISLATIVE.

HELENA, January, 12, 1877.

The Legislature is in session and Helena is happy. The hotels are filled to overflowing with guests. The saloon-keepers have their counters and signs painted afresh, their white shirts on, and a genial smile lights up their countenances, while the boot-black, who has been spitting and puffing and rubbing half the night, is not at all drowsy—his dull grin has been melted by bright thoughts which give him a pleasant look. Even the signs along the streets, which in other days would appear weary, are now humming and singing and chuckling and chiming to the tune of "We are happy, we're hap-pap-py."

While it is true that both bodies of the Legislature have not yet completed their organization, it must be admitted that they have worked diligently and have doubtless served their country in doing nothing better than previous Legislatures have done during the first week of their sessions. The first two days they "put in" were devoted principally to taking recess, walking to and from the hall, adjourning, testing the nerves of the aspirants for the minor offices, the qualities of cigars, and other "necessaries of life," such as are most generally brought in sight about election times, or when a speedy and familiar acquaintance is desired. It is thought that if the two bodies agree upon law making as well as they do in regard to taking recess and adjourning, when they do get organized and started they will either make a number of good laws or adjourn and go home. No work was done by either house until Wednesday, when the Council, controlled by some strange freak, elected all its officers except the President, and took a recess to await the action of the House; but that body had not got in trim to do business, so it took a half-hour's recess to let the Council finish its arduous duties by electing its President. When the hour arrived for the Council to resume business, one of the members who was late getting to his seat was reported "sick," and so they adjourned to 10 o'clock the next day. The House resumed business at 3 o'clock p. m., and after a call of the house which took up considerable time on account of one of the members being absent, a motion was made to adjourn to 10 a. m., next day, but failed to prevail; so they balloted several times for speaker, but without resulting in a choice. Messrs. Sam. Word, A. E. Mayhew and R. O. Hickman were the prominent candidates. On Thursday, at 11½ o'clock, the House, on the twenty-third ballot, elected A. E. Mayhew, of Deer Lodge, Speaker, and took a recess until 2 p. m. During the recess the Democrats took a kind of *ante-mortem* caucus examination, which was made quite as terrible to some of the aspirants for office as the returning boards of the South, by counting out and counting in. The work of "fixing things" was soon got to revolve upon the proper axle, by that noted personage whose knowledge and legal ability has long raised him into the highest circle of (dis)honor, and made him the chief light of alcoholic aristocracy. A. H. Barret, of Madison, and — McKiernan, of Choteau, being the only two persons outside of Helena

who reached within the capital family circle. It seemed strange, too, that even Madison and Choteau should be counted in, but when it is understood that the former county had a strong candidate for the speakership, and that Choteau county is in perfect harmony on matters of trade, subsidy and situation, their recognition is plain and could not be ignored. Now that the work of organizing the House is completed, the several clergymen of the city have been invited to open each day's session with prayer. The unsuccessful aspirant for door-keeper, from Missoula county, has gone on his one-hundred-and-fifty-mile journey home, while the seats of office-seekers from Meagher, Jefferson and Beaverhead, in the lobby, have been vacated, and the happy family are hovering around the Legislative halls, counting their *per diem* and drawing their pay.

Saturday, January 13.

Yesterday the Council got in a hurry, and went to balloting in earnest for President. Beginning with the 16th ballot, they kept it up from 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock, m. nearly every member in the body being complimented by getting in the "one hole." i. e., coming within one of being elected. Dr. Mitchell, of Deer Lodge, however, held his four or five votes. Cullen commenced with one and raised to five, then fell back to one, and as he went back, McAdow climbed up the ladder to the sixth round, where he held on for a few ballots, and seeing that the tide was about to change for Watson, and also that a new star from Jefferson was dawning in the mystic sea, he (McAdow), on the 25th ballot, withdrew. But no sooner had the new star gotten fairly into the firmament than the clouds of the west side broke away and Bass, of Missoula, came up with two votes; then three, then four, then five, while Watson fell back to two. On the 64th ballot, Mitchell, who had held his 5, moved to take five minutes' recess. The ballot stood, Mitchell 5, Watson 1, Bass 1, Lewis 6. Then came recess, after which the 64th ballot was taken, which gave Mitchell 3, Lewis 6, Watson 3, Bass 1; and the Council adjourned to 10 o'clock next day.

The east side seemed to have the balance of power, and the west side candidates were losing ground, but on resuming business this morning, Dr. Mitchell withdrew his name as a candidate and placed W. E. Bass, of Missoula, in nomination. The first ballot revealed the fact that the friends of Watson and Mitchell had compromised, and the seconding of the nomination of Bass by Mr. Cullen showed that he (Bass) was the coming man. The ballot resulted in giving Bass 6, Lewis 6 and Waterbury 1. The second ballot of that day gave Bass 6, Lewis 5, Brown 1, Blank 1; and on the next, the 68th ballot, the teller counted "Bass two, Lewis three; Bass four, Lewis 6; Bass 6;" then there was a breathless silence. The lobby, which was crowded, was so quiet that you could have heard a pin drop on the floor. Finally, the teller turned the last ballot and counted "Bass two," giving him seven votes, and electing him by a majority of one.

A joint committee of the two houses waited upon the Governor and notified him of their readiness for business, and in the afternoon the message of his Excellency was delivered to each of the houses.

Just what the Legislature is going to do is hard to tell. One of the members was heard soliloquizing to-day, in this way: "One week is gone, and I'm glad of it. If we've done no good, I'm certain we have done no harm." A number of railroad bills have been prepared, and will be introduced early in the session. A North and South bill, asking a subsidy, and a bill asking a subsidy for a road from the Missouri river east of Meagher county, to run across the Territory to the Columbia river, will be introduced. The Benton and Helena railroad bill will also come up for further legislation, to which will be coupled a bill levying a moderate tax on bullion. A majority of the members of both houses are interested in mining, but they take a reasonable view of the taxation question, and it is generally conceded that a bill creating a revenue from the mines will receive favorable consideration; yet if the legislation is controlled by the same distinguished "lords" that had the "fixing up" of the minor offices of the House, we may expect but little legislation which does not give the happy family of the capital the lion's share. WILL.