



R. N. SUTHERLIN, - Editor

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ELECTRIC light wires are dangerous to the touch, often producing instantaneous death. The current over them when in operation is very powerful, and exert a strong influence upon any conductor with which they come in contact.

A NEW difficulty has arisen in regard to the Chinese. The importation of Chinese to the United States having been stopped, the people of this nationality are now dodging the point by shipping Chinese women to British Columbia, from whence they are conveyed to California.

THE march of prohibition is onward and westward, and should it continue to grow as it has for the past few years, it will soon make itself felt in the councils of the nation. We doubt the wisdom of the measures prohibition leaders, yet there is no question that many have been won over to the cause, and there is a strong probability of its being sooner or later forced upon the country.

THE completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad will open to us the immense plains of the Pacific slope. This will be a boon to the farmers in those valleys of Montana traversed by the road, as it will enable them to get building material of the very best quality at a very reasonable figure. They can then erect commodious dwellings, barns and granaries so very reasonable that they cannot afford to do without them. And it is not improbable that lumber will in a few years become so cheap that board fences will come into use. These will be preferable for many purposes to either posts or wires.

MANY agricultural writers are beginning to advocate the abolition of fences for farm purposes and the adoption of the system in vogue in Dakota and other vast prairie regions. But it does not occur to us that it would be any improvement upon the popular mode. It is true the cost of providing and keeping up fences is very great, but the convenience that it assures fully repays this. The system of herd laws are not at all adapted to a pastoral country. In exclusive grain growing and in old settled districts such might possibly be adopted with profit, but even then fences are preferable, as they enable the use of the fields after harvest for pasture for the necessary farm stock.

THE educational interest of the Territory are of too much importance for the wants of any town, section or community to be ignored by the present Legislature. The country is new and is greatly in need of institutions of learning. These it is too poor to build by direct taxation, hence the Legislature will be called upon to grant enabling acts, allowing districts to sell bonds for the purpose of raising the required funds. This is the only system that presents itself that is commendable. A perpetual tax to raise the annual interest is far preferable to a direct tax. Then it should be understood that these institutions are built for the benefit of the rising generation, who can better afford to pay for them than they can to do without them. Money invested in school houses and in carrying on schools is not squandered, but is like "bread cast upon the waters," and will be a boon to the rising generation.

MONTANA has had during its brief existence fewer merchants in proportion to the amount of merchandise consumed than any State or Territory in the Union, and the trade has been principally confined to a few leading towns. There has not in fact been a sufficiency of dealers to meet the demands of the country, since farm supplies, household goods, etc., articles of difficult transportation, have had to be sent a hundred miles and more by coach, making the building of a comfortable frontier home costly indeed. But this era is at an end. The railroads will bring an army of merchants, towns will spring up all along their lines and every promising point throughout the Territory will have its merchants. Trade will be revolutionized. In the years that are past it required an immense capital to do a successful trade here, as enough goods had to be shipped in the summer to last the entire year. But another year, when shipments may be made at any season, men of small capital can do a fair business, and there will be hundreds of ventures. The Territory has recorded fewer failures in business than probably any other, but with the new order of things this can scarcely be maintained, for although sales will be cash,

the margin will be less and competition will be too sharp for all to thrive. To the wide-awake and enterprising there is a good field, but he who waits to be pushed along to fortune by the tide of events will get left. The merchants of Montana will henceforth have to be up and doing.

SUN RIVER ITEMS.

SUN RIVER, M. T., December 31, 1882.
Editor Husbandman:
If I was asked to-day to name the richest valley, and the most fertile, beautiful and promising in Montana, I should say Sun River without hesitation. There may be others that will be and others again that have been, but to-day Sun River is first I think. No better farms can be found in the Territory than are there; no better stock range, nor one so likely to last, as there; no finer dwellings dot any land than are to be seen in this valley, which are the homes of prosperous farmers and stockmen. There is a well watered stock range extending to Benton and the Teton on the north and to the Missouri river on the south, upon which thousands of cattle graze and will graze for years to come for the reason that it is not adapted for sheep, the range killer. Messrs. O. H. Churchill, R. Ford, James Adams, Thomas Dunn, Wm. Mulkey, R. Vaughn, Montana Cattle Company, John Largent, John Spencer and Samuel Spencer are some of the principal cattle owners, and who count their cattle by thousands. The days of scrub stock are passed and hundreds of thoroughbred bulls have taken the place of the old-time long-horn scrub. There are also many valuable bands of horses in the valley, Robert Vaughn owning probably the best; and in horses, too, the cause has gone and given place to large States mares, whose progeny will soon occupy the land, to the entire exclusion of the Indian plug. These fair farms, great herds of cattle and horses—these are what make the Sun River the richest valley in the Territory.

At Sun River Crossing is a town which bears that name, and to which the settlers within some 50 miles around gather to buy their groceries, dry goods and machinery. Mr. George Steele, who owns the principal store there, has sold during the past year about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of goods and farm machinery. He has a store some 75 feet long, and carries some 200 feet of shelving, which is always full. He has also about fifty feet of shelving in another part of the building devoted entirely to crockery. Mr. Steele carries an immense stock of clothing, and one can fit out in his store for the round-up or for a wedding. This year he made the finest display of Christmas goods that I have ever seen in the Territory.

Steele & Co. also have a store in the town and carry principally groceries, drugs and notions.

Mr. E. B. Largent has a flour and feed store, and buys hides, pelts, etc.

Mr. Corson has a blacksmith and carriage shop.

Messrs. Hull & Wood have a carpenter shop, and are always busy.

Mr. Nixon has a livery stable, which is always crowded.

Many new buildings have gone up in the town during the past summer and fall, and many more will be built in the spring, among which will be a store, a billiard hall, and a Masonic hall, as there is talk of starting a lodge there.

There is talk of starting a racing association, which will lay out a race course and build fair buildings. There is also talk of forming a company to dam the river at what is known as Priest's Rapids, and utilize the power to run a woolen mill and other factories. Also to take out a canal that will carry water to irrigate many thousand acres of land lying southeast from there. These prospects are, as I say, only talked of as yet, but the people who talk of them have the will and the means to start and carry them through if they wish. All these things and the fact that the little town will at no distant day be a county seat make the future of this town very promising. And a person need but to ride through this valley in June to be sure of its beauty and fertility.

Of the people I have said nothing, for they are Montanians, and old-timers at that—men who have worked years for wealth to take back to their boyhood homes in the States, and when at last they have it fairly within their grasp, find that they have lost all desire to live anywhere else than in Montana, and one by one they have gone on a brief visit to their old homes, and when they returned their comrades and friends had to welcome not only their returned friend, but that friend's bride, and are advised to "go and do likewise," and they have gone and are happy, I suppose. D. B. H.

TERRITORIAL.

Deer Lodge school district last year had 303 children of school age. This year it has 386, a gain of 83, or 27 per cent. over last year.—*New North-West.*

In 1881, there were 550 loads of Montana freight transferred at Mandan going east; in 1882 there were 1,147.

The completed Northern Pacific will measure from Lake Superior to Portland 1,922

miles, or over the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound, when the branch is built, 1,927 miles.

The Yellowstone Park railway is to have a capital stock of \$6,000,000, of which Superintendent Hobart, late of the Dakota division of the Northern Pacific is to have control.

New freight contracts between merchants and the Utah & Northern will probably not be made before March, but when made will include all freights received since January 1st.—*Herald.*

The following is the present equipment of the Northern Pacific road: Box cars, 2,262; stock cars, including twenty bloway cars, 505; flat cars, 1,959; coal cars 39; refrigerators, 10; boarding, 72; cabooses, 85; miscellaneous, 32; coaches 73; engines, 175, besides new engines coming forward and 50 new coaches contracted for; Pullman sleepers, 12.

The *New North-West* states that at 5 o'clock Thursday evening, Royal Towsley, convicted of grand larceny and serving a seven year term in the penitentiary, escaped through the fence. Towsley was one of the men employed in A. J. Davidson & Co.'s saddlery shop, and it is presumed escaped just after being released from the shop. He is five feet nine and a half inches high, weighs 165 pounds, and has a large scald mark on his back between the shoulders.

News reached Helena yesterday that the court house and Foster's saloon in Benton had been entirely consumed by fire, the flames originating in the latter building. Several other houses in the vicinity of the conflagration were more or less damaged. The stock in the dry goods store of Baker & Delorimer was injured, the goods being roughly handled and dumped in the snow. It is rumored that the papers and records in the court house were destroyed, but no positive information has yet been received in Helena regarding the matter.—*Herald.*

The present Legislature has snigger and handsomer halls in which to hold its sessions than any previous Montana Legislature. The building, or rather the portion occupied, was built expressly for the use of this session, and it is well lighted, convenient and nicely fitted up. Not the least advantage is in having the Council and House in the same building and only separated by a door. Secretary McCutcheon has shown excellent taste in the general arrangement and furnishing of both halls, and has provided the Council chamber with a ladies' gallery, and also accommodations for such persons of distinction as are entitled to better seats than those to be found in the lobby.—*Independent.*

Seven thousand men are now working on the British Columbia section of the Canada Pacific Railway.

The first of the Mogul engines to be used in climbing the mountain grades on the Northern Pacific has been sent to the front.

The fine stallion, Superior, owned by Mr. V. A. Cockrell, Central Park, died Sunday night. The horse was a blooded animal with good pedigree, and his death is a great loss to breeders. The owner is desirous of replacing his loss, and will purchase at a good price a horse that suits him.—*Courier.*

It is rather surprising how Montana cattle can be shipped east to New York and Chicago, butchered and their flesh sold so reasonably, when the same cattle butchered on their native range in this Territory bring such enormous prices when retailed by the butchers.—*Courier.*

GENERAL NEWS.

DeLessep's latest scheme is the erection of an inland sea in Africa.

Herr Most's efforts in New York are not a success, most of the former Socialists being now property owners.

Miss Josephine C. Meeker, the daughter of the late N. C. Meeker, who was tortured and killed by Indians in the Ute massacre of 1879, died at Washington on the 1st inst.

According to the most reliable data the total accumulated wealth of the United States is \$50,000,000,000, and our total annual production is estimated at \$10,000,000,000.

A Pittsburg special says: The wife and two children of Thomas Johnson, living in Westmoreland county, at the foot of a mountain, were buried and suffocated by a land slide Wednesday.

A large freight depot building of the Norfolk and Western road at Zuni station, Va., was burned by an incendiary on the 5th.

Indian Agent Porter, at Fort Peck, Montana, telegraphs the Indian bureau that the Milk river country is overrun by white hunters, who are slaughtering the buffalo by thousands. The Indians are becoming restless, and the agent fears trouble. Military are wanted. Commissioner Price informed the agent that white hunters had no business there, and the Secretary of War will be asked to remove them.

General Chansey, a well known French general and life Senator died recently.

The Marquis of Lorne recently shipped four carloads of fine sheep to England as a present to his mother-in-law, the Queen.

The *Paix* denies that Gambetta's death produces any change in the foreign policy of a republic which neither desires nor favors wars, and adds that if forced into war by the action of any power, France would

undertake it without as it would have done with Gambetta.

The failures of the past seven days number 224. Eastern States 24, Western 72, Middle 38, Southern 42, Pacific 15, New York City 17, Canada 16. Compared with last week, this shows an increase of 31; but the number is doubtless swollen by numerous small assignments made at the close of the year, though the parties had virtually failed long before.

The Chicago Press Club has elected as President, W. E. Curtis, of the *Inter-Ocean*. Preparations for a railway exposition at Chicago are going rapidly forward, with every indication of its being a success.

Four masked men captured, bound and gagged four inmates of J. E. Arnold's farm house, two miles from Chicago, near Downer's Grove, Wednesday evening, and securing \$1,200 in cash, rode away on four of Arnold's horses.

The Director of the Mint reports gains in the metallic circulation by coinage and imports during the past six months of about \$24,000,000 in gold and about \$14,500,000 in silver.

The *Inter-Ocean* says: The California Democrats do not seem to be anxious for free trade in quicksilver. The tariff commission propose to put quicksilver on the free list. General Rosecranz replies that California produces half the quicksilver produced in the world, and that the Rothschilds, who control all the quicksilver mines in Australia and Spain, would, if quicksilver should be put upon the free list, ruin American industry.

The Grain Exchange will soon publish a carefully computed statement showing the amount of wheat now in the State, including that on ships in San Francisco Bay not yet cleared, to be 419,000 tons; barley, 89,000 tons. The amount of wheat exceeds the previous estimates of wheat men by from ten to thirty per cent.

A Milton, Ontario, special says: Michael O'Rourke, who murdered old man Maher and his daughter Jennie, was hanged on the 5th. He was firm to the last, and made no statement on the scaffold.

A special from Dayton, Ohio, says: Rev. Robert McMurry, a prominent Mason, in an interview denies that the reason Jeff. Davis was not published was because he was a Mason, this charge having been made by a religious paper. McMurry has a letter from Davis himself, regretting that he was never initiated.

A. J. Decker, agent of the Agricultural Department, says that Kansas is especially adapted to raising sorghum, and that with the improvements in its manufacture promises to be one of the largest sugar-growing States.

The total sales of seats for the Opera Festival at Cincinnati on the 4th realized \$33,217, of which \$17,297 are for premiums. Nearly one-third of all the seats in the house have been sold.

The weight of Gambetta's brain was eleven hundred grammes.

The reason for postponing Gambetta's funeral was to enable deputations from Alsace, Lorraine and other distant departments to attend.

A Varna special says: A Turkish officer insulted the Station Consul while walking the streets of Tripoli. The Consul struck and wounded the officer, and now the Moslems demand the punishment of the Consul.

The Keokuk elevator burned on the night of the 3th. It cost \$110,000 new and had extensive repairs. It was insured for \$30,000.

The connection between the Sunset route railroad of Texas and the Southern Pacific will be made on the 7th inst., which will give another continuous line from New Orleans to San Francisco.

A special from Springfield, Ill., says: The Springfield Iron Works will stop making steel rails and convert its mill into one of the largest in the country for making heavy plates and other commercial iron and steel. It will cost three-quarters of a million to make the change.

The receipts of the Chicago post office last year were \$877,000; expenses, \$567,000; net revenue, \$310,000. This is an increase of net revenue over that of 1881 of seventeen per cent., or \$22,300.

The Pullman company has built two cars and will build more of the same pattern, which are arranged with a small buffet or kitchen in which travelers can prepare tea or coffee, and containing along its shelves a variety of food. They are particularly desirable for excursions. One of them has been put on the track on the Rock Island road.

A special from Washington says: the Illinois Republican Congressmen unitedly support Dogan's opposition to the Porter bill. It is generally thought that the bill will die with the present Congress, even if the Senate passes it, for there are over two hundred Senate bills on the House table, and they can hardly be gotten out of the way, and a unanimous consent to consider the bill is impossible.

Private letters from St. Petersburg state that the Czar Sunday found in his bed room a letter from the revolutionary committee demanding a commencement of the promised reforms, and adds that the committee

possesses the power to forcibly obtain the concessions.

The Senatorial outlook of Michigan is complicated, and it is impossible to forecast the result. Ferry is the strongest candidate, but has not enough to elect him.

D. C. Dudley, Vice President of the Calumet Iron and Steel Company, of Chicago, says: "These mills will close January 15th for a month or six weeks on account of the low price of nails. About twenty thousand men will be thrown out of employment on account of the action of the nail manufacturers of the country, but part of them have some employment making repairs."

The Legislatures of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee and Nebraska met on the 21. The Legislature of Missouri met on the 3d, and that of Indiana convened on the 4th.

The President refused to pardon Dick Liddell, in jail at Huntsville, Ala., for mail robbery.

The river Rhine is higher than for a hundred years.

President Potter, of Union College, has been tendered the Presidency of Trinity College.

Lucius W. Ford, a Massachusetts State Senator, from Worcester, who, in 1876, was imprisoned for 12 years for forgery and embezzlement, was pardoned recently.

The House passed the Peadleton bill without amendment. Yeas, 155; nays, 47.

Joshua Gifford, aged seventy, residing near Granby, New York, on Tuesday, killed his wife, aged sixty. Gifford surrendered.

A popular writer, speaking of the ocean telegraph, wonders whether the news transmitted through the salt water will be fresh.

Several huge gaps have appeared in the walls of the central tower at Petersborough cathedral, and the tower will have to be demolished. The cathedral was one of the finest in the world.

Seventy houses have fallen at Badenheim in consequence of the flood. At Reckheim, Morsch and Oppou, 240 houses have fallen. At Vienna the danger is serious and preparations are being made to sound the alarm bells directly after the dykes show any signs of yielding.

A Berlin dispatch to the *New York Herald* says: In well informed circles a story is now circulating to the effect that Emperor Wilhelm on the 22d of March, which is his 86th birthday, will abdicate in favor of the Crown Prince.

Gambetta died with the old year, at midnight on December 31st. It is reported that the pistol wound which caused his death was inflicted by a well-known Jewess of Paris.

Sales of wives are becoming quite frequent. Within a short time a Maine man sold his better half for \$15; one in New Jersey disposed of his for goods valued at \$25; another in Maryland got \$100, and a few days ago Mr. Alfred Jenkins, of North Carolina, received \$500 down hard cash for Mrs. Jenkins, and all parties are reported satisfied with their bargains.

Senator Hoar's chances for re-election are said to be rather slim.

Prof. Wiggins sticks to it that we are to have a devil of a storm in March.

The Panama canal loan, which was placed successfully in France, is denounced as a great swindle; the canal will not be finished, and a crash is inevitable.

N. L. Dukes, the slayer of Captain Nutts, at Uniontown, Pa., was released last Friday on \$12,000 bail, Judge Wilson deciding that a case of wilful, premeditated murder had not been proven.

There are deep complaints of poverty and distress in Hungary, and loud outcries against the Jews, who are averred to have grown rich on the necessities of the poor.

Female children are sold from the establishment for foundlings at Canton for seventy-five cents each. Their future may be imagined. This commerce is not approved of by the government, it is said, but no means have been taken to crush it out.

Notwithstanding Prince Bismarck's objections, Roman letters are used in the text books of Prussian schools.

The Salvation Army meditates an East Indian campaign and the Mohammedans are actively organizing for a combat.

Joseph Rote jumped from a prison trying pan not exactly into the fire, when he escaped from the Baltimore penitentiary, and froze to death a mile from the Institution.

Col. Seth J. Thomas has obtained an order for a writ of error, in Boston, returnable in February, in the case of James Fitzgerald, alias "The Kid," now undergoing sentence for obtaining checks amounting to \$18,000 from Charles Francis Adams.

Dr. Bliss, it is said, "attempts to make some revelations in regard to the mysteries of Garfield's sick room that will be likely to astonish the country." The *post mortem* upon the body of the late President revealed some mysteries that astonished not only the country, but the doctors themselves.

Chicago will enter the new year with an empty treasury, with creditors clamoring for their pay, and the municipal authorities at their wits' end for expedients to raise money.

The home of Robert Tombs is close by the spot of his birth at Washington, Ga., and he has never lived permanently elsewhere.