ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN.

R. N. SUTHERLIN, - Editor

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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1884.

NEVER in the history of Montana did the horse interest look so encouraging as now. A larger number of well bred stallions and mares will be brought to the Territory this year than any previous season, and never did our people manifest such an interest in the equine race as now. So great is the progress that we feel assured that the time is not far distant when our oft-repeated assertion that Montana roadsters and flyers will eclipse the world, is near at hand. This is no idle boast; on the contrary it is based upon a train of facts that can scarcely fail to lead to such results. In the first place we have a hilly country and the soil of our pastural lands is rocky and sandy and grows the clear, tough hoof, ivory-like bone; powerful muscle ligaments and tendons that are an exception with the horses grown upon flat, soft rich soil of the states. This coupled with the rarity of our atmosphere, so improves the endurance and action as to warrant our conclusions. Even the horse bred in the States improves greatly by a few years residence here, and after we have grown a few generations of high blood, if we have not a race of horses that will be sought for, and nerve for service, long endurance and superior achievements, and if they do not step away from anything grown elsewhere, we miss our guess, and the low lands can walk away with our money.

IT is with no small degree of pleasure we note that the great scare in regard to the cattle plague of the States has subsided, the disease having been pronounced by the most learned veterinarian surgeons of the land to have been of local origin, and not the fatal foot and mouth disease of England. This certainly is a great relief to the cattle men of the far west, and especially Montana, since our Territory is to receive thousands of head of stock from the States this summer. The scare, however, should have a good effect. It develops the fact that the cattle growers of Montana are in a very helpless condition, and are not in shape to successfully battle against any threatening danger, no matter how disastrous to our interests it may appear, and should, we think, arouse them to the importance of organization. To cope successfully with any danger that may arise it is necessary that the entire interests throughout the length and breadth of the Territory be organized in order that it may have a voice as one man, and every section co-operate. We would therefore suggest that it would be well for our cattle men to organize in order that they may act in any emergency at a moment's notice. The round-up season is near at hand, and as every valley must have an organization of this kind, it would be just as well to organize in the proper shape, elect officers, adopt rules and regulations, and let these institutions rule the round-ups. This would greatly facilitate matters and would be the proper business-like way of doing things.

MONTANA possesses a wonderful climate, a rich and productive soil, a vast mineral wealth, great manufacturing and pastural resources, is unsurpassed for the picturesque beauty of her mountains and valleys, and is a very desirable place to make a home and a limited population can flourish here as in few other regions on earth. But all who may like a beautiful and happy home could not find remunerative industries to engage in, or room here to rear a green country home. There is therefore no necessity of heralding these facts to the world, since at the present rate of immigration we will soon have people enough. Yet while Montana cannot open her arms to all the world to come and make a permanent home in her midst, she can cheerfully extend to pleasure seekers, tourists and invalids and invitation to spend their summers here where the hot waves of the tropics never come, and where the summer season may be made one ceaseless round of pleasure. Two months sojourn among our mountains hunting, fishing, wandering among unbroken solitudes and scaling lofty mountains, will do more to restore the vigor of youth, bring the bloom of health to the faded cheeks and chase away the cares of the business world, than anything else that could be suggested. There are to be found here the purest elements that exist. The air and water is unsurpassed. There are also mineral waters of renowned virtue that are of themselves a great attraction, and were these facts as well advertised as are the superior advantages possessed by our country for home seekers, Montana would soon become the most noted retreat from the burning rays of the summer's sun, and the greatest health and pleasure resort in the Western World.

THE all-important topic in and about Montana's capital just now is the Helena and Fort Benton railroad. Probably no subject has lasted so well as this. It has been the theme of newspaper discussion at intervals the past eight or nine years, and is quite as fresh as ever, Time seems to have improved it. All efforts at securing the road by a subsidy from the people having vanished, it is now proposed to organize a company, sell stock, and build the road with the proceeds. The scheme is much better than to gull the tax-payers of the country into building it. As we have heretofore suggested this is the proper way to secure railroad communication between the two points named, and since the project seems to have assumed the proper shape, should enough money be raised among home capitalists to grade the road-bed, the work can be carried to completion with comparative ease, since by mortgaging the road-bed funds can be raised for its completion and the purchase of rolling stock. The route of this proposed road lies through a fine country which will be greatly improved by the railroad, and giving to the road an immense carrying business. Under the proposed plans we see no reasonable hindrance to a full realization of the objects sought. As to whether investment in the road will pay we are unable to state, but the road if built cannot fail to be of great benefit to Helena and Benton, the homes of the principal projectors. Helena is already having a great building boom, and definite steps insuring a railroad to the head of navigation will stimulate its growth very materially. Building and operating this road by home capital will have a good effect. The Wickes branch has been paying better than any road connected with the Northern Pacific, and as the Benton route touches a country of immensely large resources, the proposed road cannot fail to do a better business than the Wickes branch. Seeing this the Northern Pacific and other railroad companies will be stimulated to the building of more branch roads; and when the building of branch roads is once inaugurated, nearly every valley north and south of the main line will be invaded by the iron horse.

HINTS ABOUT WOOL GROWING.

Some Experiments and Results by an Experienced Breeder and Sheep Farmer.

Editor Husbandman:

I never buy a sheep because some certain person raised it, or because it is wrinkled, or smooth, or thoroughbred, or a grade. I buy a sheep only because it is the kind of a sheep I want, regardless of whether it was raised by a prince or a pauper, and the kind of a sheep I want is the sheep that makes me the most money. To suit me a sheep must be of good size and of such a build as is of itself a guarantee of constitution and endurance, and be well covered in all parts with a fleece of reasonable density and good length fiber, with as near approach to evenness in quality throughout the entire fleece as it is possible to secure. These rules are general in their application, I fancy, to all conditions of sheep husbandry, and will undoubtedly be concurred in by everyone except sheep shearers; they seem to be unanimous in the opinion that the sheep that carries the least wool and can be sheared with the fewest clips of the shears, is the desirable sheep in every particular. Our immediate conditions are such that we require a sheep which is by nature adapted to running in large herds. Our climate is such that a sheep well covered with a good dense fleece will thrive better than will one that is but poorly wooled with a fleece that is loose and open, while a fleece carrying a large percentage of yolk and gum is not only of very little value, but is absolutely no protection against the cold weather to which our sheep must necessarily be exposed. We conclude then that the sheep best suited to our conditions is the Merino and its grades.

Referring again to the question of Mr. Brown as to whether "sheep husbandry cannot be resorted to in our more thickly settled districts?" to afford us a profitable market from the products of our farms, I will say that it has for a long time been my opinion that this is the only true plan for sheep farming in Montana, and that eventually it will be largely adopted. I incline to the opinion that if exactly the class of weathers could be secured that are most desirable, that feeding them from yearlings past to three years old past, would perhaps be the pleasantest and most profitable branch of this kind of sheep farming to embark in; but as foot-rot is the scourge of those who buy sheep for feeding in the States, so would the scab be a constant annoyance with every new lot driven in from the western ranges to supply the feeders here. But still the prospect is far from discouraging. Take the darkest side: imagine a new era of "free trade" and competition with the cheap wool and cheap labor of Australia, South America and the Cape, and still there is remunerative returns for a good American Merino clothing wool, raised on the free summer pasturage and cheap lands of the west. Any good 160 acre farm will produce forage that will feed 2000 sheep five months, or from the first of November to the first of April. Such a flock made up of 1000 good thrifty young ewes with their increase for a year will make an annual return of at least $2,750, at *free trade* prices for the product of the flock—twelve and one-half cents per pound for wool and one dollar per head for sheep. Of course this system is supposed to carry only what sheep the farm can supply with forage through the winter, which means culling out and selling a flock of sheep every fall. Old and feeble sheep are not to be tolerated, and a crop of forage is not supposed to be as expensive as a crop of threshed grain delivered at the mill. The grain to be fed to the sheep should be sowed thick, cut while in the dough, bound in small bundles and fed in the sheaf, and always in the field. We have so little mud to contend with that racks are a nuisance not to be thought of. This system could be tried as an experiment by farmers clubbing together and making a partnership venture, which would enable them to have their sheep herded in summer and each one feed his own sheep in the winter, until they could become satisfied of the practicability of the scheme by actual working results. There are, however, some neighborhoods where the snow lays on so deep in winter that it would confine the sheep to the corral entirely. In such localities it is reasonable to suppose that the sheep would not do so well as they would when the conditions are such that they could have exercise in the fields or on the hills a few hours each day when the weather would admit. That this system will eventually be adopted by all Montana sheep men, it seems to me is not a matter of question; that they are rapidly adopting it is a fact, and this fact has attracted the attention of the farmers who have heretofore raised grain to sell in the half bushel and hay to sell in the stack. I am personally acquainted with several farmers who have assured me within the past year that they are shaping their business with the view to feeding their crops to sheep in the future, and with one who designs handling cattle in the same way. It is but a short time since that a large per centage of our population were looking to some distant land as a specially favored spot, with yearnings that could only be satisfied when they could shake from off their feet the dust of this dreadful inhospitable land. Now that the railroad has come and "ruined the country," very few seem anxious to go. The ranges from Texas to Washington are rapidly being circumscribed by settlers fencing up the water. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the history of other grazing countries will be repeated here, and the only conclusion that we can arrive at is that we must prepare to meet the altered conditions or go out of business. There are many places where a sufficient amount of water may be found to water a band of sheep, but there is not enough to irrigate a field of grain, but the soil is all that is desired. Now there is no question but that some kind of forage could be produced on many an acre of Montana land without any artificial irrigation, and it is time that experiments were commenced in earnest in this matter, for experience has taught us that when winter range is at its best it is too uncertain to be relied upon. We made an experiment with rye last year: sowed it in August, '83, stacked it in June, '84; we sowed one bushel to the acre. It grew very heavy and rank and turned thirty large loads off of five acres. We were apprehensive that it was too large and course for sheep feed, but when winter set in in earnest, we found that a good lot of bright, green forage was a pretty good thing to have. Our rams and horses have all wintered on it and come through in splendid condition. (We have no seed rye to sell.) This year we will sow at least two bushels to the acre. We shall sow some this spring and report in due time. This rye was raised without irrigation and on ground too dry to raise any other kind of grain in like manner, unless it be winter wheat.

C. EDWARDS.

THE OUTCOME IN EASTERN MONTANA.

FLATWILLOW, March 21, 1884.

Editor Husbandman:

The winter just passed has been, in this section, one of extreme vigor. The loss in range stock has been quite large, though if we do not get another severe storm immediately, stockmen need feel but little anxiety. The winter's loss consists more in the reduction of flesh in the greater number of cattle than the actual loss by death. Pilgrim herds, as is generally the case, have suffered the most, and a great many of them have died. Nearly all of the calves born prior to March 1st will never be tortured by branding irons. The loss in bands of acclimated sheep has not been large, but they have become very much reduced in flesh. Owners of pilgrim sheep have lost heavily. Stockmen who have had plenty of hay have been fortunate and their bands are in fair condition. Sheep men who provide hay sufficient for tweaty or thirty days' feeding are on the safe side, and it is a cheap insurance on their property. Considerable building will be done during the spring and summer. N. J. Dovenspeck is laying stone foundations for a fine house and a large hay barn, with a stone basement under the latter to be used as a stable. Fred E. Lawrence has a large house partially constructed. We are much in need of some county roads. A petition will be presented to the board of county commissioners to have a county road from Graperange to some point on the Muselestell river, that we may have travel communication with Billings on the N. P. railroad. Also a petition to said commissioners for a county road from Flatwillow P. O. up the stream to intersect said Billings road at a place near its crossing of the Flat Willow.

H. F. CLEMENT.

A wind storm destroyed much property at Lynchburg, Va., March 26.

TERRITORIAL.

A number of wool growers met at Maiden recently and organized a wool growers' association.

A. L. Love, of Livingston, who has been appointed receiver for the Park Improvement Company, was refused admission to the National Pard Hotel last week. Thirty laborers who were employed by the company and have not been paid for their work, hold the building and refuse the admission of any person until payments are made.

The *Missoulian* says Major Ronan has succeeded in inducing thirty families of the Bitter Root Indians to move to the reservation. He promises them 160 acres of land, teams, a house and agricultural implements. There are about ninety families in all of the Bitter Root Flathead tribe.

The Teachers' Institute which has been in session at Butte the past week, has been quite interesting.

Fred Schiplin committed suicide near Bozeman one day last week.

Hon. J. C. Coburn, of Indianapolis, the newly appointed Associate Justice for Montana, arrived last evening via the Union Pacific, Oregon Short Line and Utah & Northern, and at present is the guest of A. Sharpe, cashier of the Montana National Bank.—*Herald, 28th.*

Mr. Parker come down from Helena last Sunday night and submitted a motion before Justice McCormick to have the verdicts in the cases of Graves and Leonhardi against the railroad for killing stock set aside and a new trial granted. The motion was argued and overruled by the court. Notice of appeal in both cases was served.—*Tranchant.*

One of Major Brinkham's bright sons, in company with another lad of about the same age, struck a peculiar sort of boys' bonanza down on Mission creek the ether day. They came upon portions of the skeleton of what had evidently been a great Crow chief in his day, and he had been hung up to dry after the manner of Crow burial with all his warlike paraphernalia about him. Among other things was a jacket or shirt, gorgeously trimmed with elk teeth and beads, and the boys gathered 350 teeth from the coat, besides quantities of beads.—*Enterprise.*

The farmers of the lower Prickly Pear have clubbed together and bought a mill right and dam on Prickly Pear creek, and will remove the obstruction to prevent the overflow of their lands, thus materially improving their property.

Jacob Loeb, City Treasurer of Helena, collected $9,000 last year from drummers.

Nicholas, the man who was arrested a few days ago for forging the name of J. B. White, of Marysville, to three checks on the Merchants National Bank of Helena, was tried at the term of court just closed, and being found guilty was sentenced to three years confinement in the penitentiary.—*Independent.*

Joe Bush, writing to the *Miner*, says: "Another fearful accident occurred at Garrison yesterday, the victim, whose name your correspondent was unable to learn, being brought to the Sister's Hospital for treatment. He was caught under a train and terribly mangled. He was either brakeman or yard tender. This is the second painful accident at Garrison within the past few days.

W. W. Alderson, of the firm of Zook & Alderson, cattle growers on the Rosebud, recently had his house and contents destroyed by fire while on a visit to Miles City. The Yellowstone *Journal* says; One of the men employed on the ranch, Hal Talfrey by name, shot at one of Black Wolf's band, to see how near he could come to shooting through the Indian's hat without hitting his head. The result was entirely satisfactory, and reflected great credit upon Hal for his skill with the rifle, the bullet just grazing the scalp of the Indian and cutting out a bunch of hair. The familiarity the Indian resented, and burned Alderson's house to see how much of a fire he could make.

GENERAL NEWS.

Henry J Church, the defaulting chamberlain of Troy, New York, who left there February 4, with a deficiency in his account of $75,000, was arrested and taken to Troy March 27.

The movement on the part of the friends of Schurz to raise him $100,000, has been abandoned at the earnest request of Mr. Schurz. A considerable portion of the sum named had already been paid into the fund, and without a doubt the full amount would have been raised; but the matter coming to Schurz knowledge he requested the money should be returned to the subscribers. Out of regard for his feelings this has been done.

The house committee on postoffices and post roads has decided (7 to 4) to recommend the passage of the bill providing that all letter carriers at free delivery fares be entitled to leaves of absence of forty days in each year, without loss of pay, upon the same conditions now granted employes of the postoffice department.

A Fargo dispatch of March 37, says: M. Ohmer, a prospector from Dayton, Ohio, was captured by a band of Indians in the Turtle mountains two weeks ago. The Indians hold the prisoner for a money ransom. A party of pursurers started from Grand Forks, but the Indians fled for miles into the mountains, and sent word back they would kill the prisoner if pursuit was not abandoned.

A cyclone destroyed the village of Seipio, Ohio, March 27, killing the Rev. Joseph Winstone and fatally injuring E. A. Kates and seriously hurting Mrs. Stevens. All were at the store at the time the building went down. The storm followed nearly in the track of the one two years ago, across country to Collinsville, tearing down the fences, trees and ruining many farm houses and barns.

In the case Kilbourn against ex-Sergeant-at-Arms Thompson, the jury rendered a verdict in favor of Kilbourn for $37,500.

Counsel for Wm. Pitt Kellogg, indicted for receiving a bribe in connection with the star route contracts, applied to Judge Wylie for a speedy trial, alleging dilatoriness on the part of government counsel.

Parnell writes to the Irish papers that he has not purchased the Mathers residence at Bordentown, N. Y., and has no intentions of purchasing it.

The President sent to the seneate the nomination of Aaron A. Sargent, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Germany, to be envoy extraordinary and minisetr plenipotentiary to Russia, vice Wm. H. Hunt, deceased.

The following confirmations were made by the senate March 27th: Wm. L. Bunn, of Philadelphia, governor of Idaho; Sumner Howard, of Michigan, chief justice of the supreme court of Arizona; W. A. Saylor, of Texas, collector of customs for the district of Paso del Norte and New Mexico; Elliott P. N. Morgan, of Cheyenne, secretary of Wyoming.

A Denver dispatch of March 28, says: Charles L. Kuse, editor of the *Cringo Greaser*, a paper published at Manzanoi, N. M., was shot and killed this evening while sitting in his office. The assassin is unknown. The shot was fired through a window.

A London, Ky., telegram of March 26th, says: A terrific cyclone, the severest ever known in this section of country, passed through here and Pittsburg, two miles north of London, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, causing death and destruction in its train, esyecially in Pittsburg, where it was the severest. The Methodist church was razed to the ground, and much other property damaged. John Hartman, a brakeman, was blown from a freight box and carried about fifty feet, alighting on his head in a creek, breaking his neck and causing instant death. Three freight boxes, two oil tanks and a caboose were blown from the track, and slightly injuring others. A little cabin in which Mrs. Broughton was living was blown down, instantly killing Mrs. Broughton and two children. The following persons are thought to be mortally wounded: Col. C. W. Stringer, both legs broken and cut in head; Mrs. C. W. Stringer, hip mashed; Robert Ridings, spinal column broken and cut in the head; Miss Sallie Goff, cut in the head; James Warren two ribs broken and wounded in the head. Among those slightly wounded are W. Woolsey. Over one hundred families are left without a home and employment by the fearful catastrophe.

The steamer Black Hills was recently broke in two by an ice gorge at Bismarck, and sunk; loss $12,000. There are nine steamers tied at the same wharf, and as the ice jam is very great it is thought they will be destroyed.

Representative Henley, of the house committee on public lands, has completed a report to accompany the committee's bill declaring the forriture of land granted the Northern Pacific railroad company and not earned under the terms of the charter by July 4, 1879. The report will be submitted for approval at its next meeting. Hensley says: The commissioner is satisfied that the grant one *in presente* upon conditions subsequent; that by a breach of sutch conditions the grant along the entire line, so far as it was uncompleted July 4, 1879, is and has been, since said date, subject to forfeiture, and restoration of the lands to the public domain and should be declared so by act of congress.

Shocks of earthquake occurred at Agram and throughout Sclavonia. A number of buildings in Denover were damaged.

The Mapleson opera company has subscribed $2,300 fhr Lombardellis' widow.

Mapleson gave $600, Patti $150 and Gerster $1,000.

It is reported from Birmingham, Conn., that important revelations may be expected in the Rose Ambler case, and an arrest will be made soon on evidence that will insure the holding of the arrested party for trial.

A short and decisive prize fight for a purse of $150, near Chartier's creek, Pittsburgh, between two men named Harret and Hammon, resulting in favor of the latter. In the last round Herret was terribly punished.

The Devon cattle breeders of the United States met in Pittsburg, March 26, and organized the American Devon cattle Association, and elected their officers. President, John M. Miller, of Hickory, Pa.; Secretary, W. W. Read, Zanesville, O. The object of the assolation is the importation, breeding and improvement of cattle.

A wrestling match for $500 a side has been arranged between Duncan C. Ross and Matsada Sorakischi (Jasanese wrestler,) will take place at Cleveland, April 7. There will be two bouts, catch as catch can, and and Japanese style, with a toss for finish.

The police discovered a dynamite bomb shell in a densley crowded building in Leipsig, Saxony. No clue as to who placed it there.

The Deutsch *Tageblatt*, says: At Bismarck's dinner an honor of the Emperor's birthday, Bismarck greeted Sargent with a courteous bow, but shook hands with all the other diplomats.

The President sent to the Senate the nomination of Aron A. Sargent, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Germany, to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Russia, vice Wm. H. Hunt, deceasad.