

THE DAILY MISSOULIAN

Published Every Day in the Year.
MISSOULIAN PUBLISHING CO.
129 and 131 West Main Street, Missoula, Montana.

Entered at the postoffice at Missoula, Montana, as second-class mail matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
(In Advance.)
Daily, one month.....\$0.75
Daily, three months..... 2.25
Daily, six months..... 4.00
Daily, one year..... 8.00
Postage added for foreign countries.

TELEPHONE NUMBER.
Business Office **110** Editorial Rooms

Washington Office
Munsey Building.
Ernest Hazen Pullman, correspondent.

Hamilton Office
Main street, near Second.

SUBSCRIBERS' PAPERS.
The Missoulian is anxious to give the best carrier service; therefore, subscribers are requested to report faulty delivery at once. In ordering paper changed to new address, please give old address also. Money orders and checks should be made payable to The Missoulian Publishing Company.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1910.

April 27.—Halley's comet rises 1:01 a. m. today and tomorrow at 1:54 a. m. Sun rises 4:59 a. m. Sped today about 1,734 miles per minute. A weird and increasingly astonishing sight in the east just before night turns to morning.

BRYAN IN PROTEST.

The one jarring note in the comment on the appointment of Governor Hughes to the supreme bench comes from the eminently great protestor, William Jennings Bryan. The sage of Salt creek condemns New York's governor and declares that the Hughes brand of reform is a spurious article. It is not likely that the condemnation which comes from the Bryan fount of protest will seriously influence public sentiment. It is safe to say that the selection of Governor Hughes will receive general commendation throughout the country; the brief summary of opinion which the Associated Press has given us warrants this prediction. The record of New York's governor stands for itself and is in direct contradiction of the Bryan criticism. Governor Hughes has stood for what is best in government; he has been courageous and has sacrificed personal interests for the good of the state. His acceptance of the office of governor involved the depletion of his private fortune; meanwhile Mr. Bryan, preaching but never practicing, has amassed a fortune that places him safely in the class of plutocracy.

JUDGE STAPLETON.

Death has claimed another of the old guard of Montana. In the early history of the territory, in the formation of the state and in its subsequent development, there was no man who stood more firmly for the right, no man whose strength and intelligence were more freely given for the cause of good, than "Wash" Stapleton, as he was affectionately called by the older residents of Montana. By those who had shared with him the responsibility of shaping the destinies of this great commonwealth, Judge Stapleton was regarded with affection and admiration. He was an upright citizen, a conscientious lawyer, a credit to his state and an honor to his profession. In his practice he was eminently successful; he acquired a considerable fortune. He held in high esteem the men with whom he had been associated in early days; he never forgot an old friend. He left behind him an unblemished reputation and an unblemished name. His death is a distinct loss to the entire state.

DOING WELL.

The crops will determine the tone of the year's business, according to the forecast of those who are following the course of the trade movement this spring. The tariff is giving a good account of itself; the business situation in the country is better than it has been in a long time. There have been reports of damage to crops, but the observations of Henry Clews indicate that it is not so serious as it has been stated. Mr. Clews says: "Crop reports so far are very encouraging, notwithstanding exaggerated reports of damage. The winter wheat crop is in good condition and promises to be a large one. There is also every prospect of a considerable increase in the acreage of corn and cotton, while farmers are already at work using the very best methods with which they are familiar in order to secure the largest possible yield per acre. It is quite certain that efforts in this direction have never been equalled in previous years, thanks to the persistent endeavors to stimulate more scientific cultivation which have been made the last few years. If further

evidence of the activity in the west were wanted they could be found in the regular reports of railroad earnings, which are exceedingly favorable. In March fifty-three railroads reported gross earnings of \$65,000,000, an increase of \$8,800,000, or nearly sixteen per cent more than a year ago. For the first three months of the current year fifty-three railroads reported earnings of \$179,000,000, an increase of \$24,000,000, or over fifteen per cent. Such a heavy percentage of gain as the latter has not been since the year 1900, which was one of unusual prosperity for the railroads. These returns chiefly include roads serving the agricultural districts, and do not cover the eastern trunk lines, such as Pennsylvania and New York Central, which are also known to be making very handsome gains in revenue. It is worthy of note that the southern roads have made large gains, notwithstanding the light cotton crop, and that the western roads did well in spite of a light grain movement. The railroad situation would be eminently satisfactory were it not for the increased expenses forced upon the roads by the demands of labor, and high prices for material. Labor, however, is getting a big share of the prosperity, and it is but reasonable to expect that stockholders, too, should come in for better results, if present conditions are maintained. Much will depend upon the crops. If these prove good, the year will be a satisfactory one for the railroads.

COMING DOWN.

While we have not felt the downward movement of prices to any great extent, the news from eastern centers is that the cost of food stuffs to the consumer is materially lower than it was six months ago, and that it is going to be even lower than it is now. Potatoes were the first staple to drop in price, and other foods are following. The farmer may not relish the change, but it is acceptable to the man who buys groceries. Farmers in the east are closing out their old stock of potatoes at twenty cents, the lowest price in years. A year ago at this time potatoes were wholesaling in Chicago at one dollar. The law of supply and demand will naturally regulate prices if the trusts and speculators will keep their hands off. Eggs are lower, as usual in the spring, and there has been a decline in the price of butter. The present wholesale price of oats is thirty-two per cent below the highest price of last year, corn is off twenty-four per cent and wheat fourteen per cent.

It is intimated that the commissions which are investigating high prices will find themselves out of employment if the decline in rates on food products keeps on. This does not follow, however. If there have been arbitrary advances without any reason other than to fatten the pockets of producers and dealers, the consumer wants to know about it in order to guard his interests hereafter. The trial of western meat packers now in progress brings out testimony to the effect that they have been carrying on fictitious competition in the purchase of cattle and hogs, and have combined to fix selling prices to suit themselves. There still is need of investigation and better regulation.

As against the carping criticism of W. J. Bryan, we have the cordial indorsement of such men as Chief Justice Fuller, Justice Harlan, Champ Clark and Justice White for the selection of Governor Hughes as a member of the supreme court.

For our part, we are willing the railways should make a good thing out of the existence of our national parks. Every man who visits the parks sees the rest of Montana and that's what we want.

Real guns and dynamite are less effective in Colorado jail deliveries than wooden guns and bluff in Kansas. The Colorado warden may be careless, but they know how to fight.

Vice President Sherman makes a strong defense of the new tariff, but the operation of the Payne schedule is the best proof that it is a good law.

Montana is acquiring some good boosters in the citizens who are locating here this spring. They are as enthusiastic as the older residents.

Every man who builds a house is a booster; a glance about town demonstrates a gratifying predominance of this class of boosters.

The land prospectors who are looking over the reservation, find that the advantages of the country have not been overdrawn.

We submit that Governor Hughes has accomplished vastly more for good government than has William Jennings Bryan.

The present necessity is the construction of one good road. If we get just one, the people will demand others.

Champ Clark commends the appointment of Governor Hughes. W. J. Bryan condemns it. There you are.

Governor Hughes will certainly make a good judge, but what will happen to New York with Hughes gone?

The chamber of commerce has done much good work and, with proper support will do much more.

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Dr. Hyde is either a past master in the art of refined murder or a victim of peculiar circumstances.

There is to be abundant irrigation on the reservation but it will all be with water.

The main thing, right now, is to get good roads.

WALLACE NEWS

Wallace, April 26.—(Special.)—The Josephine copper property, located on Nine Mile, on the Montana slope of the Coeur d'Alenes, is to resume work in a few days. Manager J. W. McGinnis of Wallace is getting the force of men collected and will take them over next week. A shaft was sunk 190 feet and a drift from the bottom of that shaft showed galena and copper ore.

Statements given out by the Federal Mining & Smelting company regarding the settlement of the suit against the Bunker Hill & Sullivan, show that while the Bunker Hill, by its payment of 27,000 shares of stock or approximately 1,500,000, gains the withdrawal of the suits for \$7,000,000, brought against it by the Federal and also obtains the guarantee that no future suits will be brought, the Federal retains the rights to the ore in the Last Chance mine ground. The Bunker Hill gets the Last Chance property but not the ore, an unusual transaction in mining. The Federal sued the Bunker Hill to recover on ore alleged to have been taken from the Federal

ground by the Bunker Hill employees. These suits that have been pending for years, are withdrawn by the terms of the agreement. The Federal will work the Last Chance mine till the ore is exhausted, however.

Wallace saboteurs are putting screens over their mirrors and windows and are placing their glassware under the bar in preparation for the expected visit of Carrie Nation next week. The denizens of the red light district are much worried, and are thinking of taking a week's vacation when Carrie alights from the train.

Murray is to have electric lights after years of desire. Adam Aulbach, a pioneer business man of the North side town, has obtained a franchise from the commissioners to erect poles and string wires and will start construction of a concrete building May 1 to house the machinery. It is expected the plant will be in operation by fall. At present Murray is lighted by oil and gasoline.

The Big Elk Mining company at its annual meeting elected as officers and directors the following: President, E. H. Barrett, assistant general superintendent of the C. M. & P. S.; vice president, George F. Stoney of Wallace; secretary-treasurer, A. H. Featherstone of Wallace; directors, J. E. Hood of Missoula, division superintendent of the C. M. & P. S.; Peter Peterson of Saltsee, and H. H. McVety of Missoula. The Big Elk property lies in the St. Joe region.

The body of a half-formed male child, about five months old, was found today in a pile of rubbish lying under the rear porch of the residence of E. R. Turk. The body had evidently been hidden there by someone passing through the alley, as the porch adjoins the alley. The remains have been turned over to the county undertaker. It is evident the body had been lying there for a week or more.

The Coeur d'Alenes will have a baseball league this season. It seems certain. At a largely attended meeting of Wallace fans a committee of five business men was selected to have entire charge of the local baseball arrangements for the season, to collect the money, choose the manager and oversee affairs generally. Over \$2,000 has been raised with only one man out, and with him soliciting nothing but \$100 donations. The smaller subscription lists will be sent out at once and it is expected the \$5,000 necessary to run the team will be obtained in short order. Mullan fans say they will raise a team at once. The same word comes from Wardner and Kellogg. St. Maries and Saltsee will be besought to become at least honorary members of the league. The teams from this district will doubtless make a few trips to Spokane, Missoula and other out-of-the-state places to play.

C. L. Cowell of Missoula, president of the Marsh Mining company, in which Missoula men are heavily interested, visited the property at Burke today in company with several stockholders from Spokane and Wallace. The company has been tunneling and improving the older workings since bonding the property last year. Recently it purchased the hoist of the Sister Mining company and will install it at once and begin sinking on the ledge.

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TELEPHONE TALKS

No. 1

CONCERNING RESPECT

Did you ever stand before a gigantic or an intricate piece of machinery with a feeling of admiration and awe?

Admiration, combined with awe, compel respect—always.

Unfortunately, the public cannot be forced to treat public servants with respect—always. This applies, among others, to telephone operators here and elsewhere.

Thoughtlessness and irritability and a desire to command and criticize will be a trait of the human family until the end of the world.

Until everybody is made to obey the operating rules of the "hello" telephone system there never can be permanent telephone efficiency and general public satisfaction.

Manual or "hello" companies are continually striving to make their operators more machine-like and less human—urging you to enforce rules applicable to yourself.

Why? To offset the shortcomings of the human element in the operating room—the telephone operator.

Nearly always she's a dear, sweet girl and she tries to please—but she's human.

We are now getting ready to give you a service that will remove the human element from the operating room.

In its stead will be installed Automatic machinery, leaving only those two directly interested in the business at hand—you and the person you want to talk to.

Machines never suffer from more than momentary impatience—never strike, are not subject to fatigue, do your work instantly and never tell a secret.

Read our next "Telephone Talks"—it will tell you more about the new Automatic service; the kind you will ultimately have.

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