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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1912.

PASSING EVENTS

Last week brought symptoms of spring in western Montana, while the east was shivering in an away-below-zero temperature. Perhaps the symptoms are purely premonitory, but they are none the less enjoyable, and if we get a March flurry of chilly weather, these February days will furnish pleasant memories.

LINCOLN—This week brings us a larger portion than its share of the holidays of a holiday-laden month. The first of these is the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln.

he gave, and gave freely. God raised him up as His instrument in the great struggle for our national entity, and his life was not sacrificed in vain. The speech of Lincoln was eloquent with simplicity.

LOFTY SENTIMENT—Everywhere in this country today there will be sermons preached from patriotic pulpits, the theme of which will be the example of this great president, this splendid citizen, this tender, many man.

OUR LESSON—if we can learn to apply to the solution of the problems which confront us, these days, this lofty principle of citizenship; if we can draw from the example of Lincoln the inspiration and the courage to meet the newer responsibilities of American citizenship as he met the responsibilities which were his; if we can infuse into our conduct the motive which he exemplified—then we do well to take a holiday upon each recurring anniversary of the birth of this man.

CHARTER DAY—The week ahead brings Charter day at the state university and the day brings us to the consideration of some serious problems of local importance.

graduates of the university, recently addressed a letter to his fellows, asking that they join in an expression of disapproval of recent actions of the state board of education relative to the university. The Missoula membership of the alumni met last week and considered the Greenwood letter.

WESTERN MONTANA—Another question of public policy—but of quite another sort—is the matter which is to be discussed in Missoula next Thursday by the representatives of the towns of western Montana who are to assemble here on that date for the discussion of matters of common interest.

AN OPEN TOWN—More than once, recently, have there been expressions of the wish that Missoula might be, once more, "an open town." One day last week a man called at the editorial rooms of The Missoulian to give special emphasis to this wish.

was all beyond his means. The gambler to whom he owned this money runs a game which has at least the tacit sanction of the officers of "the open town" if the stories told here are to be believed. This gambler insisted upon payment, threatening disgrace if the money was not forthcoming.

Lincoln, however, is specially popular with the schoolboys because he was born so that his birthday comes during the term and not in vacation time.

The death of a lumberman, in Missoula, from the effects of morphine calls attention once more to the ease with which this terrible drug can be obtained in this city.

The British suffragettes have forced the government censor out of his job; he could stand socialism and dynamiters, but when the women got after him, he had to quit.

If home bricks are used they must be good bricks. If home material of any kind is used, it must be up to standard. Patriotism will not conceal defects.

The first count in the presidential preference balloting has been made, but the polls are yet open. If you have not voted already, do so this week.

We still insist that the mere fact that Lorimer's attorney, by spelling his name "Haneey" instead of "Hennessy," forfeits all right to the decision.

The apology of Blumenberg, however, does not change the public's verdict in the Lorimer case.

San Diego, being short of water, resorts to horsewhips to oppose the I. W. W. forces. She will have hard work winning.

The home-industry campaign calls for the patronage of all home institutions, where you can get the quality you want.

Moreover, the debating victory of Missoula high school demonstrates the value of consistent, systematic training.

A fine valentine, which would be much appreciated, is an order for job printing sent to The Missoulian shop.

It is only fair play that advances in freight rates should be suspended, when reductions have been hung up.

The Missoulian presidential preference vote is one of the straws which show how the wind blows.

It seems that Italy stuck her head into a veritable hornets' nest when she got over into Tripoli.

Make your plans so as to attend the Charter-day exercises, Friday, at the university.

Don't worry about what tomorrow's weather will be; enjoy the delights of today.

The Missoulian class ad makes life worth living. Try it for that tired feeling.

It is also well to remember that Lincoln's fame is based upon honesty.

A he- Valentine is a funny creature. Pull together all the time.

Reviewing Boy Scouts



PRES TAFT AND GEN BADEN-TOWELL. President Taft, General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Ambassador Bryce and Major Butt reviewing the Boy Scouts of America in parade before the White House.

Following Old Trails

XXXV.—The First Pay Gravel.

The Hell Gate canyon must be given the credit of furnishing the first "colors" which directed attention to the wealth of the bars in Montana's streams and gulches. To Granville Stuart and his brothers the credit is due for making known to the world the existence of gold in these streams.

When I say that there is controversy over the matter of the individual who made the discovery, I do not mean that Mr. Stuart has ever sought to gain any laurels to which he was not entitled. He has always been frank in his statements that others had found gold before his party panned the sands in Gold creek or washed the gravel of Pioneer creek.

It was on Gold creek or one of its tributaries that the first "colors" were found which established the claim of Montana to the title, "Treasure State." Here in upper Hell Gate canyon, was enacted the scene which was the initial movement in the great drama which was staged in western Montana in the days of the gold stampedes.

Following each motion of the expert hand which alternately dipped the pan into the water and then swished around the mixture in the shallow container, these expectant eyes gleamed as the sediment in the pan diminished in quantity under the skillful manipulation of the hands which rocked it in the peculiar fashion of the man who knows how to pan gold.

It is claimed that Father De Smet and Father Ravalli early knew that there was gold in the streams of western Montana, but they kept the secret as they wished their Indian charges to become better prepared to withstand the contact with the stampede which was inevitable when it became known that Montana's bars were treasure-laden.

There is that other story of a mysterious, long-bearded man coming into Fort Benton in the earliest days of its existence with a sack of gold dust which he sold to the trader there. There is, too, a story reported by Lieutenant Bradley of Fort Missoula in 1875, in effect that he had been told of another unnamed east-side prospector of the fifties.

His (Stuart's) direct narrative untangles the skein where the threads so often cross and become entwined one with another; and where you would, but for this little book, find only confusion and tumultuous clashing of accounts, all is made as plain as a newly blazed trail.

And, farther on in his history, the great Californian writes: "You will observe how generously he gives the credit of the discovery of gold in Montana to Mr. Stuart."

James and Granville Stuart and their immediate following, who persisted in their work and finally pushed reluctant fortune to the wall, were the real first finders of gold in paying quantities at the feet of The Shining Mountains.

I have before me a copy of a letter which Granville Stuart wrote in 1876, telling of the incidents which led to the discovery of gold in Montana. It is an interesting story and it is best told in the straightforward style of the old pioneer, now the second-oldest citizen of Montana in point of residence.

"In the year 1852 a half-breed named Francois, but who was known among his associates by the name of Benetsee, and who had just returned from California to the Rocky mountains, began to prospect on what is now known as Gold creek, in Deer Lodge county, and found light float gold; but, as his prospecting was necessarily of a very superficial character, he found no mines that would pay.

When I first visited the Pioneer diggings, there yet were standing the old sluice boxes which had been installed when the first mining was done there. Perhaps some trace of the old workings yet remains; there was some of the old plant to be seen when I was last at the camp, a few years ago. Crude were the beginnings but they led to greater things; there followed the modest discovery on Gold creek, the wonderfully rich finds in Alder, Last Chance, Cedar and Bear-bars which yielded millions and from some of which, nuggets and dust are even now being taken. It was one of the great first things—this casual prospect work by Granville Stuart.

It was not all good, however, which came with the influx of white population after the discovery of gold. Black sheep dwelt in every fold and there were plenty of them in the flock of humans which surged into the gold-bearing valleys and gulches of Montana. The story is familiar of how the flock purged itself; the history of the Montana Vigilantes is one of the most thrilling narratives ever written. In this connection it is interesting to note that one of the first—if not the very first—miners' courts was held on Gold creek. In the month of July, 1862, an old Frenchman stole some horses and other property from the Gold creek settlers. James Stuart and a neighbor pursued the thief and overtook him on Prickly Pear creek, below Helena's present location. His captors returned to camp with him and he was given a trial before a court of miners. His guilt was clearly established but he expressed repentance so profound that the regulation penalty for horse-stealing was not enforced.

Other gulches yielded greater riches; other camps drew greater crowds; other communities developed greater crimes than the offense of this old Frenchman; other courts imposed greater sentences; Montana became a country of superlatives as the development of her placer diggings went on. The pick became the successor to the pan as the ledge replaced the gravel as the source of gold. Great cities took the place of primitive camps. Established courts dispensed justice in the stead of the Vigilante tribunal—more formally, perhaps, but never more effectively. Montana became a state with all a state's prerogatives. The growth was rapid and substantial. But it all dates back to the day when the Stuarts and their companions washed out the "colors" which gave them the assurance that there was vast treasure locked in the hills of Montana—hidden in "The Shining Mountains."

If I were an artist—I presume every man has ideas which he believes would make great paintings and longs for the ability to depict them—if I were an artist, there are two pictures which I would like to paint. One of these would be the raising of the Cross of Christ in the Bitter Root valley, when Father De Smet in 1841 brought the message of the Gospel to the Indians of the mountains. The other would be the scene in the Canyon of First Things, when those pioneers washed out the first "colors" from the gravel on Gold creek and gave to the world a new treasure house which has yielded its millions and which has given greatness to a new state. I like to think of those young men, earnest and eager, as they leaned over the man with the pan, watching him to see what his expert touch would prove as to the sands of the beautiful stream along which they stood. To me it is one of the wonderfully interesting scenes in all history. To me it possesses a special fascination. To me it seems to be the one picture which marks the beginning of Montana—Montana, prepared by the other picture, for the great future which is hers.

latin valley, was named. The party found good prospects in a branch of the Benetsee, or Gold creek, as it now began to be called, which branch took the name of Pike's Peak gulch, from the fact of the discoverers being from Pike's Peak, as Colorado was then generally called. Other parties also began to straggle in from Pike's Peak and Utah, and about the 29th of June Samuel T. Hauser, Frank Louthan, John Alt and W. B. Pance arrived, being the advance guard of a number who came up on the steamers from St. Louis, and who were on their way to Florence, in the Salmon river mines, not having heard of the discoveries at Gold creek, where, however, many of them stopped, and are now among our oldest and most respected citizens."

And so it came to pass. As you ride through Hell Gate canyon in this year of 1912, seated comfortably in the train which speeds through historic scenes, you may observe, if you will, the turbid current of Gold creek as it flows down into the Hell Gate. In the spring and summer season the flow of this historic stream is yellow with the washings from the placer camps above, for it is true that there are yet miners working the gravel which yielded the first Montana "colors."

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