

We Wish Our Friends A Merry Christmas

640 Acre Homestead Bill

Goes to President--With His Signature 640 Acres May Be Taken Up By Homesteaders--Will Become a Law This Week

Washington, Dec. 16--All the dis- dated points in the Ferris bill to provide 640-acre homesteads, principal- ly for grazing purposes, were smoothed out today in conference between house and senate, and the measure now goes to the president for signature. The bill has been supported by the interior department and western congressmen as a measure to further opening the public domain.

Many millions of acres of non-agricultural, non-mineral, non-irrigated land would be opened to stock raising homestead settlement under the bill, and it is regarded as one of the most important affecting the public domain passed in many years. It probably will become a law next week according to the conference. Under it the lands will be open to any one man entry and three "residence and improvement" without any money payment whatsoever except ordinary filing fees.

Representative Ferris, author of the measure, predicted ten thousand persons are likely to go from each of a number of middle western states to take up homesteads.

A section in which administration officials objected authorizing those already holding homesteads to purchase not exceeding 220 acres of contiguous stock raising land at \$1.25 an acre, was stricken out, in order to prevent speculation. "The agreement provides that where an applicant for stock raising homestead entry applies for entry before the character of land has been officially designated he will acquire no rights against the government, although his rights will be good against later encroachment. The purpose of this was to prevent tying up lands by encroachment attempting to stop the government from resuming it to institute dispossession proceedings.

RUN OVER BY AUTO AND ESCAPES DEATH.

C. Soronson, a farmer living near Harlem, 70 years of age, was knocked down by an automobile late Wednesday night. Mr. Soronson sustained a dislocated shoulder, and his legs were bruised where the wheels of the car passed over them.

District Court News

The following are the civil actions that have been commenced in the district court of Phillips county this month:

Harriet E. Carrier vs. Great Northern Railway company, a corporation. Action for damages. Tressler & Kirton and Norris & Hurd attorneys for plaintiff.

Mattie A. Gregg vs. James Gregg. Action for divorce. Tressler & Kirton, attorneys for plaintiff.

Beatrice B. Wittmeier vs. Robert S. Wittmeier. Action for divorce. Tressler & Kirton, attorneys for plaintiff.

Helen C. LaFaver vs. Allen L. Shaw as sheriff of Phillips county. Action for damages. James Wilson, attorney for plaintiff.

Annie Wiestleman vs. Phillips Wiestleman. Action for divorce. F. C. Gabriel, attorney for plaintiff.

Women entertainers will be barred from Montana cabarets after Attorney General S. C. Ford takes office, it is reported. Mr. Ford has made no public announcement on the matter, but it is reported that he takes the position the state statute prohibits the employment of women in such places of entertainment and that he will enforce the law.

Less than 800 Montana citizens pay income taxes according to figures compiled by the treasury department for 1916. The number, however, has increased over 1915, and officials believe that each increase in the class of citizens who pay taxes in Montana. Only two persons in the state are credited with incomes ranging from \$250,000 to \$300,000, and there are 548 whose incomes range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year. The Editor of this paper is not in either of the two classes.

MALTA GRAIN MARKET.

From the St. Anthony and Dakota Elevator to-day:

Table with 2 columns: Grain type and Price per bushel. Includes Spring Wheat, Winter Wheat, Durum, Flax, Oats, and Barley.

We also take this occasion to thank you for your patronage and assure you a continuation of high-class, clean amusements in the future.

Our motto in securing these amusements will remain "Only the Best for Malta and Our Patrons."

Secretary of State A. M. Alderson has been very busy of late pointing out the defects of the automobile license law and has several suggestions to offer for its improvement. No one in the state is in a better position to know of its weak points than Alderson, as every owner of a machine in the state has called his attention to it. He does not say, however, anything about the 75 cents he receives for a pair of plates that cost him but a few cents.

RANCHERS SUFFER SEVERELY IN MONDAY'S BLEZZARD.

During the blizzard Monday afternoon and night those who were so fortunate as to be caught out of doors or any length of time suffered severely, many having frozen faces and fingers, and some of their horses.

A. S. Brownell and his nephew, Philip Brownell, residing 13 miles southeast of Malta, had a painful experience. They left Malta at 6 p. m. Monday evening and were nearly four hours on the road. They met Mr. and Mrs. George Chastine and Mr. Taylor traveling in the same direction and all were lost several hours on account of their inability to follow the road. A lantern, which Mr. Brownell carried, enabled them to return to the highway and probably saved them from serious consequences.

When they reached a stormCM-A when the party finally reached the Brownell ranch about 10 p. m. where they all spent the night, all were exhausted and badly chilled. Mr. Brownell's face was severely chapped and Mrs. Chastine suffered greatly from frostbite.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

Following is the Christmas program to be given at the United Brethren church Friday evening, December 22:

Chorus, "The Wonderful Jesus," W. Watson. Florence Hanson (Long Ago on Christmas).

Violin Solo, "The Wonderful Jesus," Girls' Quartet. Della Gardner Solo. Esther Chaugh Recitation. Lena Edmonson Duet. "Holy Night," Florence and Dagney Hanson. Recitation. Katherine Stine Recitation. Dagney Hanson Recitation. Lela Sroncifer Chorus "Wonderful Christmas Story" Phylis. "Catching Santa Claus"

A Christmas tree will be provided and anyone may use it for presents.

You are welcome, all are welcome. Everybody come. Program starts at 7:30.

COMMITTEE.

During the past few months a certain party in Malta has become very busy getting parties from other points to jump claims on which settlers have resided for six or seven years. The people of Phillips county have been very free from business of this kind and it is to be had that a variant who would cause respectable people trouble should be permitted to live among us. There is no danger of those being jumped losing their claims, but in many cases puts them to considerable trouble and expense.

Business men use our Bank Account Plan to protect and conserve their income; to build the small surplus from each individual transaction into a lump sum which can be used as a working force to earn more money.

PEACE PROPOSALS REJECTED.

The German peace proposals have been rejected by all the entente allies in strong terms. England has asked what Germany's terms are, but virtually rejects them in advance, and declares that Germany and her allies must concede many things before peace terms can be discussed.

"War will last forever if peace hangs on our defeat," declares the Germans.

THE LYRIC THEATRE

wishes you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS 1917

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Truant Officer Chosen

At a meeting held last Monday evening the trustees of the Malta school appointed a truant officer. The city marshal, Clarence Cosner, was chosen for the position. It will be his duty to enforce the compulsory education law, which provides that all children between the ages of eight and fourteen must attend school throughout the entire term that school is in session. Also children between fourteen and sixteen, who have not completed the eighth grade, must be at school.

This law has been disregarded by many in the community. Several children have enrolled in school and dropped out, or have not entered at all. Others have been traced, but in attendance. To prevent this condition the above action was taken. The newly created truant officer will have full power to arrest and prosecute parents who violate the compulsory education law.

Besides parents and guardians, employers of children under sixteen may be arrested and fined, unless they present a certificate to show they have satisfactorily completed the eighth grade. This section of the law will also be enforced hereafter.

Mr. Cosner will take up his new duties Jan. 2nd at the opening of school. He will call on the school house immediately after school assemblies in the morning and at noon take a list of all children absent and ascertain the reason for his absence. All children must be in school unless ill. Other excuses will not be accepted. Parents must satisfy the truant officer with a reasonable excuse for absence.

MORDED AND MURDERED.

The following item from Kansas City, Kansas, tells of the death of a man who made Malta his home a short time ago while doing contracting work on the irrigation works. The family have never heard from him since he left to learn of his tragic death. The item is as follows:

Police authorities of Kansas City, Mo., were convinced tonight that Albert B. Simons, was the secretary of the oil company of Wichita, Kan., who was robbed and murdered and his body thrown off the Texas City wharf from an automobile. Simons was 32 years old. When found his clothes had been stripped of all money except 16 cents, a watch and chain and a featherly pin. Snow, both near the body and on the stomach, had not been disturbed by footprints.

Thirty-eight of the 42 commutation sentences granted by Gov. S. V. Stewart recently to prisoners at Deer Lodge, were approved by the state board of pardon being received. Action on the commutation granted C. W. Dawes, sent up from Teton county for manslaughter, was continued pending further investigation.

A. S. Hanscom was called east the first of the week by a telegram announcing the death of his father.

SONG FOR MUNICIPAL TREE

We are printing this week the words of the song, "The Little Town of Bethlehem," which will be sung by all at the municipal Christmas tree on Christmas day. Commit this to memory so that you will be able to swell the chorus at that time:

Little Town of Bethlehem.

O, little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are set in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondrous love. O, morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin, Where wee souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O, holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in--be born in us to-day. We hear the Christmas angels the glad tidings tell, Oh, come to us, abide with us our Lord Emanuel! Amen

CARLOAD OF GRAIN PAYS FOR THE FARM.

One carload of wheat pays for the farm of Otto L. Lyon, and leaves him a surplus, according to the owner who resides near Shelby, Mont. Mr. Lyon and his brother have shipped three carloads of grain so far, receiving \$9,000 in cash. They have just begun to haul their grain in.

WANTS THE PRESS GOVERNMENTALIZED.

Mr. Bryan wants a law to compel newspapers to give a greater space for matters government desires published.

Every newspaper is flooded now with requests for publicity from nearly every department and official bureau, state and federal.

Newspapers receive from five to ten letters in a day's mail setting forth the importance and value of services performed by boards, officials and commissions.

Time taken to prepare all this matter, paper and postage, are all at public expense and increase cost of government and seek to expand public functions.

High taxes, high cost of officialism and constant increase of overhead expenses largely are due now to governmental press bureaus.

Why should the newspapers be asked to run all this free of charge?

Commercial Club Notes

In every man's breast lurks the spark of city pride. It is only necessary to find its bent to kindle into a concrete manifestation of municipal patriotism. One man's inclination will bend in this direction, another will; but all of us are endowed with a desire to witness the growth and advancement of community which we live. There are those who, while they want to see their city expand, are content to allow others to do the work. And there are others whose selfishness is so deeply ingrained that they will give neither of their time nor means to advance the city's welfare as a whole. Such citizens are an menace to the progress and prosperity of any section.

The Commercial Club of Chamber of Commerce is the channel through which expression. Every man--high and low--rich and poor--should be a member of the commercial organization in his midst--not only for the sake of the money end of the transaction but because the commercial organization is like a large stock company in which each citizen shares alike in the dividends of accomplishment. If the entire community are subscribers to the stock of the corporation it is a comparatively easy matter to build up something "solid" which is so essential in the successful conduct of any enterprise. With it, mountains can be moved, without it, and hills are impracticable.

"There is no influence in any community more potent and powerful for the accomplishment of good than that of the business and professional men intelligently banded together for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of the entire citizenship." James Bryce.

The club is preparing a mailing list of all the farmers who trade in Malta. This list will be used for the purpose of investigating the value of a flax mill in the section and for other development work.

The secretary is in receipt of a copy of the report of the Secretary of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, which is promoting the special train to the St. Paul Outdoor Sports festival, a which he states that they expect the railroad to grant a rate of a fare and a third for the round trip with a full return limit of from 25 to 30 days. The regular Pullman fare will be charged in addition to the fare. For any further information see the Secretary of the Commercial Club.

60 DAYS FOR WIFE BEATING.

Marshall Simmons was arrested Saturday night by Officer Cosner, charged with wife beating. County Attorney Wolfe had Simmons arraigned before Judge Wilson Monday, where he was given 60 days in the county jail.

Simmons, it is alleged, went home Saturday night and demanded money earned by his wife by taking in washing. When she refused to give it he is said to have beaten her up and taken \$1.50, with which he is supposed to have tickered-up, as he was in a hilarious condition when arrested.

Prosecute Locator Crooks

Senator Myers Introduced Bill--Legislation Long--Need--Fradulent Land Locators Have Been Damage to the West.

AT TO DROPS 50 FEET OVER BANK ON MITCHELL'S HILL.

(From our Freeewater correspondent.) Mr. Brunckel, a farmer living near Lovejoy, met with an accident on the Cottonwood hill last Monday evening while going up the grade, by which his Ford went over the bank and fell about 50 feet, doing considerable damage to the car. Mr. Beureske escaped with only a few bruises. He was almost up the hill when his gasoline got so low that the car refused to go further. He then attempted to back down but the car skidded in the snow and went over the bank.

CHASING THE DEVIL AROUND A STUMP.

State and Federal Governments have hundreds of politicians who are jumping into prominence to "probe high cost of living." Federal Relation Commission, Department of Justice and Congress itself are all taking a hand.

Millions will be spent to reveal causes of advancing cost of living but reports will not reveal real causes. In late campaigns all parties promised higher wages for labor and higher prices for products of the farm.

High prices for peaches, rice or potatoes, such as flour, meat, eggs, butter, and wool are promised the farmers.

Higher wages for labor are promised by politicians and labor leaders and produce higher priced coal and other products.

Manufacturers, railroads, bankers, middlemen generally add their profits and margins and Mr. Consumer pays the bill. But Mr. Consumer and wage earners are often producers who get high prices and wages.

One congressman asks that salaries of all federal employees earning \$1,500 or less per year be increased ten per cent to twenty per cent.

The net result will be demands for larger appropriations for army of the departments and probably a lot of new commissions.

Is it any wonder the cost of living is increasing and it doesn't seem to us that it needs a Philadelphia lawyer to show the cause.

MOFFITT-MARTIN

Wednesday at the home of the Martin Bros., north of Lovejoy, occurred the wedding of their sister, Miss Sophie, to Fred M. Moffitt, Rev. Bursell officiating. The contracting parties are well and favorably known in the north country, having resided there for the past several years. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the immediate relatives of the contracting parties and the choir of the Norwegian church of that locality. They left this evening on a wedding trip to points in Minnesota and Iowa and will be gone until spring, when they will return and make their home on the groom's farm.

The Enterprise joins their long list of friends in extending congratulations and hopes their life voyage may be a pleasant one.

The Great Northern must stop passenger trains Nos. 1 and 2 at Shelby, ruled the Montana railroad commission. The commission comments on the importance of Shelby as a junction point, on the fact that from 10 to 20 persons daily take the trains there for points east and west, and on the fact that the trains are frequently delayed there to carry mail left over by the regular mail train.

FOURTH BANK FOR GLASGOW.

About January 1st Glasgow's 4th Banking firm, the Farmers' and Stockgrowers Bank, will open its doors to the public in temporary quarters in the I. O. O. F. building where the Courier is now located.

The officials of the bank will be R. E. Johnson, president; G. R. Jamieson, vice-president, with Matt Murray, T. H. Shipstead, R. R. Black and Roy Billingsley, directors.

Under present plans, R. E. Johnson will have charge of the business. A site has been purchased on Second avenue S., adjoining the Rourke block on the west, and as soon as spring opens a new bank building will be erected.

Warrants for bounty claims for which the claimants cannot be located were cancelled today by State Auditor Keating, the aggregate being \$1,025. The majority of the warrants were mailed by the state auditor to addresses given and returned by the postoffice department. One warrant, dated March 2, 1914, called for \$392. Another was for \$150.

Don't be afraid of knocks. The harder you are bumped the higher you bounce.

Country Districts

Several of the leading newspapers of the state are advocating a re-districting of Montana into congressional districts. This surely should be done. At the November election both of our representatives in congress were elected from the same city and in the extreme corner of the state.

At the same time it appears to the Courier that the legislature should devise new laws so that all of the state should be represented in the body. As it now is only the county seats which are generally represented, or at least that is the case in a majority of the counties. Cascade county, for instance, elects six representatives to the legislature. Every one of these representatives are residents of Great Falls. As a consequence the greater area of the county is without representation whatsoever. It is not fair to the country communities and the laws should be righted.

The law as it now stands provides one representative in the legislature for every 4,500 population. According to that Cascade county is shy about two representatives, as the city of Great Falls claims a population of over 25,000. But unless the present law is changed, one or two more representatives from this county will not help the country outside of the county seat, but will only give that city the privilege of taking care of two more office seekers. For the last election there were in the neighborhood of 12,000 registered voters in this county. Great Falls alone had close to 7,000 of the voters, so it can readily be seen why the country districts cannot be represented in the state legislature.

In the election of county commissioners, the laws are just as unfair as for representation in the legislature. This should also be made more equitable for the same reason--the larger cities always have the board of commissioners and the country districts cannot secure what is their just right. In Cascade county all three members of the board are elected from Great Falls. The same in Lewis & Clark and we suppose in Silver Bow, Berkeley, Park, Hill, Valley and other counties that have large cities and the controlling vote of their respective counties.

The country press might take this matter up and possibly enough support may be secured from members of the legislature to have these laws shaped so that all of the people of the state may be represented in congress, in the state legislature and on the boards of county commissioners. Cascade Courier.