

# Bismarck Weekly Tribune.

Historical Society

VOL. 3.

BISMARCK, D. T., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1876.

NO. 27

## USUAL BUDGET OF WASHINGTON NEWS.

## NAVAL CONCENTRATION EXPLAINED.

## Short Rations at Red Cloud Agency.

## Terrible Deed of Blood at St. Louis.

Other Interesting Miscellaneous News.

### SPAIN AND CUBA.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Senator Conover, of Florida, yesterday introduced a resolution directing a proclamation of neutrality between Spain and Cuba, modelled upon the proclamation of Queen Isabella, in reference to our own troubles in 1861.

### STATE RIGHTS.

Senator Whyte, of Maryland, submitted a state rights resolution, declaration being shown from the language of the constitution.

### PRESIDENT PROTEN.

Senator Morton, of Indiana, submitted a resolution declaring Senator Ferry President of the Senate by virtue of his election at the last session, but that the office is held at the pleasure of the Senate.

### THE CONFEDERATE CIRCUS.

The House occupied the day on Randall's universal amnesty bill, which was forced to a vote under the previous question, which cut off not only debate, but Blaine's amendment, excepting Jeff Davis. The bill requiring a two-thirds vote was defeated by the solid Republican vote in opposition. Blaine then moved a reconsideration, speaking at length on his motion against including Jeff Davis in the bill. He was followed by Cox in reply to Blaine's argument that Davis was responsible for the Andersonville and other atrocities. He argued that the Republicans were in consistent, as the House had passed nearly the same bill twice last session. Cox held the floor until adjournment.

### DON PIAT IN LUCK.

This well known newspaper man, by the death of a relative, at Cincinnati, has fallen heir to nearly one million dollars.

### SINGER WILL.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The Singer will case was yesterday decided in favor of the widow named in the will, the children by the other women claiming to be his widows, being held to be illegitimate.

### WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE.

MADISON, Jan. 11.—Answers to 200 petitions of the Legislative Manual shows the lower house of the Wisconsin Legislature to stand, 49 Republicans, 49 Reformers, and 2 Independents. Sam Field will be the Republican nominee for Speaker.

### SOLE TIMBER AGENT.

Gov. Luddington will appoint H. A. Taylor, of the Hudson Star and Times, sole State timber agent, with authority to appoint deputies.

### NAVAL CONCENTRATION EXPLAINED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Secretary Robeson explains that the concentration of war vessels at Port Royal was in pursuance of a plan for making that the principal station for the North Atlantic Squadron, and a purpose to keep the home squadron larger than any of those abroad. He believes in being ready for any emergency. From Port Royal the vessels can reach the gulf or Cuban waters in 48 hours.

### LO, THE POOR INDIAN.

Rations for the Indians at the Red Cloud Agency will run out in February, but the Indian Commissioner anticipates no trouble. He will, however, ask for a deficiency appropriation.

### THE PRESIDENT PROTEN.

It is now pretty definitely settled that Mr. Ferry will not be disturbed in his position as President Protens of the Senate.

### DISABLED STEAMER.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The American Steamer Jefferson Borden was brought into Aberdeen, Saturday, disabled, with crew famishing and water reduced to a gill per day. She had been out sixty-seven days.

### ABANDONS THE STAGE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Ex-Mayor A. Oakey Hall quit the stage Saturday night, and will return to his profession the law.

### LOWER MISSISSIPPI.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 10.—The lower Mississippi is rising rapidly, causing fears of disastrous overflow.

### ROBBERY.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 10.—Anton Hagen and wife, of Decatur, Ills., were assaulted in East St. Louis suburbs, Friday night, by three men, who beat the man insensible, emptied his pockets, and placed his body on the railroad track; then seized the woman, who was too frightened for flight or screaming, and beat her until unconscious, and placed her by her husband. Hagen, who was partially revived, and managed to drag himself and wife from the track before the train came along. Both were mangled and cut terribly. Three rolling mill men, identified as the robbers, have been arrested.

### Democratic Notice to Union Soldiers.

Early in the session of the present Congress a resolution was offered in the House by a Republican, declaring that, in distributing the offices in the gift of the House, wounded and crippled soldiers, if well qualified, ought to have the first choice. The Democrats were thrown into consternation by this resolution. At first they moved to lay it on the table; but Mr. Cox, of New York, came to the rescue, with the following substitute, which was adopted by a strict vote, the Democrats voting for it: "Resolved, That inasmuch as the Union of States has been restored, all citizens thereof are entitled to consideration in all appointments to offices under this Government."

This, then, is declared by the House to be the Democratic doctrine. Hence it merits more than the casual attention given it in the hurry of the moment. It will be observed that this resolution covers a much broader scope than the distribution of House offices. Mr. Cox, no doubt, drew it with care, and submitted it to the inspection of others, before offering it for a vote. The Republican resolution only mentioned the subordinate House offices; but Mr. Cox's resolution covers "all appointments to offices under this Government"—that is, all the appointments by either branch of Congress or by the President, or by any department or bureau, or in the army or navy, Indian service, pensions care of Union soldiers' homes and asylums, diplomatic service, post-offices, customs—in fact it covers every office in the gift of the Government. It is a broad, sweeping declaration that, in every conceivable office in the gift of the Government an ex-rebel soldier is as much entitled to the office as a Union soldier, and a rebel has as good a claim to the office as a Union man. It gives notice that this will be the rule when the Democratic party gains full power.

Under this rule, thus laid down by Mr. Cox, and declared by the solid Democratic vote in Congress, the ex-Confederate Semmes, who was formerly an officer in the United States Navy, is just as much entitled to be restored to the navy, and made Admiral thereof, as any naval officer who fought bravely for the Union. And an ex-Confederate General is just as much entitled to be appointed to command in our army, as any officer who fought for the Union. And a major of any of the rebel regiments is just as much entitled to be appointed custodian of any soldiers' home or asylum as any Union officer is. And ex-Confederate soldiers are just as much entitled as Union men to be made pension agents, and given care of wounded, maimed and sick soldiers of the Union, or the widows and orphans of Union soldiers. And the foreign agents of the rebellion are just as much entitled as anybody to be appointed to represent this Republic abroad. In fact, if the principle of this resolution be carried to its logical conclusion, ex-Confederate soldiers have just as good a claim to demand pensions as Union soldiers; and the claims of rebels for payment for war losses are just as good as the claims of Union men. As illustrated by the action of the House and its appointees, the rebel claims are really the best; for more Southern ex-rebels than Northern Union men were given minor offices.

Mr. Cox distinguished himself—perhaps he may discover, by and by, that he extinguished himself—by this resolution, and also helped a good deal to extinguish his party. For we think the "boys in blue," and their friends will not forget this resolution, and its adoption by the Democrats of the House, in next year's elections.—*Detroit Post.*

Joyce, who is now in the penitentiary, wrote original poetry for the papers. Clark Stocking also wrote original poetry, and where, oh, where, is he? Running a machine agency or something, at Garry, at last accounts.

## The Bismarck Tribune.

A REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER, Published by THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE CO. TRI-WEEKLY AND WEEKLY.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: Tri-Weekly Weekly 3 months \$2.00 1 year \$3.00 6 months 1.25 Single copies 5 cents. Subscriptions payable in advance.

## USTER INTERVIEWED.

Black Hills—Localities Similar to the Richest Mines in Colorado—Placer that Yield Two Dollars to the Pan—A Fine Agricultural Region—Best Route to Reach them.

On the return of the Custer expedition to the Black Hills, in 1874, the editor of the Bismarck TRIBUNE interviewed Gen. Custer in relation to the Black Hills, with the result shown below. As to the character of the Hills the interview speaks for itself. As to the route spoken of by Gen. Custer, it has since been traveled by several parties of miners, and one who is familiar with it, Capt. A. J. Fisher, in the TRIBUNE of Jan. 12th tells, all about it from personal observation. The route will also be found correctly located on Rice's Pocket Map of Dakota, for sale by R. Wilson, Bismarck, D. T., or the St. Paul Lithograph Co., St. Paul, Minn.; price, \$1.25.

Custer speaks of the distance to the French Creek mines, Custer Gulch, which were the first mines discovered, and are located in the extreme southern portion of the Hills; Capt. Fisher speaks of the Rapid Creek mines, which are the richest mines reported by Prof. Jenney. They are much nearer Bismarck than the first discoveries. The Bear Lodge mines, which are reported by miners still richer, are still north of the Rapid Creek mines, being located on the Belle Fourche, where Custer's expedition also found gold, and much more accessible to Bismarck than any other mines, and much more accessible to Bismarck than to any other locality. The Big Horn and Powder river mining region of which Gen. Sheridan speaks, are also within easy reach of Bismarck—but to the interview:

Reporter—Allow me to congratulate you, General, on your safe return. I presume, however, you were disappointed in not having a brush with the Sioux.

Custer—Yes; I was somewhat disappointed, for, though I had sent pacific messages and had taken every precaution to avoid hostilities, I had reason to anticipate trouble. I was disappointed, and am heartily glad of it. Some thought I courted an engagement; such was not the case, and I congratulate myself and the country on the return of the expedition without bloodshed. An engagement, no matter how trifling, would have been magnified and misrepresented, and the good effects of the expedition would have been to a great extent destroyed.

Reporter—I see you endorse fully the reports of the explorers and newspaper correspondents concerning the gold discoveries, and therefore presume there can be no doubt as to the richness of the discoveries.

Custer—The reports are not exaggerated in the least; the prospects are even better than represented. I am familiar with, and to some extent interested in, Colorado mines, and I saw localities in the Black Hills similar, as to formation, to the richest regions in Colorado, where the geologists insisted the precious metals must be found, that were not explored by the miners at all. These localities were met with in my rambles among the valleys when the explorers were not within reach.

Reporter—What was the best prospect reported to you?

Custer—The product of one pan of earth was laid on my table which was worth not less than two dollars. It contained some fifty particles of gold, ranging from a color to the size of a kernel of wheat, averaging about the size of a pin head.

Reporter—Was gold found in other localities than Custer Park?

Custer—Yes; at various points, though the explorers report the richest prospects there; but, as I said before, the scientific gentleman are satisfied that far richer discoveries will be made on further exploration. The miners also agree with this view of the case.

Reporter—Where did you first strike the gold country?

Custer—A long way this side of Harney's Peak we struck a country which gave unmistakable evidence of containing gold in paying quantities, and I am satisfied that a rich mining region will be found in the northeastern portion of the Hills.

Reporter—What is the best route to reach the Black Hills mines from the Missouri river?

Custer—Unquestionably a direct route from Bismarck in the direction of Bear Butte.

Reporter—What is the distance from Bismarck to the gold region, and the nature of the country?

Custer—The distance from Bismarck to Bear Butte is about one hundred and ninety-eight miles. Harney's Peak is 35 miles south-west of Bear Butte. Custer's Gulch can be reached by a march of 240 miles over an excellent country, affording good grazing, a fair amount of timber, an abundance of water and everything essential to building up prosperous villages along the route. A route which affords absolutely no engineering difficulties should occasion demand the construction of a railroad from Bismarck to the Hills.

Reporter—How many days will it require to reach the gold region from Bismarck with loaded trains?

Custer—The trip can be made without the least difficulty in eight days, though ordinarily it should take ten days.

Reporter—Are there any bad lands on the route?

Custer—None whatever. The bad lands, or *marais terre*, are located along the Little Missouri and the Yellowstone rivers, and are wholly barren of vegetation. Sully describes them as looking like the "bottom of hell with the fires out." Where the Northern Pacific crosses the Little Missouri they are only five miles in extent, and thirty miles south of the proposed crossing they disappear entirely. From the point of beginning they increase in extent until the mouth of the river is reached. The same is true of the Yellowstone river bad lands. They wholly disappear on its head waters. The country along the route suggested is not a sage brush region even, but is in the main fair rolling prairies, with occasional tracts somewhat sandy, producing cactus; but these tracts are very limited in extent. On our recent trip from Bismarck to the Black Hills not a foot of land of this character was struck until we had deviated from our course eighty miles. Eighty miles west of the route suggested a very interior country is found, which was fully described in my official reports and in the letters of the correspondents accompanying the expedition.

Reporter—You speak of deviating from your course in marching to the Black Hills; why did you deviate?

Custer—My instructions and the objects of the expedition contemplated an exploration of as great an extent of the unexplored region as possible, and I made the deviation in order to take in a country wholly unexplored. I marched three or four days on a direct route from Bismarck to the Black Hills, then took a westerly course into Montana, then southwesterly into Wyoming, then southeasterly into the Black Hills, entering them from the west.

Reporter—Are the Hills accessible from other directions?

Custer—It is believed that all attempts to enter the hills from the south or east will be futile. I made several attempts to pass through them southward, but failed to find a passage. I had no difficulty in entering them from the west or in passing out toward the north east.

Reporter—I see it is claimed that Old Fort Pierre is nearer on the maps than Bismarck to the Black Hills region.

Custer—Referring to Reynolds, who passed over the route from Fort Pierre to Bear Butte in 1859, I find that he pronounced against the country. On page 27 he says: "We have now been out ten traveling days, and are one hundred and forty miles from Fort Pierre. The whole country traversed is entirely unfit for the residence of white men." This, as I understand it, is the trail that some parties have talked of taking. I do not think it a feasible route or one likely to be adopted. It cannot be compared with the direct route I have suggested, running southwesterly from Bismarck, crossing at nearly right angles the following streams: Little Hart, Cannon Ball, Battle creek, Grand river, Owl river and Cherry creek, striking the Cheyenne at its forks. These streams are all small, and excepting one or two, afford good water and every facility for camping.

Reporter—Is there danger of interference on the part of Indians on the route suggested?

Custer—The country is neutral ground, and is not occupied by them, though small war or hunting parties pass over it occasionally. It is unquestionably the safest route; the Indians

located at the agencies south and southeast of the Black Hills are very liable to give trouble to immigrants. Many outrages have occurred in that locality of late, while not a single outrage has occurred in my district during the past season, except two cases of stock stealing.

Reporter—What is the probable policy of the military toward persons seeking to enter the Hills this fall?

Custer—The government has entered into a solemn treaty with the Indians whereby they agree to keep off all trespassers. This is a law of the land, and should be respected, and Gen. Sheridan has already issued instructions to the military to prevent expeditions entering upon the reservation, and parties contemplating going have been warned to keep off.

Reporter—But, General, you are aware that you have a long line to guard, and small parties may slip across the line and enter the reservation while the military is powerless to prevent it.

Custer—That is true to some extent, but until Congress authorizes the settlement of the country the military will do its duty. When the Indian title is extinguished the military will aid the settlers in every way possible. I shall recommend the extinguishment of the Indian title at the earliest moment practicable for military reasons.

Reporter—What are those reasons, General?

Custer—The Black Hills region is not occupied by the Indians, and is seldom visited by them. It is used as sort of a back room to which they may escape after committing depredations, remaining in safety until quiet is again restored. It is available in keeping up communication between the agency Indians and the hostile tribes located in the buffalo region north-west of the Hills, and if the Black Hills region is wrested from them this communication will be broken up, and a fruitful source of trouble will be moved. The extinguishment of the Indian title to the Black Hills, and the establishment of a military post in the vicinity of Harney's Peak, and another on the Little Missouri, will settle the Indian question so far as the Northwest is concerned.

Reporter—A region as valuable as the Black Hills are for agricultural purposes it would seem ought to be open for settlement. Their agricultural worth alone ought to be enough to cause the extinguishment of the Indian title were there no other reason.

Custer—Too much can not be said in favor of the agricultural worth of the valleys in the Black Hills. No country in the world is superior for stock growing; the grazing is unsurpassed, the valleys are sheltered from driving storms, the snow fall is evidently light, the rainfall abundant. Think of those brooks in which the water is pure as crystal, and only twelve degrees above freezing the warmest days in summer, in connection with butter and cheese making. The valleys are not wide, and yet they are extensive, and the rich pasture extends not only throughout the valleys, but well up the pine clad ridges. Let the outer rim of a wash dish represent the outer rim of the Hills; then dent the bottom so as to represent smaller hills and valleys, and you have a very correct idea of the interior of the Hills. Nature, it would seem, exhausted her resources in attempting to beautify and fit for the husbandman these delightful valleys. Man could ask no more at her hands.

Capt. John W. Smith was also approached in our interview. The Captain has been freighting and trading on the plains for many years and is known to almost every one in Kansas, Nebraska, Western Iowa and Southern Dakota. In all of the Black Hills schemes originating below, John W. Smith is referred to, and his familiarity with the country admitted. He is a worthy and intelligent gentleman, a man in good circumstances, the trader of the recent expedition, one whose statements are entitled to credit and will carry with them great weight where he is known. Capt. Smith endorses every word of Gen. Custer, as reported above, relating to the best route to reach the Black Hills. He is satisfied that the one suggested is nearly two hundred miles nearer than any other—nearer by one-half than the route from Sioux City—while it has all the advantages claimed for it by Custer. A route from Old Fort Pierre is suggested, but Smith says the distance from Yankton to Fort Pierre is as great as the distance from Bismarck to the gold fields and from Fort Pierre to the mines is as much more. He has traveled over the route many times to within a few miles of the Hills, hauled freight over it, and knows what he is talking about. As a quick and safe route, Smith insists that the one from Bismarck is unequalled, and that it must take the bulk of travel.

Major-General Gordon Granger died in California on the 18th.