

THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

Col. Clifford Thompson has resigned his position on the Minneapolis Tribune to accept a more lucrative position on the New York Evening Mail. The Colonel was a most excellent gentleman, a vigorous writer, an accomplished newspaper man. He did much for the Tribune during the four years he was connected with it, and leaves universally respected. The Tribune company has been reorganized, the capital being increased from \$60,000 to \$100,000. Capt. J. P. Rea, of Lancaster, Penn., becomes the editor with the lively and accomplished John A. Rea, managing editor. Mart Williams, one of the best boys in the universe, resumes the position of city editor, with the gallant Henry H. Chas. F., night editor. A G Wilcox continues as business manager, with James I. Hendryx in charge of the mechanical department. The emanation of capital and talent is such that the "Great Newspaper of the Northwest" must look to its laurels or the Tribune will get away with it badly.

We should add that with Sturdefant in charge of the Commercial Department of the Tribune it has long been the favorite farmers' paper of Minnesota, and is valuable for its statistics, reliable market reports, and clear views as to the probabilities of trade.

A BETTER THING THAN EVER SEEN IN CALIFORNIA.

The Helena Herald contains a letter from John Montgomery to John X. Beidler, of Helena, dated Oct. 27, at Cheyenne, from which we make the following extract: I have seen a number of specimens from the hills—all very fine, but have not seen any large amount in possession of any one party. There was one of my old boyhood friends in the office a short time since to make a shipment of a box East. He said it contained quartz and cast, and he told me he had a better thing than he ever saw in California, where he had been for twenty years. But the best indication is that the majority of the men who came back from the Hills in obedience to General Crook's order, have returned, and, from the best information I can obtain, there are at present between three and four thousand men in the Hills. This is all the information I can give you at present.

The Bismarck Tribune is no longer independent in politics. It now takes a bold stand in favor of the Republican party. This may be a beneficial change, but it seems to us that the air is too pregnant with Democracy in the upper country for the Tribune editor to exhibit Republican odor too strongly. —Dakota Herald.

Things are changing. Many who occupied a like Independent position have announced adherence to the Republican party since the reconstruction of Grant's Cabinet. Bristow, Jewell and Pierpont have done much to restore confidence on the part of the Independent voter in the Republican party.

Col. John H. Stevens has introduced a bill in the Minnesota Legislature appropriating \$35,000 on behalf of that state for the Centennial Exhibition. Minnesota will commit a grievous error if she refuses to incur this expense.

The Secretary of the Interior has decided that while the law does not recognize the planting of cuttings or seeds under the tree culture act, the General Land Office will not inquire as to how the trees are produced if the growth is thrifty and the trees healthy.

It is alleged that Bismarck is negotiating with Spain for Porto Rico with a view to the establishment of a German naval depot and German colony in the West Indies, and that this was the real cause of the recent bustle in the navy department.

People throughout the country have been busily engaged for the past two weeks in plowing for next spring crop. The weather in that time has not been cold enough to form ice as thick as a knife blade. Some enterprising genius will next be proposing to set out an orange grove under our Italian skies. —Missoulian Missoula Montana Dec. 15

One omnibus and two ambulance loads of young people from Bismarck, attended the ball given by Co. "G." 17th Infy, Wednesday evening, at Fort Lincoln. All speak in high terms of the arrangements, commending particularly the supper and the music. These Lincoln balls, or hops, are becoming very popular among our citizens. The "boys in blue" spare no pains to make them enjoyable for their invited guests.

USUAL BUDGET OF WASHINGTON NEWS.

The public debt was increased nearly \$2,000,000 during December. Smith was knocked down and robbed of \$1,400, in the streets of Yankton, a few days ago. Beecher received 1,193 persons on New Year's, an increase of two hundred over last year. Secretary Chandler expects to save two million a year heretofore stolen on fraudulent pension claims. Speaker Kerr is said to favor Hendricks, of Ind., for the Democratic candidate for President. A boy thirteen years old has been convicted of bastardy by an intelligent jury in Winnebago county, Ill. The confidential clerk of Babbitt, the soap man, appears to be a defaulter in the sum of \$300,000 and upwards. Convicts in the Ohio penitentiary were recently caught making bogus nickels of a composition of zinc and copper. Boss Hession, of Chicago, is now in the toils of Bristow's gang, and wishes he had stuck to whiskey straight, no doubt.

FAILURE OF THE AMNESTY BILL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The House Judiciary Committee reported back the amnesty bill with the amendment of Gen. Banks incorporated when the previous question was ordered shutting out Blaine's amendment in reference to Jeff Davis, and the bill being put upon its passage was lost, two thirds not having voted in the affirmative. The vote stood 182 ayes, 177 noes.

Other Interesting Miscellaneous News.

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RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Senator Windom yesterday presented a petition from twenty nine thousand citizens of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin, asking for the appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars for the improvement of the Wisconsin river.

PROVIDING FOR A CONTINGENCY.

The Judiciary was instructed to report a bill, if necessary, providing for the various contingencies which might occur in the case of a vacancy in the office of President and Vice President.

THE TERRITORIES.

The House has adopted a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of a constitutional amendment, giving citizens of organized territories the right to vote for President.

THE AMNESTY BILL.

After Blaine's second speech on the amnesty bill, Gen. Banks moved an amendment prescribing that the parties should first go before a court of record and take the oath of allegiance.

Randall asked unanimous consent to the adoption of the amendment.

Blaine objected unless his amendment, excluding Jeff Davis, could also be adopted in like manner.

Randall moved to refer to a committee to incorporate the Bank's amendment, which prevailed.

MINNESOTA GRAND LODGE.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 14.—The Masonic Grand Lodge in this state, which closed its labors yesterday, granted a charter for a lodge at Bismarck, D. T. The officers elect are Hon. J. C. Braden, of Litchfield, Grand Master; J. B. Cummings, of Winona, Deputy Grand Master; Hon. H. R. Wells, of Preston, Grand Senior Warden; Gen. A. J. Edgerton, of Mantorville, Minn., Grand Junior Warden; Maj. Geo. A. Camp, of Minneapolis, Grand Treasurer, and Past Grand Master A. T. C. Pierson, of St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

BEECHER MOULTON.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—Dr. Storrs and Buddington having been named on the committee to investigate the Beecher Moulton matter, Plymouth Church objected to these gentlemen as persons partial and prejudiced, whereupon the other ministers chosen declined to serve on the committee, and calling it has been abandoned.

BRINTOW'S WAR.

CHICAGO, Jan. 15.—Owners of nearly all the principal distilleries plead guilty to the first count in the whisky indictment, charging them with conspiracy to defraud.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—The Republican Central Committee, after eight ballots, in which Cincinnati, Chicago and Philadelphia lead, determined to hold the National Republican Convention at Cincinnati, June 14th.

The Fargo Times issues a supplement containing congressional and legislative news. This enterprise ought to be lauded no doubt is appreciated by the Red River valley people.

NOTICE AND NEWS.

John H. Clifford, died at his home in Iowa, a few days ago. The public debt was increased nearly \$2,000,000 during December.

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President Grant is vehemently opposed to the reduction of the army and will veto any measure that has reduction in view if it should pass.

Two additional suits on the part of Bowen against the Brooklyn Eagle and the Eagle reporter have been compromised, the Eagle people paying \$1,000 on each in the way of damages.

The lower house of the Ohio legislature passed a resolution condemning the action of congress in dismissing union soldiers to give place to ex-convictes.

St. Louis Masons attempted to expel McDonald from the order for his crimes, but the marshal would not permit him to be taken to the lodge room for the purpose of arraignment.

As the patriots rushed to Canada in the days of the draft so rush to the same locality those likely to become Bristow's victims. Nearly 1000 have taken up their abode at Windsor.

The Inter-Ocean got on its marrow-bones to Secretary Bristow because of its recent sensation, and the editor who is alleged to have been responsible was discharged.

Persons who commence libel suits rarely gain anything. Col. Pfender, State Treasurer of Minn., who sued Capt. Hunter failed to get a verdict. The jury was out but an hour and returned with a verdict for the defendant.

Governor Beveridge, of Illinois, pardoned 135 criminals confined in the penitentiary of that state last year. Of these 17 were sent up for murder, 8 for man-laugher, 49 for grand larceny, 3 for forgery and 2 for counterfeiting, 9 for rape, and so on to the end of the catalogue.

Notes from Buford.

FORT-BUFORD, D. T., Jan. 6, 1876.—"A steamboat has left Sioux City for Buford," is the common remark to day, and, indeed, the weather would seem to warrant such an assertion. That reliable personage, "the oldest inhabitant," whose memory runs back to a mythical period—even this authority asserts that never before in this section were such spring like days enjoyed in mid winter. Joseph Leighton arrived from Fort Peck last Friday. He reports everything quiet in that vicinity. "Crow that Flies High" had left his women and children at Wolf Point and started with his warriors on a visit to "Sitting Bull's" camp, on the Yellow-bone. Of course the object of the Crows visit is supposed to be a friendly one; they had been out twelve days when Mr. Leighton left.

Ice cutting commenced here on the 6th inst., and very good ice is obtained, varying between 17 and 20 inches in thickness, promising "cool drinks" to Buffordites next summer, who certainly know how to appreciate them.

I have seen a piece performed some where called the "Stage Struck Ducky." This seems at present a prevailing disease at this post, and Buford, if not "stage struck" itself, contains a large number who are affected that way. "The New Varieties" opens Saturday evening with a promising "bill of fare." We note as the closing piece, "Othello, the Moor of Venice." This makes three troupes in one post, with no chance for outside patronage, and yet they meet with success.

Four lodges of Yanktonays Sioux arrived to day from Grand River, on their way to Fort Peck; they have been twenty-one days on the road, and were, as usual, hungry upon arrival here.

It is rumored that A. C. Leighton will start east soon by way of Bismarck, while "Doc" Gaylord returns to the upper country on business connected with the trading posts.

Through somebody's mistake one of our eastern mails was turned back, and instead of going east, was, in obedience to that old quotation, "going west"; but the efficient P. M. at Burtbold, I believe, discovered the blunder and re-started it on its way to America rejoicing. MAJOR.

BLACK HILLS.

Mines and Mining—Re-location of Claims—Ten Cents to the Pan a Low Estimate—Custer City Hilly and so forth—An Interesting Interview.

The Cheyenne Leader of a recent date contains the following:

A reporter of the Leader called upon Mr. Irwin yesterday, at his hotel, and obtained that gentleman's consent to an interview in regard to affairs in the Black Hills. Mr. Irwin is an experienced miner, who has been engaged in mining in Colorado for many years; he has made two visits to the Black Hills, being the original discoverer of the Placer mines in what is now known as the Jenny mining district, of which he was elected recorder last summer. Mr. Irwin is now en route to Rosita, Col., where he will spend a few weeks in winding up his affairs, when he will return to his claims in the Black Hills.

We give the following verbatim report of the conversation between Mr. Irwin and our reporter:

Reporter—Mr. Irwin, you have been in the Hills several months; can you give the readers of the Leader an idea in regard to the number of miners now in the Hills, and the manner in which mining claims are being located?

Interviewed—I have spent several months in several sections of the Black Hills, having accompanied Prof. Jenney in his explorations last summer. Our party located in Jenney mining district and we have worked there exclusively. There are about three hundred miners in our vicinity, among them many Montana men. New arrivals are noted daily. Re-organization and re-location are the order of the day. At a meeting held in our district a week ago, claims not represented by personal appearance on the ground, on or before the 1st of January, 1876, were declared forfeited and open to re-location.

Reporter—What are the prospects in your district, and what are the miners doing in other parts of the Black Hills?

Irwin—Considerable business is being done in our vicinity. John W. Allen, our new recorder, is taking out one dollar per hour for every hand at work. As the evenings and mornings are frosty, they cannot run sluices over six hours per day. Others are rocking out "grub stakes," and opening their claims as usual to be ready for "dividends" in the early spring. Castle creek is lively. Cabins are going up and everybody is excited over rich prospects. Rapid Canon is located from head to mouth, and ten cents to the pan is considered a low average prospect in the pay-streak-where. Parties just in from Iron and Sand creeks, on the north-western slope, report cool weather there and everything frozen up; they claim to have rich shallow diggings in that section and on the adjoining creeks in Crook county, Wyoming Territory. A stampede is expected to that portion of the Hills as soon spring opens, as it is generally admitted to be the richest in placer and quartz mines yet discovered in the Black Hills. Westers, Mallory and Porter, from the Buckeye district, in the Bear Lodge range, arrived at our camp recently. They claim to have discovered very rich quartz, and say but little can be done in their placer mines at present, owing to the cold weather and scarcity of water.

Reporter—Which of the new settlements is likely to be the principal one in the Black Hills?

Irwin—This can scarcely be determined at this early day. New towns are growing up all around us; Custer City will soon be a second class burg, if she does not aspire to become the leading city of the Hills. The latest candidate in the "metropolis" line is Hilyo, or Hill City, at the junction of the roads down Spring creek, and leading from Spring to Castle creek. It is about sixteen miles farther in the direction of the Hills than Custer City, and in a very promising location; but time will soon determine which town is to lead off.

Reporter—Is there much snow in the Hills, or on the way?

Irwin—There was no snow in the Hill to amount to anything when I left, and I saw but little on the plains on the way out.

Reporter—Did you meet many miners going to the Hills?

Irwin—I counted one hundred and forty men going in via Pollock's cut-off.

Reporter—Which is the best route to take from Cheyenne?

Irwin—The best route to Custer City, Castle creek and Hilyo is via Pollock's cut-off. Parties going that way should carry wood from Cottonwood to Government Farm, and from Rawhide to Running Water. The right hand road, three miles beyond Running Water, is known as Pollock's cut-off.

A Southern War Secret Revealed.

Hon. Alexander H. H. Stuart and Capt. John S. Ople, are rival candidates for a seat in the legislature of Virginia, and made speeches at a political meeting held in Staunton on Monday. A correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch says that among some personal reminiscences related by Mr. Stuart in his speech was one connected with the peace negotiations of the late confederacy that has never been made public. He read

...from from: John P. Benjamin, dated March 25, 1864, asking him to ... interview with President Davis on business, the subject of which was too important to be committed to paper. He went, and was informed by President Davis that the confederate congress had voted a secret-service fund of \$3,000,000 in gold to be used in creating a peace sentiment at the north. After looking over the whole country the "president" had selected Mr. Stuart as the man for the mission. He was to sail for Nassau and thence for Halifax, and there, from the border of Canada, could operate on prominent men. The fund of \$3,000,000 was to be at his absolute disposal, and he was not to be required to furnish vouchers for its disbursement. Mr. Stuart declined the tender, and C. C. Clay, of Alabama, and two other gentlemen were appointed. The Greeley correspondence and the "To whom it may concern" President Lincoln followed this mission.

New Year's Day Among the Arizka Rees.

FORT BERTHOLD, D. T., Jan. 1, 1876.—It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that New Year's day is recognized and welcomed by the Rees. They say it is the day when "the Great Spirit adds another page to his book on which He is going to write down all that will happen during the incoming year."

The new year is greeted with rejoicing, and—like their white brothers—the Rees call on their friends and bid them a happy new year; the gentler sex add to the wish a kiss, to make it more "binding."

New dresses are kept for the new year, old grudges are put away, and last year's foes are this year's friends. The old year is treated with great contempt; all sorts of bad things are said about it, and, like the Jewish "scape goat," the sins of the tribe are laid on its head, and it is driven off into the wilderness of forgetfulness.

The following is a rough attempt at a translation of a Rees song on the old year which is expressive of their contempt for it:

The wicked old year has passed and gone away,
Give it a kick and let it go!
My coal black hair it has turned to gray,
Give it a kick and let it go!
It has wrinkled and furrowed with care my brow,
Give it a kick and let it go!
Want and hunger it has made me feel ere now,
Give it a kick and let it go!
I'm so thin and weak I can scarcely say how!
Give it a kick and let it go!
Who'll weep for the old year?—not one I'll trow!
Give it a kick and let it go!

This specimen of poetry will show that the Rees are by no means deficient in the cultivation of the muses. The more one muses on this subject the more does he feel how un-Reesian able it is to say the Rees have no Rees son, while the fact is indisputable that they can show plenty of Rees sons! But, to leave off puns, which seldom have any pun-gency, let us return to the new year among the Rees.

One of their ceremonies is very interesting and poetical: They take an old battered and cracked earthen pot, inside of which is a bran new one, filled with gifts for the new year, and carefully carrying the pots to the home of the dead, where sleep the departed braves, they break the old pot and scatter its fragments over the graves, singing the song I have before referred to, and then take up the new pot and lavish their fondest caresses upon it, singing:

The happy new year is here with all its joys,
Give it a kiss and let it come!
Hurray for the new year—hurray, my boys!
Give it a kiss and let it come!

I had written thus far on New Year's night with a hot toddy at my elbow, when I fell asleep. Was it all a dream?
W. COURTENAY.

Nine Years ago.

A friend at Fort Berthold sends the following, which gives the situation of things in the upper country nine years ago:

GULLIVER'S ISLAND, M. T., April 1, 1867.—Dear —:—It is now a long time since I wrote you, and I take up my pen to tell you, first, that I am well and so are all the boys; next, that we have been having very rough times lately; our grub played out about two days ago, and we have been living on lamb's quarter straight, with occasionally a poisoned coyote. We sent out Frilicky Pa Pa to try and make Benton and raise some grub, but the poor fellow had a hard time getting through. He had to ravel from the head of the Shonkee; as his horse gave out and the snow was nine feet deep on the level, he saw it was useless trying to walk, and he just threw summer salts (I forget the way this word is spelled) all the way into Benton—a measured distance of nineteen miles and a half. He had to do this—there was no getting around it; but you know he was always good at throwing summer salts. Frilicky didn't meet any one, but he found a good many frozen chickens that had died before they could get their claws loose from the branches of the trees.

I wish you would send up my horse with the one eye gone and the other going; I mean the one with the roached mane, and hardly any tail to speak of. I want him for a pack horse, as I am going to Fort Peck. Bill, Dick, Joe and Tom send you their regards, and we all hope soon to see you.
Truly yours,
SAMUEL SWALLOW.