THE BILLINGS HERALD.

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THE BILLINGS HERALD.

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Wines and Brandies,

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WINES,

LIQUORS

—AND—

CIGARS

A SPECIALTY.

Most Popular Brands of

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Always in Stock.

UP TO MAGINNIS.

Notes of a Trip Just Made by a Citizen of Billings.

Cattle on a Thousand Hills—The Gold and Silver at the Mines.

Average Yield of Placer Mines per Day—A New Mine Discovered.

The Northern Pacific.

After leaving Billings and ascending Alkali Creek, we drove seventeen miles to a place called the Spring, which is merely a "wash-out," containing alkali water lying at the foot of the bluffs. Passing through a country well adapted for a cattle range, two long flats of much the same nature bring you to the "Bull Mountain" Station, on the mail road to Martinsdale, there again is a small spring of alkali water, and two log shacks for the accommodation (?) of travellers and the mail-drivers. After descending from the second ridge of Bull Mountains, we soon reached Painted Robe Creek, along the banks of which were scattered some 4,000 head of cattle fresh from the round-up, all in splendid condition and affording good evidence of the effect of the excellent natural grasses in that vicinity. Some eight miles over a rolling country, which must be very holding in the winter months, brought us to the Musselshell, which at this point runs through a canyon, though near the stage station, there is a small flat about two miles in length by half a mile in breadth. Oldham's ranch and store are situated near the river, the immediate vicinity of which is thickly covered by brush, which affords excellent shelter to sheep in winter. The Musselshell, which is about one-third of the breadth of the Yellowstone at the Coulson ferry, carries a good head of water, but can be forded easily except during about a week or ten days in the early summer. Ascending a steep bluff, a good view is obtainable of the Snow Mountains, and the Judith Gap away to the left, beyond which the Crazies and Belt Mountain come into view. A long, steady ascent brings you to the point of another range of bluffs, the country between which and the Musselshell was thickly covered with cattle, all in the best condition. From this point the Bad Lands extend to the Judith Gap, where a few scattered buffalo bulls were to be seen at intervals. Traces of coal and limestone were apparent on either side as we went along, but the croppings were very thin and of rather poor quality. The first creek with really good water is called Swimming Woman Creek, and it was quite refreshing to see a stream of really pure water after the alkali we had become accustomed to. There is a sheep ranch located about a mile and a half above the crossing, whose owner might have carried on quite a brisk trade had he located lower down, as the numerous traces of camp fires show how much the road is used. Another long ascent and you are on a large, slightly rolling plateau, where there are plenty of antelope. All this part of the country is admirably adapted for cattle raising, and sheep do well nearer the foot hills. Two creeks with excellent water, and some brushwood along the banks intersect this plateau, and there are three or four large sheep ranches on it. Near the northwest corner of the Snowies, the road runs in amongst the foot hills and is rather rough and very hilly. The small flats would be excellent locations for ranches were it not for the absence of water—all the creeks being dry. Leaving the town of Ubet about five miles on the left hand, the road joins that from Martinsdale to Maiden, after following which for a mile or so, Gregory's ranch is reached, a mail station. This is the most comfortable house on the whole road, with a most hospitable host and hostess, who anticipate every want and keep a table which would do honor to a first-class hotel. Gregory himself is a first rate hunter and is glad to show sport during the season to anyone who pays him a visit. An excellent trout stream called Buffalo Creek, and which is full of fish, runs down from the Snowies by the ranch, and would afford good irrigation to the pasture lands just below. Timber of fine quality is here in abundance, and can be purchased at from $22 to $25 per thousand. A drive along the foot of the Snowies in a northeasterly direction of thirty-five miles brings you to Maiden, passing on the way several creeks, the principal of which, Warm Spring Ceeck, is thickly settled by halfbreeds, and there are numerous ranches along the whole line of road. All of this part of the Judith Basin is magnificent for cattle raising, and as far as we could judge there were from 9,000 to 12,000 head of cattle in sight, and two bands of sheep. The drive up the gulch to Maiden of about five miles is rather pretty scenery and several ranches lie along the banks of the creek. Potatoes were extensively raised there as well as a small breadth of oats, but we were sorry to see that they had been damaged somewhat by the frost. McAdow's saw-mill, about three miles below Maiden at Andersonville, seemed to be doing a brisk trade as well as the store opposite. About a mile higher up lies Alpine City, which was entirely deserted until the fall. At length we reached Maiden which seemed very dull, there being only about sixty people there with accommodations for about twenty times that number. The reason given was that the holders of claims having done the necessary amount of work ($100) required by law, had gone elsewhere to prospect, etc. is ' no use giving any detailed account of the different mines, as in nearly all of them the conditions are identical. Of ore there is undoubtedly a great quantity, but it is of low grade and high up on the mountains. Large capital will therefore be required to work them, and as the present holders are lacking in that very requisite article, all they can do is to sit down and wait for capital to come along. The latest strike, the Northern Pacific, bids fair to turn out well, the lead showing a thirty-one foot face. The Chollar and Montana mines should also prove good investments, and we saw some excellent specimens of ore from the War Eagle, but as the shaft in the latter is only down about 27 feet, it is difficult at present to give a definite opinion as to its future. The placer mines are of very limited extent, and suffer from a lack of water. The gold is mostly found in small nuggets, and averages, we were told, about $15 per day per man. After leaving Maiden, we drove down between the Moccassin Mountains, where we found good water and grass, and the cattle in the same sleek condition and tamer than those in the Bad Lands. At the foot of the Big Mocassin we passed a large ranch with slaughter houses, etc., belonging to a well known association of cattle men, most or whom were absent on the round up. The country between this point and the canyon of the Judith, is a high plateau nearly level which affords a good cattle range at certain seasons of the year. Though there are cattle there is a lack of water. The Judith is crossed at a ford in the canyon opposite the mouth of Sage Creek, and an enterprising gentleman has spent a good deal of time and money endeavoring to grade a good road down the side of the bluffs on either side, but not with any great success. A house is being erected on the small flat near the river for the accommodation of travellers along the road, which will be ready for occupancy about the beginning of August. Another short stretch of Bad Lands, and Wolf Creek is reached, following which up to its source brings you to the foot of the Big Belt Mountains not far from Antelope Buttes, which form a conspicuous landmark to travellers from the east side of the basin. At the foot of the Belts are several sheep ranches, all of whose owners seem to be doing well. We were told that the clip averaged 7 pounds per head this season, which must have proved a small bonanza to the sheep men. In conclusion, all the land in the Judith Basin is admirably adapted for cattle raising, being well watered and covered with excellent grass. The west side of the basin and the Musselshell are best for sheep men, and the upper basin of the Judith, a country some thirty miles long by two wide, and all the flats along the creek bottoms, especially Warm Spring Creek, will soon be occupied as agricultural lands, which on account of the great facilities for irrigation, should rank amongst the best grain producing districts in this territory. H.

ROAD AGENTS.

Masked Robbers between Helena and Butte.

The Butte Freeman, of the 16th inst., says:

Last Tuesday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, the Butte and Helena stage was stopped on Bison Creek by three road agents. At first only one of the robbers was noticed, and his command to halt was not heeded till the appearance of two others, with double barrelled shot guns was discovered. There were nine passengers on board the stage, including a lady. The passengers were ordered to throw up their hands; all promptly obeyed except Capt. Shepherd, who lost sight of the robbers in his heroic endeavors to restore to consciousness the lady, who swooned away at the sight of the deadly weapons. The treasure box being demanded, it was reluctuantly handed over. The driver was then told to "git," and he got. Only about $7 was contained in the box. Had the stage been going from Butte the robbers would have made a more successful haul. It is said there were no pistols in the crowd, but if there were, they were forgotten. Sheriff Easterly, of Jefferson county, was notified of the robbery at once, and the chances are that the bold scoundrels will be captured and made to pay dear for their venture.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

END OF TRACK, M. T., July 18th, 1882.

To the Editor of the Billings Herald:

At this writing we are directly opposite Pompey's Pillar, and laying a side track. Dr. Carroll and Mr. Urner visited the Pillar last evening, and discovered on the southeast corner of the mound, part of a female skeleton, which, from appearances, must have lain there for a long time. Pompey's Pillar evidently owes its formation to the action of the Yellowstone river, which formerly ran around the south side. At the north-eastern extremity a large creek joined the river. Finally, the combined effect of the two currents was to isolate from the then bluffs what is now known as Pompey's Pillar, the river running north and behind it. Sun marks on various points prove that this mound of stone has been a sacred resort of the Indians. The name of Wm. Clarke, date 1806, is well preserved. The view from this point is very promising. To the south stretches a smooth plain that merges into low foot hills, which, in turn, are flanked by bluffs. The river banks on either side are covered by pleasant groves of cottonwood and willow. We, who visit this interesting point at this late day, and in comparative safety, feel genuine veneration for the pioneers of 1806, who fearlessly invaded a savage country, and pointed out to their less enterprising fellow men the advantages of an as yet unknown land. All honor be theirs!.....Col. Clough is at this point, awaiting the arrival from the Big Horn of Messrs. Kimberley and Mitchell, on their way to Billings, to "push" the bridge at that point. All indications at present are favorable for rapid tracklaying. .....The R. R. Co. has turned the surfacing train over to Mr. Winston, and it will hereafter be under his control. Mr. W. formerly had this outfit but the Co. thought to save money by working it. A large loss in the undertaking convinced them of their folly, and now it goes back to the most efficient manager.....The tunnel is now entirely timbered, and is perfectly safe..... Capt. Edwards and Tom Kurtz passed here this morning, en route to Billings, which seems to be the place just now.

T. H. C.

How Congress passes a Bill.

In reply to a correspondent, who asks for information on the subject, the New York Journal of Commerce says: One branch of Congress passes a bill and sends it to the other. If the latter adopts it precisely as it passed it, it then goes to the President for approval, but if the bill is amended or changed on its passage in the other branch, it is sent back with such changes to the house in which it originated. If these amendments are there adopted, it then goes to the President, but if not adopted, or adopted only in part, it comes back again to the second branch, where the vote is to recede from the amendments or to insist upon them. If the body insists, then a committee is appointed, and notice being given to the other house, a like committee is appointed, and these two committees meet. If they agree on a report, then the bill is reported on again in each house. If they disagree, each reports, and sometimes a new committee is appointed, and sometimes the bill fails. But if it passes both houses then the President signs it, if he approves; if he disapproves, he returns it within a few days to the house where it originated, with his objections. If that house passes it again by a two-thirds vote, it goes to the other branch of congress, and if it passes there by a two-thirds vote it becomes a law. There is no arbiter between any of the parties.

Three buffalo wandered into Park City on Monday, and only two departed therefrom, the hospitable inhabitants giving a large cow such a warm reception as to cause her to lie down and subsequently enrich their larders.

STAGE STRUCK.

Hank Monk politely requested to stop his Stage that the Gentlemanly Highwayman might go through the Passengers.

He respectfully declines, and is shot at in consequence. One Horse wounded and a Coach Spoke demoralized.

The passengers on the coach that arrived here on Tuesday morning from the east were treated to a first class sensation some distance down the road. Soon after the coach had left Pompey's Pillar, and was crossing the railroad track, the horses being on a walk, an individual attired in border ruffian fashion, in big, slouched hat, high top boots, and an arsenal strapped about his waist, rose suddenly from the ground and called out, "Hello! Stop that coach!" The driver of the stage, however, who was no other than the celebrated "Hank Monk," with whom Horace Greeley once took his celebrated ride, had been on the road too many years to be frightened by any highwayman that ever walked, and so didn't heed the request of the midnight marauder, even though enforced with two revolvers. He on the contrary touched up the two leaders and was off, not, however, before the highwayman had opened fire on him and the coach. The first shot, one out of five, took effect on one of the pole horses, and another shattered a spoke in the hind wheel of the coach. The other three did no damage. The horses at the first pop, started off like mad and were allowed their heads by the driver until the camp of some freighters was reached, one half-mile distant from the scene of the encounter. There a halt was called, and the discovery made that the horse was sorely wounded, and that another would have to be provided from the stage ranch near Pompey's Pillar. Hank Monk and one of the passengers started back back after another horse just as several of Gilmer, Salisbury & Co.'s employees came running up, armed with Winchester rifles. A description of the highwayman was given them and they started off in the darkness to hunt him. A substitute for the wounded horse was procured and the stage rolled on, arriving here at its usual hour for arriving, without further detention. The passengers in the coach—well, they didn't have time to get frightened until after the excitement was over. The list was as follows: Rev. J. Bradshaw, C. H. Dye and lady, of Miles City, A. Ponpeny and J. Van Pelt, commercial travellers, from St. Paul, and F. A. H. Peel, business manager of the Boston Opera Company. The fellow who indulged in the pistol practice was evidently a novice in the business, but a bold operator nevertheless.

MONTANA ITEMS,

For which We are indebted to our Exchanges.

A new district has been located between Montana and Barker district, which has been named Belt Park. This discovery proves conclusively that the Barker and Montana districts are one and the same network of leads.

A toll road is being built from Fort Maginnis to Maiden, a distance of 4 miles, it being from 24 to 30 miles across the present route.

Mail service is expected to be put on soon connecting the two ends of the Northern Pacific.

We are informed that the Western Union Telegraph Company have in contemplation the building of a new line between Helena and Deer Lodge, and wish to arrange for the delivery of some 1,300 telegraph poles along the stage road between these two points. The intention is to have it completed by the time the new wire now being stretched along the line of the Utah & Northern Railway shall reach Deer Lodge, which will be before winter.

A peculiar accident happened to a band of sheep owned by Milton Chaffin, a short time since. They were being grazed not far from Corvallis, and were corralled for the night on one side of a steep-cut bank to a ravine. During the night a bear or some other animal frightened them, and they darted out of the unenclosed end of the corral into the ravine, until enough sheep were piled up to form a solid bridge for the remainder to pass over. Upon counting noses the following day, it was found that just an even hundred head of sheep had perished in the gulch.

The Gallatin News of the 15th inst. says: Messrs. Kurtz, Bausenwein, and Merrill will locate the Benson's Landing townsite, having obtained exclusive right from the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Destruction in the Black Hills.

Friday night the Hills were visited by one of the most terrific storms of the season. In the higher portions of the country there was a deluge of rain, accompanied by wind, that increased in violence as the low lands were reached.

The greatest damage was done commencing at a point about four miles from Spearfish, near Joe Cook's ranch on the Spearfish, where the hail came down in torrents, in many places lying on the ground to the depth of eighteen inches, and literally wiping from the face of the earth everything in its course. On Joe Cook's ranch about one-half of the crops were destroyed, but from there on for four or five miles everything was destroyed.

The ranches of the following persons, we learn by telephone, were in the track of the storm, and all of them annihilated: Pete Riley, Short, Kemper, Dorsit, Bowman, Dr. Rolf, Johnny Flaherty, B. F. Walter, John Burns, J. C. Ryan, George Reed, J. Cowgill, Dan Toomey, Rosenbaum, Pettigrew, Baker, McLaughlin, Shultey, Dunn, and others.

To add to the horror, there was a waterspout or cloud-burst in the hills above, and yesterday morning a volume of water, carrying with it thousands of cords of drift wood, submerged the entire valley, reaching from hill to hill, destroying what little was left by the hail storm.

Never before, since the settlement of the Hills, was there such a prospect of a bounteous harvest as at the present time, and the portion of the country devastated was the first part located and cultivated, and the fairest portion reclaimed.

Pete Riley, who came from his ranch yesterday morning, says there is not enough left to buy a sack of flour.

In Falsebottom and Centennial Prairie there was a violent wind storm, accompanied by torrents of rain, but there was no hail, and the only damage done was the blowing down of the grain, which will rise again.

Tom Hardwick came in from his ranch on the Belle Fourch, at the mouth of the Crow Creek, and reports violent wind with heavy rain, but no damage other than to the growing corn, which will suffer some.

Jacob Shoudy reports from his ranch the same condition of affairs.

These first accounts may be exaggerated, and we hope they are, but the information we give has been derived from reliable parties who were on the ground, and telegraphed the result of their enquiries to the Times.—[Black Hills Daily Times, July 19th.