

# The Billings Herald.

Billings, Montana, Monday, September 21, 1914.

The first of the months with the letter "P" in its title is here, and according to an unwritten law, it marks the opening of the season for the luscious oyster.

The Western trade is increasing year by year, though the consumer is at a distance from the coast has to pay a good price for a comparatively inferior article, that is only fit for church fairs, and people never weary of oysters, and the demand constantly grows.

A few years ago when Jay Cooke met with disaster, the failure of a common thing to do was to invest in the Northern Pacific railroad, but now this enterprise bids fair to be its impulsive projector ever claimed for it, and is regarded on all hands as a safe and good investment, while thousands, even those on the shady side of life, are looking forward to its completion and the pleasures of a trip "to the far west where rolls the Oregon."

The burning oil well in Washington county, Pa., sixteen miles from Bethlehem, is said to be a grand sight. An account says the well was bored by the Pennsylvania company, and at a depth of 2500 feet the surface was reached. A reservoir of gas was struck and compelled a suspension of work by blowing the tools clear out of the shaft. The escape of gas was so immense that it poisoned the atmosphere, and as stock and vegetation suffered, a pipe was laid from the well up a hillside, and then a light was applied. Every since February the gas has continued to burn in unattended violence, and the spectacle is inexhaustible. At night the spectacle is, indeed, grand. The column of fire is about fifty feet high, and from five feet thick, while the roaring that accompanies can be compared to fleet steamboats all blowing off steam at once.

The wine business of California is no small item in the resources of the state. About 10,000,000 gallons of wine are produced annually, and about 2,000,000 gallons are yearly sent eastward, where it is adorned with foreign labels and sold as an imported article. The quality is said to be good, and even some professional connoisseurs are deceived when California wine is offered them. The wine is produced in the small vineyards of the state, and the grapes are produced annually, and about 2,000,000 gallons are yearly sent eastward, where it is adorned with foreign labels and sold as an imported article. The quality is said to be good, and even some professional connoisseurs are deceived when California wine is offered them. The wine is produced in the small vineyards of the state, and the grapes are produced annually, and about 2,000,000 gallons are yearly sent eastward, where it is adorned with foreign labels and sold as an imported article. The quality is said to be good, and even some professional connoisseurs are deceived when California wine is offered them.

General orders No. 54 reprimanding Major Joseph H. Taylor, Assistant Adjutant-General, for having asked political assistance from the Kentucky senators to secure the revocation of an order transferring him from Newport, Ky., to Omaha, is published. The order, long consisting mainly of a recitation of facts, and the reprimand is thus mildly administered: In the army the rule has been, and ever must be, that an officer must obey first, and afterwards, if any wrong is felt, he may properly request, through the proper channels, that he be relieved. It is not the duty of a commander to seek outside influence, or to accept outside influence when a sure mode of relief for all grievances is given by the status and usages governing the army. It is destructive of discipline, and the higher the officer, the more exalted his reputation and fame, the worse the example. If Major Taylor may with impunity defy any orders, regulations and usages and resort to irregular and forbidden methods, other officers will surely do the same with equal if not greater impunity.

An important case was lately decided by the New York court of appeals in resolving the question whether our courts recognize objection as in England or France that will be made by a parishioner or penitent in favor of a clergyman or priest. The court of appeals sustains the will. The judges say that there are two kinds of undue influence—one direct and one indirect. The direct is where a weak minded person is subjected to the will of a stronger one, who, by constant pressure, persuasion and effort, overpowers the testator so that the latter reluctantly makes a will which, left for himself he would not have made. A close confidential relationship like that of priest and penitent may give rise to suspicion, but in this case, as there was nothing to show that the priest exerted any special influence, and a good deal of proof that the lady was sincerely attached to him and desirous of promoting his welfare, and especially as the will was made by her in New York when he was abroad and could not control her, the presumption ought to be considered in favor of the testator. A will apparently produced by affection is not objectionable because the legatee was the testator's priest, guardian, physician, lawyer, or the like.

## Destructive Fire at Chippewa Falls.

A fire started last Saturday night in the job of the Central House barn at Chippewa Falls, Wis. In ten minutes it was beyond control and in thirty minutes the rear portion of the Central hotel, the largest in the city, was a mass of smoking ruins. The steamer, which is a small one at best and a very poor one, was literally no use. In an hour from the time the fire started the entire structure was a mass of flames and the fire spreading east and north to the adjoining wooden structures. The house, with a portion of its contents, was saved. The hotel was valued at \$40,000, with \$14,000 in contents. The owner, Mrs. J. A. Taylor, is in Detroit, and the loss will fall on the estate of her husband.

Mrs. Booth Stoddard has abandoned the work and will henceforth confine her efforts to dramatic readings. Her recent theatrical engagements in London were successful.

## MISDEEDS AND MISHAPS.

A New York Mining Firm Turns Out To Be A Fraud, and the Investor Suffers A Heavy Loss.

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## ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Close of the Reunions at Milwaukee—Election of Officers—The Garfield Monument Fund.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Sept. 21.—The third all-day day of the military reunions in this city were today held. The afternoon session was devoted to the election of officers of the Garfield Monument fund.

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## THE DAYS DOINGS.

During the entire period since the 31st of August, 1883, the debt has been reduced as follows: The interest-bearing debt has been reduced from \$2,381,530,324.96 to \$1,437,683,924.96, a total of \$943,846,400, or 40 per cent. The total debt, less cash in the treasury, has been reduced from \$2,812,662,178.90 to \$1,869,817,524.96, a total of \$942,844,654, or 34 per cent.

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## STORY OF MR. PITT.

How the Great English Prime Minister Fought an American.

London, Sept. 21.—The breaking out of the French revolution in 1792, and the announcement of an "entente" to the human race; that man so easily to live with," who sang the song about himself, called "Billy Dig, the Tory." His secretary one day told him that a foreigner, who spoke English tolerably well, had twice or three called to see him, but looking like a proper applicant, had been sent away, the great man's time being too precious for him to admit every stranger who, on frivolous pretences, might seek to gratify an idle curiosity. This person, however, he said he would return in an hour; the secretary, therefore, thought it was his duty to inform Mr. Pitt of this intention and ask his further orders in the affair.

"Have the goodness," said the minister, "to open the top left hand drawer in the desk, and see what is in it." These were a pair of pistols and a moccasin case; opening the latter he saw a pair of snuff-boxes, in which was set a diamond. "Is that like our visitor?" asked Pitt. "It is the man, sir," answered the secretary.

"I have expected him for some days. He is sent over to assassinate me; so when he calls again let him be shown up." "Sir!" exclaimed the attached retainer, "will you expose to danger your life on which so much depends?" "But you may be within call, if you please." "Accordingly the Frenchman, on his return, was ushered into the room where Mr. Pitt sat at his writing table. The other man, "Monsieur Melchior de la Touche," said Pitt calmly, "you see I am in every way prepared to receive you. I have not yet entirely forgiven the American. Attempt my life and yours instantly pays the forfeit, in any case I shall have you executed on all the gibbets of the world. The intended assassin stood paralyzed and dumb at the cool reception.

"But," continued Pitt, "there is another matter to be considered. Your servants are in your power. Sell your services to Great Britain; make your market of whatever secret information you can get, and you may be within call, if you please." "The intended assassin stood paralyzed and dumb at the cool reception. "But," continued Pitt, "there is another matter to be considered. Your servants are in your power. Sell your services to Great Britain; make your market of whatever secret information you can get, and you may be within call, if you please."

"General Spinner's Sea-Sight. From the Florida Dispatch. General Spinner, the hero that used to sign the treasury notes, and the following day he was seen in a light automobile, driving on the coast of Florida, on South Beach, May Maysport. "Early yesterday morning, as I went for my usual salt bath, accompanied by my daughter, Mrs. Schumann, I saw a light automobile, and in the back seat a man who was looking at me. I saw that a fierce battle was in progress, and the man was looking at me. I saw that a fierce battle was in progress, and the man was looking at me. I saw that a fierce battle was in progress, and the man was looking at me."

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