The Billings Gazette.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

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THE DUTY OF REPUBLICANS.

This newspaper takes no stock in the reports from Helena that the republican members of the legislature will scatter their votes in the senatorial contest among the democratic candidates. These reports emanate from democratic sources and are a base calumny, we believe, on the republicans. They cannot afford to vote for any democrat by reason of the variance of political principles involved and, furthermore, any republican who deserts his party in the senatorial fight will be suspected, at least, of having received a consideration for his vote. We have democratic evidence to the effect that it is a boodle contest, and every self-respecting republican must therefore keep clear of it.

The plain duty of republican members is to make a caucus nomination and stay with it to the end. And the logical candidate of that caucus, in our opinion, is the Hon. Thomas C. Marshall of Missoula. He bore the brunt of battle in the last campaign, received nearly 5,000 more votes than did President McKinley two years ago and is entitled to the honor of leading the republican minority in the senatorial contest. The Gazette hopes to see him selected as the caucus nominee and believes that no republican will waver in his support.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

We print Governor Smith's message today and every person interested in the affairs of the state should read the document; it treats of taxation, revenues and the state institutions in detail and supplies information on almost every subject of interest to the commonwealth. The message is complete in this respect, shows careful preparation and undoubtedly involved considerable labor in its preparation, but that is what the governor is paid for.

Some of the recommendations of the governor seem to be good ones, but they are so numerous that we cannot speak of them in detail. The legislature, the chances are, will not act on half of them; if it succeeds in electing a federal senator by methods which will not be a disgrace to the state, and passes the regular appropriation bills, it will perform better service than the people expect, although they would be glad to be disappointed. The state's income, it appears, from the message, is not quite sufficient unless the expenditures are reduced, which, in some instances, may be accomplished. But, on general principles, we believe that the laborer is worthy of his hire and those serving the state and various counties in an official capacity at present are not overpaid if they properly perform their duties. This is especially true of county officers, whose compensation the governor would reduce by the passage of another salary bill, although he does not make the same recommendation in reference to the state officers.

The best recommendations the governor makes are those to stop the evasion of taxes by new incorporations; to tax all cash and securities; to tax valuable franchises held by corporations; to amend the law or constitution giving the state board of equalization more power; to reduce the interest on state bonds and warrants. These are recommendations which will meet with the approval of the people, whether they are carried out or not—and the chances are that they will not be.

But there are other recommendations not so good. One of them is for the appointment of a railroad commission. If composed of the right kind of men it might be a good thing, but otherwise such a commission might retard railroad building in the state, which is now on the eve, it is thought, of material development on these lines. Another recommendation is to reduce the bounty on coyotes to one dollar and to raise that on wolves to five dollars. That is unjust to the sheepmen. They would be glad, of course, if the state was able to raise the bounty on wolves, but it is not, and it would not be fair, therefore, to discriminate in favor of the cattlemen. Each pay their proportion of the special taxation to pay these bounties and they should remain the same until both can be increased. Still another poor recommendation is the one to curtail the printing of state reports and other information concerning the state. The governor would make it optional with the state board of examiners whether the information is printed or not. That won't do. The people want to know what is going on, and they have a right to know. The mere fact that public officials—both state and county—know that their acts are to be made public, makes them careful. It is a safeguard for the taxpayers. The cost of this printing is small in proportion to the good it does and there should be no disposition to withhold any acts of public officials from the people.

The governor fails to commend the conviction of Bloor for stealing a bill passed by the legislature, and ignores the proved charges against the state superintendent of public instruction in attempting to mulct a lady clerk out of two-thirds of her salary. These matters should have received attention. Then the governor is inclined to give his own administration credit for the prosperity the state is enjoying, which is both egotistical and foolish. Montana can only prosper when other states prosper; national legislation is responsible for the present conditions, but Governor Smith, being a demo-pop, is too narrow to give the republican party the credit due it. This was expected, however. But, taken altogether, the governor's message is an improvement over that of two years ago. It is not all bad, and the people of Montana, if they expected anything better from their present chief executive, have over-sized the man.

The report of the committee of the American Economic association on the financial question, printed on this page is well worth reading. It is a nonpartisan report, the committee being composed of professors of the leading colleges of the United States, men who have made a close study of the subject, who are not politicians and whose conclusions, therefore, are entitled to all the more weight.

From a careful perusal of Governor Smith's message it appears that his excellency is against the banks, the bank depositors, the sheriffs, the newspapers and the republicans of Montana. To even things up, however, it can truthfully be said that about everyone in the state is against Governor Smith.

Butte Inter Mountain: The Anaconda Standard is authority for the statement that the air is so thick with boodle in Helena that it can be cut with a knife. As the Standard has a knife up its sleeve it ought not to complain.

Viewed from this distance, it appears that one faction of the democrats at Helena is afraid and that the other "dasent."

DICK HICKS ARRESTED.

Threw a Beer Glass at Bill Parkinson and Gets Fined.

Dick Hicks, private stock detective, was arrested yesterday morning by Deputy Sheriff Sayles on a warrant sworn out by County Attorney Johnston, charging him with assault in the third degree. Hicks, when taken before Justice of the Peace Fraser, pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined $100 and costs, amounting in all to about $105.

The trouble which occasioned Hicks' arrest occurred in the Exchange saloon on Tuesday night. Billy Parkinson is the night bartender and was at his accustomed place. Before going home, the proprietor, P. H. Scally, told Parkinson not to cash any more checks, as they had cashed so many that afternoon that the money was getting low in the safe. Shortly after this Hicks stepped up to the bar, ordered a drink and tendered a check for $5. Parkinson told him that the money was running low and that he could not cash it. He then turned to change some money for another customer, when Hicks picked up his glass and threw it with all his might at Parkinson's head. His aim must have been bad, for instead of hitting Parkinson it struck the huge glass mirror with sufficient force o shatter it. Parkinson then opened a drawer to get his revolver, but it was not there and when he arose Hicks had pulled his own gun and covered him. At this point friends of both men in the saloon interfered and serious trouble was no doubt averted, for both men are considered dangerous when angered. It is reported that Hicks was under the influence of liquor at the time of the occurrence and this is no doubt the cause of his sudden burst of temper, which resulted in his arrest and fine. The mirror was insured for $250.

The railroad bill and the bill taxing insurance companies on their gross premiums as passed by the extra session of the Kansas legislature have been signed by Governor Leedy. The insurance bill places a tax of 2 per cent on the gross premiums on the Kansas business of all outside insurance companies whether fire, life or accident and 4 per cent on European and other foreign companies.

Judge William R. Day, president of the peace commission at Paris and late secretary of state, was tendered a hearty reception on his return home to Canton, Ohio.

The Gold Standard Must Be Maintained

The American Economic association held its annual meeting at New Haven, Conn., last week, and on Thursday was heard the report of the committee appointed at the annual meeting held in Cleveland in 1897. The committee consisted of Professors Taylor of the University of Michigan, Taussig of Harvard University, Jenks of Cornell University, Sherwood of Johns Hopkins University and Kinley of the University of Illinois. The report gives the following conclusions of the committee:

"Under existing conditions the only wise and consistent policy for the United States is the frank recognition of the fact that the actual monetary standard is now, and for some time to come will be, gold, and the adoption of legislation which will insure the entire stability of that standard, until such time as the nation may have decided to establish some other. Assent to this statement does not commit anyone to the position that the gold standard is abstractly considered, the most desirable one. As is well known, a large number of economists hold to the opposite opinion. But, as is also well known, the particular substitute which such economists favor, i. e., international bimetallism, is at present, and for a long time will be, out of the question. In consequence, the precise form which the question of standards now takes in the United States is as to whether the currency shall rest on a gold basis or on a silver or paper basis. Thus stated, it can have, to the majority of economists, but one solution. Under existing conditions the gold standard is, for the United States, the best available. This being the case, it is the duty of the nation to render that standard as stable as possible and to remove all uncertainty as to its maintenance and its easy working: for uncertainty as to the basis of the currency must always be a menace to prosperity.

"With respect to the means through which increased stability for the standard shall be insured, it is hardly to be doubted that much would be gained by its explicit definition in terms of gold. Still more important would be the enacting of such legislation as shall insure that the task of maintaining the standard, or, in other words, of maintaining the convertibility into gold of other forms of currency, shall be efficiently performed. At this point your committee finds itself in accord with the commonly received opinion that, under normal conditions, the task in question can most advantageously be devolved upon some institution or institutions of a banking nature. It is also agreed, though perhaps less positively, that, even under the conditions which must prevail in the United States, this same solution of the problem is, on the whole, the best. If, however, this plan shall prove impracticable—if the task of maintaining the standard of value is still to rest upon the treasury—everything calculated to make that task an easier one should be done, and the department should be specially organized with reference to the duty thus devolving upon it, and provided with such additional powers as are necessary to insure its fitness for the work in hand.

"Among the various changes which would tend to the accomplishment of these objects, your committee believes the most important to be some modification of the existing system whereby the duties of the treasury as respects the management of the monetary system of the country shall be separated from those functions which are of a purely fiscal nature. It would doubtless be well, also to find a place for silver where it will cause least trouble, by retiring all notes under $10, and to authorize the secretary to retire, at least temporarily, notes which have been once redeemed.

"Whatever decision may be reached with reference to the much-disputed question as to whether United States legal-tender notes shall continue to hold their place as part of the paper currency of the country, it is certain that the maintenance of some system of bank issues will be indispensable. This system should, without doubt, be under federal control and should take such form as to insure much greater elasticity than exists in the present system, provided always that the security of the issue shall be in no wise impaired.

"As respects the method to be employed for attaining this needed increase in elasticity, it is believed that the really successful one must involve issuing some portion of the circulation upon ordinary banking assets. The chief reason for this, as already indicated, is that such ordinary banking assets are the only ones which are universally and readily available when expansion is needed. The superiority of such a system is further insured by the fact that there is a very close correspondence between the amount of such assets in the possession of the banks and the need of the community for currency; since these assets, like the need for money, vary in amount with the volume of business. As respects the security of such notes, there need be no anxiety, provided the system is supplemented with the device of a safety fund, or with one or more of the various other expedients which have been proposed. If it be urged that nothing can make this system really safe, at least for the banks considered as guarantors of each other's notes, so long as the securities on which those notes are based remain in the custody of the issuing bank, the objection might be met by enacting that notes of this character shall be issued only through clearing-house associations, which are to hold in trust the commercial paper or other collateral by which the notes are secured, just as they now do in the case of loan certificates, and as the treasury of the United States does in the case of national bank notes.

"It may, however, prove impossible to secure legislation of the character desired. In such event the existing system of notes based on United States bonds should be so amended as to give to it as large a measure of elasticity as is possible. The provisions of the law of 1882 which limits the amounts of notes that may be retired in any one month, and prohibits reissue within six months after retirement, should be repealed. To secure in some degree that increase in profitableness which is indispensable to elasticity, it would be well to raise the ratio of notes to bonds deposited and to lower the tax; or, better still, to levy it on capital and surplus. In order still further to enlist the self-interest of the banks, especially on behalf of the prompt retirement of redundant notes, we should be inclined to prohibit any bank from paying out the notes of any other banks except to the issuer or to the redemption agency. As respects making easier the processes of expansion and contraction, some gain would probably result from requiring the comptroller to keep on hand a supply of notes in blank, and still more from an increase in the facilities for redemption."

The committee further recommends for the benefit of country communities, the adoption of a system of branch banking similar to those in vogue in Canada, Scotland and other countries.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETS.

Much Business Transacted at Monthly Meeting.

The board of education of district No. 2 held its first meeting of the new year in the First National bank rooms Wednesday night with the following members present: President Goss, Moss, Ross, Allen, Spear and Mills. The only member absent was Williams.

The first business taken up was the auditing of accounts and the allowance of the usual salaries of the teachers and janitors. The other bills allowed were:

State Journal Co., record book	$14 00
Werner School Book Co., school books	7 20
Yegen Bros., supplies	6 85
Ginn & Co., school books	6 79
MacMillan Co., books	1 00
Richards & Co., laboratory supplies	68 25
Ira L. Whitney, freight, etc	6 40
Chapple Drug Co., supplies	4 15
Donovan & Spear, fuel for November and December	107 82
P. M. Gallaher, city engineer, services	10 00
Gec. Soule, plumbing	3 25
H. M. Allen & Co., lumber	2 92
A. L. Babcock Hardware Co., supplies	166 55
W. B. George, insurance	47 50
Total	$453 18

The principal of schools appeared before the board and made his monthly report, which was accepted.

The principal was instructed to secure substitutes in case of sickness or inability of teachers to continue with their classes.

The board moved that White's book of geometry be substituted in place of Wentworth's.

County Treasurer George filed a report of district money as follows:

Balance on hand in general fund Dec. 31, 1898	$1,843 10
Balance on hand, special fund, Dec. 31, 1898	5,007 20
By apportionment, Dec. 2, 1898, general fund	3,708 80

A communication was read from County Superintendent of Schools Burla in which he stated that having appointed Nat. G. Carwile to succeed H. G. Williams as member of board of school trustees and Mr. Carwile having failed to qualify in the time required by law, he had therefore appointed I. D. O'Donnell as such member. The newly appointed trustee will hold office until the next general school election.

There being no other business before the board the meeting was adjourned sine die.

CHURCH NOTES

At the Methodist Episcopal church next Sunday there will be preaching by the pastor at 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 12 m.; Junior League at 3 p. m., and Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Seats free and all are welcome.

* * *

Services at St. Luke's church next Sunday as usual. Preaching at 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m. Full surpliced choir. Sunday school at close of morning preaching service. A cordial invitation is extended all to attend any or all of these services.

* * *

The "Week of Prayer" services being conducted by the Methodist people have been held at private homes this week on account of the church being unable to get coal to heat the building.

* * *

Services will be held at the Catholic church next Sunday, conducted by Rev. Father Van Clarenbeck. Low mass at 7:30 a. m. and high mass at 10:30 a. m.

* * *

Next Sunday there will be regular communion at the Congregational church. Eight or ten applicants will be admitted to fellowship. Special music has been prepared.

* * *

St. Luke's Guild was entertained at the home of Mrs. Alex. Graham yesterday.

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Dec. 27, 1898. 71-tf

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Chas. S. Fee, G. P. A. ST. PAUL, MINN.

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TIME CARD—BILLINGS.

EAST-BOUND.	ARRIVE	DEPART
No. 2, Atlantic Mail	8:30 a. m.	8:40 a. m.
WEST-BOUND.		
No. 1, Pacific Mail	6:30 p. m.	6:40 p. m.

GET PERMIT AT TICKET OFFICE FOR FREIGHTS.

	DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY	
Red Lodge Accom	7:20 p. m.	7:30 a. m.
Bridger & Carbon Accom	5:45 p. m.	7:00 a. m.

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