

WOLVES AND COYOTES

Protest from a Yellowstone County Sheepman Against Lowering the Bounty.

WILL STAND MORE TAX

To Keep the Coyote Bounty at \$3. Good Reasons Given Against Any Reduction.

Billings, Mont., Jan. 19, 1899.

To the Editor of The Billings Gazette: Sir: In the Montana Stockman and Farmer of January 1, is given what purports to be a partial report of the board of livestock commissioners in relation to the bounty law. It is well known that the Montana board of livestock commissioners are, primarily, only cattle owners; persons whose capital is invested in other branches of the livestock industry receive little or no consideration at the hands of the so-called livestock commissioners.

In nearly every instance the person selected as a livestock commissioner from each county in the state is a well-known cattleman, who is at all times ready and willing to provide every safeguard for the security and maintenance of the cattle interests. This united spirit of preservation, when coupled with due regard for the property and rights of others, should be commended. But when it emanates from a desire to preserve and enhance the property rights and prerogatives of one interest to the detriment of kindred interests, it should be as strongly condemned.

The bounty law is of vital importance to all classes of stock raisers in this state. The question having raised as to how it should be impartially applied to all the different stock interests, I desire to express my views. I am satisfied that the bounty law as now on our statute books is fair and impartial toward all branches of the stock interests. The contention that by putting the bounty upon wolves at \$5 and of reducing the bounty upon coyotes to \$1, or perhaps less, would be advantageous to all owners of livestock, I emphatically deny.

One reason for my direct denial is that the two pests do not naturally occupy the same character of country. The wolves' natural haunt is in extremely broken country and in low mountain ranges, while the coyotes' natural haunt is on the open prairie. It is true that they are often found in the same locality, but the only object that brings them into these close relations is the prevalence of animals upon which to subsist. If the bounty law is changed to correspond with the suggestions of the board of stock commissioners, and a bounty of \$5 placed upon wolves and only \$1 placed upon coyotes, there is but one natural and certain result. The wolves will immediately confine their operations exclusively to the well-known haunts of the gray wolf, along the breaks near the rivers, along the mountain ranges and among the "bad lands," to the exclusion, detriment and injustice of stock owners whose stock is being ranged and herded upon the prairie ranges, the natural haunts of the coyote.

The claim made by some newspapers—that the stock interests derive no material benefit from the vast sums paid out annually as bounty on coyotes—is false. The coyote is as destructive to the stock interests of the state as is the wolf, and in my opinion the few mills assessed on stock for protective purposes is by far the cheapest tax the stockmen are called upon to pay.

I am aware that the cattlemen are composed of the more aggressive class of stockmen having stock interests in this state, and in order that the other stock interests may be impartially dealt with in the matter of protection against the ravages of wild animals, a petition has been drawn up and is being circulated and generally signed by owners of cattle, horses and sheep, and will be presented to the legislative assembly setting forth:

That they favor the present bounty of \$3 on coyotes.

That they favor the increasing of the bounty on gray wolves to \$5.

Also, that a sufficient additional assessment be levied upon the livestock interests to insure a full payment of the bounty of cash value.

The question of fraud perpetrated upon the different county officials in relation to bounty claims, as the law now is, needs very little discussion. But, deny the bounty upon coyotes and raise the bounty upon wolves, and you at once open the doors to fraud and imposition. Many coyotes while living will be sworn to as wolves when dead. Skins of coyote pups will be sworn to as wolf whelps, and as having been killed in a wolf den. Unless the skins of the very young coyote or wolf with the feet attached are exhibited, it is wellnigh impossible to distinguish between the coyote and the wolf.

If the suggestions and recommendations of the stock commissioners are to prevail, I submit that a rank injustice will be done to the sheep industry of our state, and not to sheepmen alone, but to cattle and horse owners whose stock range upon the open prairie.

Trusting that you may regard this letter as of sufficient interest to your many readers to give it space in your next publication, I am respectfully,
H. F. Clement.

MUSSELSHELL NEWS.

For County Division—News Notes Along the Northern Boundary.

Special Correspondence of The Gazette.

Musselshell, Jan. 17.—The snow, which fell to a depth of five inches, was just what was wanted for the sheep and cattle upon the ranges, where stock had been suffering for water, caused by streams and springs having been entirely frozen over.

L. L. Moffett of Billings, who has interests in this section, made a flying trip last week to this part, and as president of the Billings & Musselshell Telephone company, made the first payment to the contractors on said line, which is under construction and which is expected to be completed and in working order by May 1 next, or very soon after.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Handel of this place left Saturday of last week for a ten days visit with Mrs. I. Stockwell of Billings, mother of Mrs. Handel.

I. M. Keithler of Baldwin sold a small bunch of cattle to Chas. Schlaberg of Fattie creek a few days ago. Consideration was said to be \$35 per head.

B. H. Carpenter left for Billings last week on matters in connection with the F. M. Dennis estate.

The ice crop proves to be quite promising this winter and the local houses are being rapidly and well filled with the crystal product.

Quite a number from here will attend the dance at the Roundup hotel Jan. 25.

It seems a difficult matter for the Lewistown people to understand why the residents along the river, upon the north side, should desire to be placed within the borders of Yellowstone county. The matter of a saving or a loss in the amount of taxes now paid has never been considered by the affected people. They simply figure the convenience mainly, and that they would prefer to have their county seat ten hours distant rather than from thirty-six to sixty hours distant as at present, aside from numerous other good reasons, and were they placed in the position of these people desiring and ready for the change, they would readily understand the present disadvantage.

Quite a number of cases of the grip are reported in this locality, but none very serious.

The northern terminus of our local stage line is now Gilt Edge instead of Malien as formerly, avoiding the disagreeable mountain trip and yet making the same Lewistown connection.

CHURCH NOTES.

Services at the M. E. church next Sunday will be as follows: Preaching at 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 12 m.; Junior League at 3:30 p. m., and Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. A general invitation is extended to all who are not regular attendants of any other services.

Prof. R. E. George will conduct a sacred song service in the Congregational church Sunday from 7:30 to 8 p. m., to which everyone is invited.

Next Sunday Father Van Clarenbeck will conduct services at the Catholic church as follows: Low mass at 7:30 a. m., and high mass at 10:30 a. m.

The Junior Endeavor of the Congregational church will not hold its public installation services next Sunday evening, having postponed the same indefinitely.

Mrs. H. S. Evans entertained her Sunday school class of the Congregational church at her home Wednesday night. The class is composed of boys entirely of about the ages of 12 and 14 years. The hostess was successful in making the occasion a pleasant one for her guests, the boys being treated to taffy candy and popcorn, besides playing social games.

At the Congregational church next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, "Spiritual Capital." At 7:30 the usual service. The R. E. George company will give a half hour song service.

Services at St. Luke's church will be held at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. next Sunday. The evening sermon will deal with church doctrine. There will be special music. Miss Denham will give a solo. All seats are free and everybody welcome.

DATE YOUR STAMPS.

Department Makes Another Ruling as to Revenue Stamp Cancellation.

Those who have occasion to use revenue stamps extensively will be interested in knowing that the department has made a new ruling as to their cancellation. At first it was given out that only the initials of the user and the year were necessary. It has been discovered that some parties have been cheating Uncle Sam by using the same stamps twice. In order to put a stop to such a practice the commissioner of internal revenue holds that the day of the month must be written upon the stamp as well as the year and initials of user. The commissioner announces the new ruling as follows:

"Existing regulations are hereby amended so as to require that upon each adhesive documentary or proprietary stamp used or affixed after Jan. 1, 1899, there shall be, in addition to the initials of the person using the same and the year in which used also appear the month and day of the month when such stamp was used or affixed. The month may be expressed by numerals—for instance, on a stamp used Jan. 15, 1899, the date may be written or stamped '1-15-99'."

Railroad Briefs

Ben Hager and his force of men are progressing nicely with the Northern Pacific sewer from Thirtieth street south to the round house.

The improvement in the Northern Pacific freight house affords the employes much more room and they don't have to elbow each other when they want to turn around.

H. S. Collins, who has been general agent for the Omaha railroad at Helena, has been transferred to a similar position in Spokane. The Helena business will be looked after by A. S. Nash of St. Paul. Mr. Collins is well known in railroad circles here.

Gross earnings of the Northern Pacific railway, including proprietary lines, for the first week in January, 1899, were \$354,920, an increase of \$18,975, or 5.6 per cent over the same period last year. For the period July 1 to Jan. 7, earnings were \$15,778,229, an increase of \$1,375,682, or 9 per cent.

The railroad than cannot reduce the running time of its passenger and express trains in these days of record-breakers is surely not progressive. The C. E. & Q., the Northwestern and the Rock Island have for two weeks been making marvelous speed between Chicago and Omaha, and now comes the Santa Fe from Chicago to Kansas City. The two first roads have been doing some splendid running from Chicago to St. Paul. After all, the west does not seem to be so distant from the east, as one would think when the trip from Helena to Chicago can be made in two days.

R. M. de Lambert of St. Paul, general storekeeper for the Northern Pacific, accompanied by three other officials of that road, passed through Billings yesterday on a return trip of inspection.

The Botte department of the Standard chronicles the fact that Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Whalen are in that city, registered from Fromberg, Mont. It will be remembered that Mr. Whalen, who was conductor on the Bridger branch, has been promoted to the position of yardmaster of the Montana Union, a branch of the Northern Pacific, in Butte.

M. M. Wheeler, who has been commercial agent of the Omaha railroad, with headquarters at Helena, has been transferred to St. Paul and has assumed the position of general traveling agent, and will have charge especially of the stock business from this state and western points.

Thomas Hogan, traveling freight agent of the Northern Pacific, was in Helena a couple of days this week, accompanied by E. S. Richards, general yardmaster of the same road at Duluth, Minn.

Today is pay day in Northern Pacific circles and Agent Kennedy is making the boys happy with checks.

The Northern Pacific is hauling ice from Junction and placing the same in its ice houses in this city. A trainload was brought up Wednesday.

Mike Elmore the railroad grading contractor, who has been working on the Bridger branch and at Carbonado for some time past, was in the city Tuesday night.

The Northern Pacific carpenter crew will come to Billings in the course of a week or ten days and make some repairs. The switchmen's house, which was so badly damaged by fire a couple of weeks ago, will be put in shape for use again. The building will, in all probability, be entirely torn down and a new one erected.

It is announced on reliable authority that the Northern Pacific railroad is seriously contemplating some extensive improvements in Billings sometime during the coming spring or early summer. For sometime the company has realized the danger that exists from having its switchyards on two of the most prominent business streets of the city and the officials have been importuned at different times to change the yards. Not only is the danger to life great, but business is delayed considerably. The company did erect a great amount of switching track between Thirty-first and Thirty-fifth streets last fall, but it only serves as car storage tracks. Besides all this, the company has decided to use its present freight house as a wool and warehouse. Should the new freight house prove to be a certainty, and it is hoped it will, it will be erected, in all probability, between Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets. This will carry with it the switch tracks. The Gazette hopes to be able to tell its readers more about this at a not very far distant date.

General Agent Segur of the Burlington left this morning on a trip through the Clarke's Fork valley, in Carbon county.

E. A. Stiefel of Helena, general agent of the Southern Pacific railroad, is in Billings today on business pertaining to railroad affairs.

A late report says that the Northern Pacific in anticipation of the heavy spring business, has ordered thirty new locomotives from the works at Schenectady, N. Y.

Col. F. M. Malone of Miles City, the veteran representative in Montana for the Milwaukee road and a staunch

republican, was complimented yesterday in Helena, when the republican members in the legislature cast their ballots for him as their choice for United States senator.

DON'T WANT TO MOVE.

The Cheyenne Indians Wish to Stay on Their Reservation.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The secretary of the interior has forwarded to the senate the papers of his reports bearing upon the proposition to remove the northern Cheyenne Indians from their reservation in southern Montana on the Crow reservation. The secretary states that the Cheyennes are averse to the change and he recommends that they be allowed to remain where they are, and that legislation be enacted looking to the improvement of their condition.

The Cheyennes Are Quiet.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The secretary of the interior, in communication with the house committee on Indian affairs said the investigation shows that reports of threatened uprising of Indians of the northern Cheyenne reservation are unfounded. Request was made that a larger force of troops be stationed at Tongue river agency, Montana, to protect the whites from injury, but this, the agent says, is unnecessary, as the Indians are quiet and peaceable.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

At the Grand.

Tuesday, Jan. 17.—C. T. Sisloff, Minneapolis; Louis P. Best, Phil. Grein, Butte; W. A. Aris, Chicago; Mike Elmore, Carbon; C. Emmerich, Glendive; Miss Rose Graham, A. B. Stephens, St. Louis; R. C. Kierx, Norris; G. E. Dugals, Kansas City; S. E. Stillwell, Cody; J. W. Gardner, Laurel; J. D. Butler, Bozeman; Mrs. Convery, Joliet; F. Freeman, Red Lodge; Geo. A. Jeffrey, Duluth; W. L. G. Unger, Laurel; W. L. Bowers, St. Paul; H. H. Martin, Pecos, Okla.; E. S. Kemper, T. L. Peck, St. Paul; S. F. Bacon, Deadwood.

Wednesday, Jan. 18.—C. M. Parr, Butte; Tom Smith, Chicago; G. W. Knece, St. Paul; W. L. G. Unger, J. E. Unger, Laurel; S. H. Haas, Louisville; T. W. Northan, Chicago; F. W. Merrill, Helena; H. L. Miller, Glendive; C. G. Aret, Chicago; R. G. Montgomery, Queensboro, Ky.; J. R. Donohoe, St. Paul.

Thursday, Jan. 19.—F. H. Hathorn, city; D. J. Norton, New York; E. F. Kemper, St. Paul; Henry Hillburn, Livingston; R. T. Ballard, Kansas City; Mrs. H. J. Armstrong, Streeter, Ill.; Geo. D. Headrick, St. Louis; H. S. Rowan, Chicago; T. L. Rogers, Minneapolis; W. L. G. Unger, Laurel; E. A. Stiefel, Helena; W. H. Adams, F. Hopkins, Chicago; H. A. Fitch, Butte; A. Zuckerman, San Francisco; J. E. Edwards, Junction.

A Mid-Winter Excursion to Hot Springs, South Dakota.

There are thousands and thousands of men and women in the western states who would be greatly benefited by a month's sojourn at Hot Springs, South Dakota. These people, as a rule, are too busy to make the trip in summer. It is for their accommodation that the Burlington Route will run an excursion to Hot Springs Tuesday, Jan. 24. The rate will be one fare for the round trip and tickets will be good thirty days.

A visit to Hot Springs at this time of year is productive of just as much good as is mid-summer, and there is the additional advantage that hotel rates at the Springs are lower than "during the season."

The Evans hotel and the various bath houses are open and the medical attendance at Hot Springs is of as high an order in January as in July.

Tickets and full information at all B. & M. railroad ticket offices or by addressing J. Francis, general passenger agent, Omaha, Neb. 78-2

Advertised Letters.

List of letters remaining uncalled for in the postoffice at Billings, Yellowstone county, Montana, for the week ending Jan. 16, 1899.

Balder, Frank; Dell, C. H.; Doser, Mrs. Mary; Fuller, R. C.; Germond, Wm. U.; Hillgess, E.; Hunt, W. B.; Jones, C. L.; Jones, Richard C.; Mead, Wm.; Shaeffer, C. C.

Persons calling for the same will please say "advertised."
L. F. Babcock, Postmaster.

The Way to Go to California

Is in a tourist sleeping car—personally conducted—via the Burlington route. You make fast time. You see the finest scenery on the globe. Your car is not so expensively finished nor so fine to look at as a palace sleeper, but it is just as clean, just as comfortable, just as good to ride in, and nearly \$20 cheaper.

The Burlington excursions leave every Thursday, reaching San Francisco Sunday and Los Angeles Monday. Porter with each party. Excursion manager with each party. For folder giving full information call at nearest B. & M. railroad depot or write to J. Francis, general passenger agent, Omaha, Neb. 6-26-99

The Army and Navy

Have covered themselves with glory during the war. The army and navy vest-pocket memorandum book published by the Northern Pacific is a compact digest of information relative to the navies and armies of Spain and the United States at the beginning of the war. It has a map of Cuba, illustrations of naval ships, glossary of navy and army terms, translation of Spanish words, etc. Send 10 cents to Chas. S. Fee, Gen. Pass. agent, N. P. R. R., St. Paul, Minn., for a copy. 59-4

TROUBLE IN SAMOA

The German Consul at Apia Was Ejected from the Court House.

WAS MUCH BLOODSHED

American and British War Ships Ordered There—Germans Sided in with One of the Kings.

Wellington, N. Z., Jan. 19.—It is reported that owing to trouble in Samoa three British warships will proceed there and one American warship will start for the islands from Honolulu.

German Consul Fired.

London, Jan. 19.—A special from Auckland, N. Z., says the British and American consuls were compelled to force the doors of the supreme court at Apia, in which the German consul had established himself, and to push him into the street. All parties at Apia, the dispatch continues, unite in condemning the German consul for the fighting which has taken place between the rival kings. It is pointed out that in violation of all agreements, the consul accompanied Mataafa's force when the claimant invaded the town and encouraged opposition to Malietoa Tanu. When the British and American consuls were informed as to the situation they adjourned court and looked the building. The German consul then demanded the keys and they were refused him. He then broke open the doors, removed the locks and replaced them with others. He afterwards brought the German municipal president into the chamber and the latter went upon the balcony and shouted to the British and American marines assembled on the square: "I am the supreme court! I am chief justice!"

The crowd replied with jeers and the British consul demanded the keys of the building, which were refused.

A Scotchman named Mackie thereupon climbed on top of the building and hoisted the Samoan flag, while the British and American consuls and a number of marines invaded the building, forced the doors open and pushed the German consul into the street. Then the two consuls formally and legally, according to the dispatch, opened court and issued a warning against any further interference with its jurisdiction, threatening to arrest

and imprison anyone attempting to do so.

Maers, the dispatch concluded, are now quiet and the German consul remains in his consulate.

Philadelphia Will Go.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The navy department has issued orders for the cruiser Philadelphia to proceed to Samoa at once. The Philadelphia is due at San Diego Sunday from Acapulco.

Insult to America.

Auckland, N. Z., Jan. 19.—Further particulars regarding the disturbances at Samoa show that Mataafa's followers numbered about 5,000 men and the adherents of Malietoa Tanu were only about 1,000. There was two hours' fighting between the rival forces, during which several warriors were decapitated.

The American consul issued a proclamation claiming the Berlin treaty had the same force as an act of congress and that the insult to the supreme court of Samoa is, therefore, equivalent to an insult to the government at Washington.

GENERAL STATE NEWS.

Sam Jackson, ex-under sheriff of Sweet Grass county, has gone to Helena, where he will do the work of office deputy at the United States district court during the illness of Deputy Mikeljohn. It is said that Sam will retain the position permanently.

On account of an epidemic at Lewistown the health officer has ordered the churches closed. The ministers retaliated by demanding that saloons be compelled to close also. In the absence of authority on the matter an appeal has been taken to Attorney General Nolan. He holds that in the absence of proof to the contrary he believes the health officer acted correctly unless it can be shown no cause existed for closing the churches. The point is a novel one.

First Publication Jan. 20, 1899-4.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Estate of John Berg, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned administrator of the estate of John Berg, deceased, to the creditors of and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said administrator at his store in the city of Billings, in the county of Yellowstone, state of Montana.

Dated at Billings, Montana, Jan. 19, 1899.
E. S. HOLMES,
Administrator of the Estate of John Berg, deceased.

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Harness Department

WE are now making the best line of Light and Heavy Harness in the state. Breaching Harness from \$32.00 up to \$75.00, cut from Hoffman's No. 1 Oak Stock. Call and see our line of Saddles, all hand-made from the very best of California stock, with any tree desired. Remember, we make just what you order and replace cheerfully anything we guarantee. Courteous treatment to everybody and prices to suit the times. Repairing neatly done on short notice.

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