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SEMI-WEEKLY.

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THE YELLOWSTONE FAIR.

The annual county fair is the next big event on the programme for Billings and every citizen of the county should work for it as they have never worked before. The fair this year should be the best ever held. It has been a prosperous season for the merchant, the farmer and the stockgrower and all should combine their energies by making the Yellowstone county fair an event which will reflect the prosperity and good times. If this is done it will be a splendid advertisement for the city and county and, on the contrary, they will be injured by the fair if it does not come up to the expectations of the large number of visitors who are always present from various parts of the state.

The directors of the association realize this and are determined to make the fair what it should be, but to do so they must have the hearty support and co-operation of the people. It is only a little over a month until the exhibition will be held and there is no time to lose. Let every man and woman in the county work and talk for the fair this year and it will be an event in which all can take a just pride. Billings has the reputation of doing nothing by halves, which should apply to the fair as well as any other enterprise.

"LOTS AFTER THE JOB."

Both Senator Lee Mantle and Colonel H. C. Kessler are mentioned as the names that will come before the republican convention for the nomination for governor and it is almost a sure bet that either one of these two men will be so favored. Hon. E. D. Weed has been mentioned some, but it is not at all probable he will be successful. These three men are spoken of more than any others. Ex-Senator W. F. Sanders, the war horse of republicanism, would be no slouch, or neither would the Hon. A. J. Craven. There are a number of men in the ranks of the republican party who are willing to accept the nomination and make the run.—Butte Times.

That is a healthy sign and indicates that the republicans will win in Montana next year. The disgrace heaped upon the state by the democratic legislature last winter has got to be wiped out and the people will do it when they get the chance. Bobsmith and the entire outfit are doomed, while the electoral vote of the state will go for McKinley, the honor of the flag and a continuation of the present unprecedented prosperity.

The latest democratic hope to be announced is Dewey. Now Dewey is a name beyond doubt to conjure with, for he has only to ask anything he wants of the American people to get it. But there are one or two things about Admiral Dewey very annoying to the democrats. Dewey is a staunch sound money republican, and he has explicitly stated that he would not accept the nomination for president. Then Dewey has a way of always meaning just what he says, so that, on the whole, the chances of getting him to run on a discredited reputation platform are not considered the best in the world.

The statement of Bryan and other lights that business improvement, increase in money circulation, advances in farm prices and workingmen's wages and the general prosperity wave could not and should not come without the adoption of free silver, is something like the story of old King Canute of Britain, who took his courtiers to the sea beach and ordered the incoming waves to cease their flow. But they kept coming, in spite of his frantic yelling and even swept him off his feet, so that he had difficulty in escaping with his life.

Democrats have been making a great howl about a tin-plate strike. It is poor policy for democrats to even mention tin-plate, in view of the fact that they asserted that tin-plate could never be manufactured in the United States and that the imposition of a protective duty upon it under the McKinley law was a crime. But what do they say now about the 50,000 tin-plate workers who have been granted an increase in wages ranging from 15 to 20 per cent?

Many things are stewing in the democratic political pot. It appears that perennial presidential candidacy is not believed in by all democrats and there are others who would like the opportunity of the honor to pull off a presidential nomination. What with the democratic rows in New York, Kentucky and Chicago and splits among the national leaders, the country is likely to see some lurid pyrotechnics.

The pessimists are of course delighted to know that since the first of the year the business failures in the United States have been much less in number and amount of liabilities than during any corresponding six months in seven-year years. This is something of a contrast to the reign of Cleveland, when failures ran up in a single month to almost what they have been in a six months under McKinley.

Calamity criers should remember that there is a wide distinction between strikes for higher wages and strikes against wage reductions. The one indicates that workingmen are impatient to secure their share of the prosperity they see about them, and the other means a dullness of trade with low prices and necessary curtailment of expenses in order to avoid closing of factories.

PRICES ON APPLES.

Montana Growers Anticipate a Rich Harvest This Fall.

Good prices for apples is the news that goes out to cheer the Montana fruit grower this year. While the crop is not the full one, it is expected that the prices ought to make up for the discrepancy, and the season among the owners of apples this year is likely to be more than usually prosperous. Secretary C. H. Edwards of the state board of horticulture writes in answer to a question on the subject:

"So far as it is possible to find out, the apple crop will be about a three-quarter crop. This means good prices for the grower for what he has to sell as the crop is short in the United States. I am in receipt of numerous inquiries from eastern and southern points asking for information on the fruit crop and extent of the industry.

"The spring planting of trees has been the largest ever known in the state, something like half a million trees being set out.

"The board of horticulture has been kept busy since its organization getting in touch with the fruit growers and the dealers and generally people are glad to comply with the wise provisions of the law. At present we are sending to all the railways and express companies asking them to furnish us with a report of the importation of fruit into the state. When we get this we can draw some true conclusions."

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Thirty-four cases of yellow fever are reported at the National Soldiers' home at Hampton, Va. Six deaths have already occurred.

Word from Admiral Dewey announces that he will arrive not later than September 30. He will go to New York directly from Gibraltar.

A cloudburst and landslide caused an accident on the Erie railroad near Port Jervis, N. Y., by which two persons were killed and many severely injured.

Hot winds in North and South Dakotas have damaged the wheat crop 25 per cent. It is estimated that the shortage in the two Dakotas and Minnesota will reach 50,000,000 bushels.

Admiral Schley has received a letter from Admiral Dewey, in which the latter says he will visit him at Norfolk, Conn., immediately after the reception to be given him in Washington.

At a meeting of the Cuban officers a few days ago it was decided to telegraph President McKinley, asking that he immediately fulfill the promise contained in the junta resolution passed by congress to establish a Cuban republic.

The transport Hancock, having on board the soldiers of the First Nebraska regiment and two batteries of the Utah artillery, United States volunteers, arrived at San Francisco Saturday night. The quarantine medical officers inspected the transport and troops Sunday, after which the latter were allowed to land.

The Washington Post says strong pressure is being applied to have Commissioner Evans transferred to some other department. Protests from Union veterans have made an impression upon the president, and in all probability a new commissioner will be named before the meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic at Philadelphia next September.

Assistant Secretary Vanderlip of the treasury thinks that the Dewey Home Fund, which now amounts to about \$15,000, contributed by more than 25,000 persons, will be swelled to at least \$100,000 by the time the admiral reaches the United States. He thinks there are quite a number of persons who will soon make large contributions. Treasurer Roberts and other members of the committee are quite confident.

A Hong Kong dispatch says Isabella Archao, a rival of Aginaldo's, who recently escaped from Luzon, has arrived at Hong Kong and has there issued a manifesto calling upon the Filipinos of northern Luzon to lay down their arms and support the United States. It is believed that this action on his part will inaugurate internal dissensions in the ranks of the rebels on the island, as Archao is a Filipino of high standing among the natives.

It has been decided by the new secretary of war, Elihu Root, that ten additional regiments of volunteers will be enlisted immediately after the ten regiments now forming have been recruited. This decision was reached just before President McKinley left Washington. A vigorous and active campaign is being planned for the Philippines and the war department officials are now busy in making the detailed arrangements for organizing the additional regiments.

The demand for harvest hands promises to be a little easier within a few days, says the Pioneer Press. A few men were found yesterday who were induced to go to the wheatfields, but it seems scarcely possible that 8,000 or 10,000 men can be found. The few who are now going out are destined for South Dakota, here after the grain is cut and threshed, they will move north and attempt to keep along with the work as far as the Manitoba border. About 5,000 men should go forward next week to supply the demand. Ringling Bros.' circus, which recently passed through North Dakota, lost nearly 200 tent men, who stopped off to go to work on farms at \$1.75 and \$2 a day and board.

Secretary Hay has received a telegram from Ambassador White, president of the American delegation to The Hague peace conference, stating that sixteen of the powers represented have signed the protocol of the arbitration

and mediation treaties. Included in the list are England, France and Russia. The treaty will not become effective, so far as the United States is concerned until it has been ratified by the senate, so that its provisions could not be availed of at this time to settle the boundary dispute between the United States and Canada. Even after the treaty is ratified it is said arbitration of this question cannot be invoked unless with the full consent of both parties.

GENERAL STATE NEWS.

The Diamondville strike is over and the drivers have returned to work.

Great Falls claims a larger population than that of Anaconda by 600, and the latter has about 16,000 according to a late directory.

All the steam laundries of Great Falls have formed a trust and all will hereafter be operated under one management, with one scale of prices and those will probably be advanced.

The mines of Purgus county, especially those in the vicinity of Gilt Edge and Malden, are forging to the front and there is no doubt but that next year they will add considerable wealth to the resources of that county.

Lieutenant John V. Green of the Thirty-fourth infantry arrived in Butte this week from Fort Logan. Lieutenant Green has been sent to Montana on recruiting service for his regiment. He will be assigned to either the Great Falls or Anaconda station.

According to W. S. McCormick, a millionaire banker of Salt Lake, Mormonism is spreading in Montana. Mr. McCormick was in Seattle a few days ago and during his stay in that city he spoke freely on Mormonism, and announced that he believed that Mormonism was spreading very rapidly.

The annual conference of the North Montana mission of the Methodist Episcopal church will be held in Great Falls this week, the first formal session being held Thursday morning, in the First Methodist Episcopal church. Bishop Isaac W. Joyce will preside and there will be about twenty ministers in attendance.

A Washington dispatch states that Commissioner Hermann of the general land office left the capital Saturday for an extended trip through the northwest. While Oregon, his native state, is probably the objective point, it is hoped that he will find time to stop off in Montana, where the department transacts such a vast amount of business annually.

Among the distinguished people who have visited the National park the past week were U. S. Grant, Jr., and a party of six, General Longstreet and a party of five, who were guests of the military men at Fort Yellowstone, Mrs. C. T. Yerkes, wife of the street car magnate of Chicago, and party of four, the Brooklyn Eagle special with eighty people, the Gross party of fifty-nine. The travel through the park is much heavier this year than formerly.

Captain A. S. Ducean of company L has been appointed by Governor Smith major of the First Montana, to succeed the late Major Drennan. Lieutenant Philip Greenan of company K was appointed to the captaincy of company L, to succeed Captain Ducean. Second Lieutenant Kumpe of company K was promoted to the first lieutenantcy of the company, while Sergeant G. E. Lowman of company D succeeds Lieutenant Kumpe as second lieutenant. The governor wired the appointments to the war department and asked that they be cabled to General Otis. The governor did not make any appointment to succeed Lieutenant Rickards, preferring to wait until he had official advice of Lieutenant Rickards' resignation and discharge.

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