

NORTHWEST NEWS.

Topics of General Interest in the Four New States and Elsewhere.

Glasgow needs a banking institute, says the Herald. At present the nearest bank is 200 miles distant.

The mail service is at last to be extended over the entire route of the Great Northern railroad. This is great news to the people of Northern Montana who have suffered too long already from the defective mail service.

Very little interest was manifested in the special election Tuesday to vote for or against the bonding of Park county for \$35,000 for the purpose of building a court house at Livingston, says the Red Lodge Picket. There were only 67 votes polled at this precinct. Forty-nine were polled against the bonding of Park county for the purpose of building a court house at the county seat and 18 in favor.

We learn from reliable authority, says the Bozeman Chronicle, that Belgrade is to be established with a capitalization of \$50,000 by St. Paul parties. A flouring mill is to be built by Minneapolis parties and T. C. Power is about to establish an agricultural implement business there. If Belgrade gets all these institutions a material development will be made in Gallatin county's taxable wealth.

Great Falls Leader: Col. James Shields, ex-internal revenue collector of Montana, returned to his home in Anaconda yesterday. The colonel said that on all his former visits to our city he always left with a bad impression as to our future growth, but this visit had turned him all upside down and that he never was more surprised at anything in his life than at the changes that had taken place within six months. "Why," said he, "you are going to have a rising city within two years—nothing can do you now. The new railroads coming in, the new smelter, the dam and the many manufacturing establishments that will locate in your immediate vicinity, will certainly make Great Falls one of the leading cities of the great West. I am glad to see it; for the property of Great Falls will add millions to the wealth of Montana and her people."

The Wallace, Washington, Free Press, says that without warning a terrific gale, verging on a hurricane, swept in from the West on Monday afternoon between 5 and 6 o'clock. It struck the timber on the mountain south of Wallace a minute or so before it was felt in the valley, and it made the pines sing as if a myriad of Scotchmen had been turned loose with bagpipes. We have seen storms before in the Coeur d'Alene, but they were baby cries compared with this one, which fairly mowed down the timber. A minute or so after it burst on the mountain it came flying down Placer creek canyon, and about half a mile above the western end of Wallace started a snowslide among the timber on the divide. From the streets of Wallace the starting point may be seen, but its path down the hillside for three-quarters of a mile is hid from view, so also is the snow dump in the creek bottom from hill to hill. It came down with terrific force, and the noise could be distinctly heard above the storm as it crashed through the straggling timber in its course. It was like the crack of doom, which only the elements have power enough to produce.

A few days ago the cattle inspectors at South Omaha found twenty-eight head of cattle in one small shipment of corn-fed steers from Kansas. In the lot taken were seventeen different Colorado Brands. The shipper, of course, claims that he had bought the steers and had a right to sell them. As he could show no bills of sale, and as the circumstances all round looked very suspicious, the cattle were taken by the inspectors, sold and the proceeds sent to the Colorado Cattle Growers' association in Denver. Meantime the case is being investigated and the presumption is that Mr. Shipper will land in jail. There is a line of thieves from Montana to Texas located along the border land between the farming and range counties and the number of animals stolen annually is fearfully large—way up in the thousands. Conviction by the courts is out of the question, because the juries are generally made up of thieves. The only hope of justice along that line is in the findings of Judge Lynch's court, and there should be a session held at every convenient time covering the distance of more than a thousand miles.—Ex.

E. L. Mills, a student at the Bozeman academy, in an essay on the state of Montana, published in the Bozeman Chronicle, gives this historical sketch: What is now the state of Montana was first visited by white men in the year 1535, when Spanish explorers from the City of Mexico explored up through Montana and as far north as the Saskatchewan river. The next time that this section of country was explored was in 1743, when the Chevalier Verandry, a Frenchman, came westward from the Missouri river and explored the Dakota and Montana, going as far west as the Rocky mountains, which he ascended somewhere near the present site of Helena. Verandry returned east without leaving any settlements or forts. This country was then abandoned to the wild animals and Indians, with perhaps a few yagouages and trappers. After Verandry's expedition this state formed part of Louisiana, which passed from the French to the Spanish, and from the Spanish back to the French, who sold it to the United States for \$15,000,000. When the United States secured control of this vast territory, Thomas Jefferson, then president, resolved to know something of this wonderful country, and to this end he dispatched Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clarke, with thirty men, as an exploring expedition. The party left St. Louis, then a frontier post, May 12th, 1804. They proceeded up the Missouri river in boats, stopping now and then to hold councils with the Indians. The party wintered among the Mandan Indians and in the spring continued slowly and laboriously up the river. They named most all the rivers they came to. Some of the names are remaining yet, among them the Yellowstone, Jefferson, Madison, Gallatin, Milk, Musselshell and others. Arriving at Three Forks the party hid their boats, and purchasing horses from the Indians, crossed the Rockies. This expedition gave the most important and reliable information yet received of this country, and the report caused scores of trappers and ad-

venturers to flock into the country, and by the year 1850 Montana was one vast trapping and hunting ground, and her rivers echoed with the whistle of the steam boat and the merry song of the voyager as he propelled the fur-laden "mackinaw." The only place of importance was Fort Benton, founded in 1806. In 1860 a few miners were in the western part of the territory, and in 1862 the "left wing of Price's army" commenced coming and they have been coming ever since. But the real history of Montana dates from 1863, when gold mines were discovered at Bannack and Alder gulch, and later at Last Chance gulch, producing a stampede, both from the Eastern states and from California.

Christmas in Camp. Exchange. First Soldier—Get any Christmas? Second Soldier—Yep; present. First Soldier—No? Second Soldier—You bet. First Soldier—What? Second Soldier—Present arms. A Stunning Argument. Clara: There it is again, raining cats and dogs. Mabel: Never mind; your new striped ulster will stun them.

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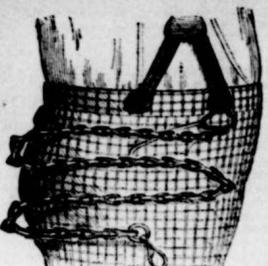
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