

THE SEMI-WEEKLY MINER

DANIEL SEARLES - EDITOR.

BUTTE, JANUARY 21, 1885.

Connecticut strikers use dynamite to emphasize their arguments against a reduction of wages.

Editor Clarkson has dropped St John as though he were a hot brick. The fight is now a question of veracity between Clarkson and Legate, with Legate on top.

That "it is an ill wind that blows no one good" is illustrated in the fact that the cold wave which recently struck western Pennsylvania averted an inundation of the country from high water.

Roent heavy snow storms in Illinois and other northwestern States placed an almost complete embargo upon railroad travel and greatly interfered with telegraph communication.

It is said there are forty women acting as cashiers of banks in Dakota. Not one of them has ever speculated, been short in her accounts or manifested the slightest hankering for the cool, bracing atmosphere of Canada.

The Senate is in receipt of that correspondence which General Sherman charged implicated Jeff Davis in a move to establish a Dictatorship for the Confederate States. The hero of the "Lost Cause" once more disturbs the country.

In the production of lead Spain holds the first place, her output reaching about 120,000 tons annually. America comes next on the list with 100,000, and Germany follows with a yearly output of 90,000 tons. Of Spain's total annual production, the district of Linares, with its 800 mines, furnishes 67,000 tons.

As predicted by the MINER, the legislative assembly of the Territory will vigorously protest against the establishment of the so-called National Cattle Trail from Texas to the British possessions. A memorial will be sent to Washington embodying reasons why this great fraud should not be perpetrated upon the people of the northwest territories.

Little Rhode Island now looms up as the divorce hunter's paradise. According to the Governor's recent message, there has been an average of 2,000 divorces granted each year during the past ten years, to outsiders. The laws of the State require a residence of one year before an application can be made for a divorce. The Governor recommends the time be extended to two years.

THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

The genial influences of civilization seem to be lost upon the Illinois legislature, if we are to judge by the scenes which transpired in that body last Friday. One member was driven from the hall delirious from the noise and confusion, the speaker was compelled to call the sergeant-at-arms and assistant to his side to prevent members from offering him personal violence, and the proceedings broke up in the greatest disorder. Although our dispatches do not mention the cause, it is inferred the closeness of the vote on the senatorial election was at the bottom of the row. Each party is striving for an advantage in the contest. Mr. Logan is on the ground and will make a most desperate fight to be returned to the Senate. The result of the contest is watched with the most intense interest throughout the country.

OKLAHOMA.

Little has been heard from the Oklahoma boomers lately. Meantime they are booming in the East. According to the Omaha Herald, a journal whose information upon a subject is reliable, the situation is this: "Oklahoma is the name by which it was proposed to call the Indian territory when there was a movement for giving it an organization like the other territories. The Indians opposed it, and the movement failed. Oklahoma is only a name. But the Indian territory, with its 69,000 square miles, reaching from Kansas to Texas, from Arkansas to Colorado and New Mexico, is larger than Missouri. The Indian tribes there collected have received allotments amounting to 28,000 square miles, all contiguous and at the eastern end of the territory. Their land, as great in extent as Indiana, contains less than 100,000 inhabitants, and the 44,000,000 acres in the whole territory only about 217,000 are cultivated. On the unallotted and practically uncultivated western end of the territory, Kansas people in particular have long been looking with greedy eyes. Part of it was once granted to the Atlantic & Pacific railroad, but none of it has ever been set off as a reservation. It is good farming land, supplied with the wood the absence of which was such a drawback to Kansas in its early days, and with numerous streams in which are abundant fish. In almost every town in southern and eastern Kansas, parties have been formed and are waiting the auspicious moment to start for this land of promise. All previous expeditions have been broken up by the United States troops, acting under orders from Washington, and the government has been roundly denounced in consequence. Now a party of 300 colonists are camped in the territory. They are expected to surrender to Lieutenant Day, and he did not venture to attack them behind their breastworks. But General Hatch, an old cavalry officer, is on the march toward, if he has not already reached, them, and he doubtless has force enough to execute his orders.

PRIZE FIGHTING.

Old Mrs. Grundy has a hard time of it in selecting a wife for President-elect Cleveland. She has just named his seventh bride.

Senator Jones succeeds himself as Senator from Nevada. There is nothing like a long purse to hoist a man in office in the sagebrush State.

It seems Councilman Kennedy went to Helena loaded. He has already fired off half dozen or more bills in the Council and has emptied both an chamber.

After all that has been said to the contrary and the "bucking and kicking" of the Anti-Corruption men of Pennsylvania, the gentle Don carries off the Senatorial prize and succeeds himself as United States Senator from the Keystone State.

The legislature of Connecticut is about to elect a man for governor who was rejected by the people at the polls. It may be a good thing for a state to possess a political body to correct the mistakes of the people but the average American citizen fails to see it.

Father Fergus has introduced a bill in the Council, providing for the division of the Territory into proposed counties etc. Is not the measure premature? It seems we should wait until Montana is admitted as a state before considering a bill of that nature.

Brains seem to be leading the "bar" in the New York senatorial race. Everts has received the endorsement of a large number of leading men in New York city; Russell has withdrawn in his favor; and the friends of Morton have called him to do likewise. Everything appears lovely for the gentleman of long sentences.

The House has passed a bill providing for the forfeiting of unearned land grants of certain southern transcontinental roads, but the Senate has interposed an objection by an un-called for amendment to the bill. Conference committees of the two houses cannot agree and hence the bill will die in the pocket of Mr. Cobb.

The House committee on military affairs, by a vote of 8 to 2, has refused to authorize one of the committee to call up the Senate bill providing for the placing of general Grant upon the army retired list. Opposition to the measure has largely increased lately. There seems to be a general feeling against taking a man out of private life and placing him upon a list sacredly reserved for officers of the army. The precedent is considered a very bad one. If General Grant must be helped, let the suggestion of the New York Sun be followed and a popular subscription raised for his benefit.

McPHERSON'S BILL.

It is not probable that Mr. McPherson's funding bill will become a law, not because there would be any difficulty experienced in disposing of bonds bearing 2 1/2 per cent. interest, but because the money power of Wall street and the National Banks are arranged against the measure. It will be remembered that during the last days of Hayes' administration Congress passed a 3 per cent. funding bill. The measure was bitterly opposed by the Republicans in the House, but after much filibustering on their part it was finally forced through. A great howl was raised by National Banks throughout the country, and threats were made they would go into liquidation and close up shop. Yielding to the pressure brought to bear upon him, the weak President vetoed the bill, and it went by the board. The McPherson bill has virtually gone by the board, and nothing more will be heard from it during this session of Congress.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The message of Governor Carpenter, which appeared in the MINER yesterday morning, is a model document in every particular. It is plain, concise, pointed, and modest, and in brief words shows the condition of the Territory, and points out its needs. After paying a neat compliment to the Territory, the Governor calls the attention of the Legislature to the necessity of enlarging the penitentiary; recommends the election of a prosecuting attorney in each county; gently reminds the Legislature that the fees of public officers in the Territory are greatly disproportionate to services performed; submits the question of a registration law to the wisdom of the Legislature; recommends an appropriation to complete Montana's exhibit at New Orleans; asks that the revenue of the Territory be adjusted so that all legal demands upon the treasury may be honored, and desires that the fact should long continue that Montana owes not a dollar.

There is an absence of that assumption of wisdom and superior knowledge of the condition and affairs of the Territory which is really refreshing in view of the superlative pretensions of some of his predecessors. Like a sensible gentleman, Mr. Carpenter writes much upon those whose long residence in the Territory enable them to proffer wholesome counsel upon matters of public concern. The Governor hopes "that all departments of the Territorial Government will co-operate for the promotion of the general welfare, and the advancement of every legitimate interest, without sectional prejudice or partisan bias, so that there may be a just, economical and enlightened administration of public affairs." To all of which the people of Montana respond "Amen."

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 19.—The members of the Legislature held a caucus to-night to nominate a candidate for U. S. Senator. Voorhes was renominated by acclamation. The following resolutions were adopted: That the resolution was introduced by Senator Metcalf and adopted in a similar manner. Resolved, That the Democratic members of the general assembly of this State do hereby express their respect and admiration for the services rendered by Gen. Rosecrans, Col. Egrove, Stannard and Hunt, and other brave and patriotic soldiers of the war, which created great enthusiasm. In the course of his remarks, he announced his intention of bringing before congress next session a bill to place Gen. Rosecrans on the retired list of the army. He also asserted that it was the duty of the State to reward such soldiers as such as those mentioned above, and that the State should be made by Gen. Rosecrans, Col. Egrove, Stannard and Hunt, and other brave and patriotic soldiers of the war, which created great enthusiasm. In the course of his remarks, he announced his intention of bringing before congress next session a bill to place Gen. Rosecrans on the retired list of the army. He also asserted that it was the duty of the State to reward such soldiers as such as those mentioned above, and that the State should be made by Gen. Rosecrans, Col. Egrove, Stannard and Hunt, and other brave and patriotic soldiers of the war, which created great enthusiasm.

THAT \$5,000 APPROPRIATION.

Our Helena dispatches say there has been some lively fighting in the House over Mr. Selligman's bill providing for the appropriation of \$5,000 to defray in part the expenses of the Montana exhibit to the New Orleans Exposition. Upon what grounds the bill is opposed our correspondent fails to state. It certainly cannot be opposed on the ground of extravagance or that the Territory is too poor to pay the sum, or that it is not needed to perfect the Territory's display at New Orleans. The high character of the gentlemen composing the commission should be a sufficient guaranty that every dollar will be expended to the best advantage and be properly accounted for.

Gentlemen of the legislature should bear in mind that no easy task has been imposed upon Messrs. Clark and Harris, Montana's Commissioners to the Exposition. These gentlemen desire to make an exhibit of the products of the Territory at New Orleans approximately commensurate with its magnitude and almost boundless resources—an exhibit that will be a credit to our Territory and to our people—one that will attract attention by its variety, quality, quantity and richness; one that will tempt the capitalist, invite the mechanic and turn the steps of emigration within our borders. To do this required the outlay of more means than the Commissioners were allotted by the Exposition Managers. Hence their call upon the legislature for this appropriation. The commissioners do not propose, in the matter of this display, to do things by halves. They wish to make a success of it. Mr. Clark has already expended much of his own money to perfect the exhibit, for which he asks no return from the Territory. A few days before he left for New Orleans he purchased a silver specimen for which he paid \$200 from his own pocket. He does not ask the Legislature to reimburse him for this expenditure. The specimen was forwarded to New Orleans together with \$12,000 worth of gold specimens belonging to himself. All he asks from the Territory is for it to pay the insurance upon them.

Bierstadt's great picture of "Old Faithful" and pictures of other National Park wonders will adorn the walls of the Montana Headquarters at New Orleans. The pictures are insured. The Territory should pay it. The cost of gathering specimens of Montana products, compiling the pamphlet for free distribution at New Orleans and the expense of a watchman and salary of a gentleman who is employed for the special purpose of arranging the exhibit and explaining its character to visitors, in the aggregate, reaches a sum far beyond that apportioned to the Territory. The Legislature should come forward with a liberal hand and shield the Commissioners from financial loss. Montana cannot afford to be niggardly in this matter. Being out of debt, possessing boundless resources and desiring the advent of capital to stimulate her industries, she should be willing to expend twice the sum in presenting herself before the world, as she is in all her glory and in all her pride. That \$5,000 appropriation would be bread cast upon the waters.

But no one accuses the papers on this account of encouraging fires, suicides, murders, robbery, corruption, jobbery and other crimes. If such a theory of legislation is followed out to its logical conclusion, it is unnecessary to institute a press censorship and permit nothing to be published except that which happens to please the press censors or the party in power. It would be fun for the corrupt politicians, theieving officials and jobbers in swindling schemes, who have hitherto smarted under the lash of the newspaper whip, but the dear people would suffer. The bill is a move in the right direction, but it needs trimming down in the respect named.

McPHERSON'S BILL. It is not probable that Mr. McPherson's funding bill will become a law, not because there would be any difficulty experienced in disposing of bonds bearing 2 1/2 per cent. interest, but because the money power of Wall street and the National Banks are arranged against the measure. It will be remembered that during the last days of Hayes' administration Congress passed a 3 per cent. funding bill. The measure was bitterly opposed by the Republicans in the House, but after much filibustering on their part it was finally forced through. A great howl was raised by National Banks throughout the country, and threats were made they would go into liquidation and close up shop. Yielding to the pressure brought to bear upon him, the weak President vetoed the bill, and it went by the board. The McPherson bill has virtually gone by the board, and nothing more will be heard from it during this session of Congress.

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COUNTY TREASURER'S SALARY.

Ex-Governor Potts seems to assume the role of champion salary reformer in the present legislative assembly. He not only wants county commissioners to serve for \$4 a day but wishes to cut down the salaries of county treasurers to \$180 per annum. We are not informed as to the provisions of the Governor's bill, but if it provides that no county treasurer in the Territory shall receive more than \$1,800 a year it should not become a law. That salary may be sufficient in many counties in the Territory but in the more wealthy and populous counties it is not. Take the county of Silver Bow, for instance. The office is no sinecure here, on the contrary its duties are extremely laborious and occupies every moment of the occupant's time. The responsibilities of the position are very great and the bonds required are correspondingly large.

The people demand that the office shall be filled by men of known probity and business capacity and expect to pay well for the services of such men. We are not aware that any complaint has been made by taxpayers as to the present salary of county treasurers or that any petitions have been presented to the legislature praying it should be cut down. On the contrary the impression seems to prevail among business men that the salary of treasurer in some counties should be increased rather than decreased. It would be very difficult to find a man thoroughly qualified to discharge the duties of treasurer of this county to take the office upon a salary of \$1,800 a year. Men may be found to take it but a good business man would not accept the nomination nor qualify if elected.

Economy, in the conduct of county affairs should be enforced, but it may be carried to a point where parsimony or rigidity is the better term for it. No county can afford to indulge in the latter. The laborer is worthy of his hire and his hire should be measured by the responsibilities of his position and qualifications required to discharge its duties properly. If cheap men are wanted to fill the several offices in counties, without regard to the efficiency of the incumbent why not pass a bill providing for farming them out to the lowest bidder. Under such a law a treasurer may be found to serve for nothing and a county may learn some morning that it has added another member to the American colony of defaulters in Canada.

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THE SPANISH TREATY.

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AN ILLINOIS SLOCUM.

KANKAKEE, Ill., Jan. 20.—Theouth infirmary of the Illinois Eastern Hospital for the insane, burned, and destroyed, on the 19th inst. The fire originated in the furnace room and had good headway before it was discovered. The wood work of the building being pine it burned very rapidly. The hospital was occupied by 45 patients and one night watchman. Seventeen patients are missing and 13 bodies have been recovered. All the patients were in firm; the bedridden were rescued first, but those able to walk themselves did not realize the danger and many of them perished. The attendants lost all their effects, and many had a narrow escape. One of them had to tie the bed clothes together to let himself down from the top window. The building was a new one and cost \$10,000, but was not yet provided with water works. It was heated by hot air furnaces, which were in operation at the time, except the floor and stairways. It was completed last August, and was used as an infirmary, with 45 insane patients, 25 on the first floor, 15 on the second. Attendants Brown, Rose and wife were sleeping on the second floor; Attendants Reed, Williams, and Krimm, were sleeping on the first floor. The building was heated by hot air furnaces. It was 12 degrees below zero when the watchman, named Cobb, discovered smoke issuing from the floor immediately above the furnaces. He awoke the attendants. The smoke at once became drawn through the hot air flues and along the halls and stairways, and in a few minutes the fire spread so rapidly that it should have been extinguished in the absence of a fire alarm to summon help, and for want of facilities to quench the flames, were found to be in vain. Attendant W. R. began dragging patients and carrying out the patients, many of whom were clad in their night clothing, and they only rushed from the bitter cold air back into the building, where they were only rescued, many of whom were rescued, and was carried away.

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