

THE WEEKLY HERALD.

R. E. FISK, - - - Editor.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1872.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

In speaking, the other day, of the report to Congress of the Commission appointed to inaugurate reform in the Civil Service, we mentioned the message of the President which accompanied that document, and quoted the noble words of General Grant, calling upon the Legislative branch of the Government to strengthen his hands by the enactment of wise and effective measures to enable him to correct the existing abuses in the appointment and filing of the many thousands of Federal offices.

The Senate, acting in part upon the President's recommendation, appointed, before the holiday recess, a committee to inquire into and investigate the affairs of the New York Custom House, with a view to correct the many irregularities and evils reported to exist in its management. Brief but sufficient accounts have for some days reached us over the wires, evidencing the fact that abuses have for years obtained in that great office, or municipality of offices, in the assessments levied for political purposes against the clerks, porters, employes, and all others connected, near or remote, therewith. It has been currently reported that the assessments amounted to from 25 to 40 per cent. of the pay of each employe; and taking into consideration the endless complications of New York politics, it is hardly probable that it was less. It was found that Collector Grinnell, Murphy's predecessor, to relieve certain of his subordinates, on a single assessment, himself paid for them seven thousand dollars.

The inequities of the general order business have also been, to some extent, exposed. This business it appears, was monopolized by one Leet, who migrated from Philadelphia to New York to get it, arriving there equipped with such strong political endorsements for "something good," that his "claims" were recognized—Leet threatening the Collector with removal, in case they were repudiated. Then instead of taking charge of the business himself, he made an arrangement with a man named Bixby, whereby Leet was "guaranteed" \$10,000 a year, for simply controlling the business in favor of Bixby—that is, the office was farmed out for \$10,000 a year. There is, strange as it may seem, no limitation by law upon the general order, charged upon importers, so that Bixby, as was shown by proof of his own admission, was able to clear \$100,000 a year from the appointment which he got second-handed at a bargain, for \$10,000. How the hundred thousand was netted is shown by the testimony of importers, as to the blackmailing to which they had to submit in order to get goods through his department.

That such a state of affairs could be possible under what Senator Monton, with unintentional satire, terms the best system of civil service in the world, is an unanswerable argument for real reform.

The Committee is doing good work in bringing to light such abuses, and it is to be trusted they will not stop till they have ferreted out the evils of the patronage system, not only in the custom-houses but in all the departments.

RESERVED COMMAND.

It is generally known that, for some weeks past, Gen. John Gibbon, in command of this military district, has been subject to the annoyance of arrest by his military superior, Gen. Hancock, whose headquarters, as commander of the Department, are at St. Paul. It is a piece of news that much gratifies us to communicate, that the General is again in command of the district, dating from the 12th inst. No officer that has preceded him in authority in this Territory has raised up about him such a multitude of enthusiastic friends and admirers. Like Baker, he is one of the few of the people's favorites, upon whom are bestowed, without the asking or the seeking, the warm and solid regard and attachment of the masses. We don't know the why or the wherefore of the General's late arrest. Indeed, we doubt if he knows or has had any intimation of the cause of his temporary deputation from command, himself. However, that is now past; and we again see reflected from the north, like a sunbeam bursting from a cloud-bank, the genial, kindly, honest face of John Gibbon.

General, a thousand "dexter maulers" are gesticulating their congratulatory momentum toward you!

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

An account of the late conflagration in Chicago, which assumes to be authentic, estimates the total area burned over in the city, including streets, at 2,124 acres, or very nearly 3 1/2 square miles. The number of buildings destroyed was 17,450; of persons rendered homeless, 98,500. Of the latter more than 250 perished in the flames or from exposure. The total loss is given as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Total burned: \$190,000,000. Salvage: 4,000,000. Real loss: \$192,000,000. Depreciation on real estate: 85,000,000. Loss to business: 10,000,000. Total loss: \$290,000,000. Total amount insured, about: \$100,000,000. Of which is collectable: 40,000,000.

OUR VIRGINIA CITY LETTER.

Judge Fisher's Election Bill—The Capital Against an Wholesale Division of Missoula County—Mr. Dixon's Alien Bill—Adjournment of the Legislature.

VIRGINIA CITY, January 12, 1872. To the Editor of the Herald.

Council bill No. 4, concerning elections, introduced by Judge Fisher, has passed both houses, and is now in the hands of the Executive. The provisions of the bill throw around the ballot-box ample protection against fraudulent voting of any and every description, by large fines and imprisonment. The need of a stringent law like unto this has never been apparent, and all good citizens will rejoice that we have it now.

The Capital removal bill is dead, so far as Helena is concerned—lost, as before intimated, by one of the Gallatin county Delegates, Mr. Vivion, voting against it. Pending the indefinite postponement of the bill, warm discussions ensued pro and con. Mr. Johnson, of Madison, advocated the further retention of the Capital at Virginia eloquently and persistently, if not consistently. As a warning to Deer Lodge and Missoula members, he held up before their eyes the example of a Deer Lodge member who, he said, betrayed the trusts of his constituents by voting in favor of a similar bill on a similar occasion, and who was strongly suspected of having received \$3,500 in greenbacks therefor. Mr. Conley then took the floor, and delivered a speech at length, which was conceded by every one of the large assemblage to be able and eloquent. In the course of his remarks he recurred to the slur of the member from Madison upon the integrity of a former member from Deer Lodge, Mr. Baggs, an old, tried, and loyal Democrat. As a member from the Sixth Legislature, and conversant with everything in connection with the removal of the Capital at that time, he pronounced the charge which had been circulated through certain newspapers and by a few men against the integrity of Mr. Baggs as false; he was glad the time had arrived when he could, from the floor of the House, vindicate the honor of an old and wrongly accused man, by pronouncing as false every word of these accusations; and he wished his words to go forth to the people of the Territory to that effect, holding himself responsible for their utterance.

The bill to remove the Capital to Deer Lodge has passed both houses, and gone to the Governor.

The funeral procession and ceremonies of the late Geo. H. Hanna, under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, took place yesterday, and was an imposing occasion. An ex-Legislator, a Mason, and a man of many personal friends, the procession was augmented by the Legislature and Bench.

The Council yesterday passed a bill for forming a new county from that portion of Missoula county known as Bitter Root valley above the Lo-Lo fork. The bill gave to the new county the name of "Owen," but on motion of Dr. Mitchell, President of the Council, it was amended by striking out "Owen," and inserting in lieu thereof "Robert Fisher," in honor of the Republican war-horse of the Council. The name of Dawson county was also changed to John Owen, in honor of the venerable Councilman from the Bitter Root county.

Mr. Dixon's alien bill was this morning signed by the Governor. The bill went through without amendments, and will, if it stands the test of the courts, put a stopper on Chinese immigration to our Territory.

This has been a busy day with the Legislature, and a vast amount of business has been accomplished. At ten minutes to twelve, precisely, the Speaker adjourned the House, and the President the Council, sine die.

Therefore, I give your readers a rest.

JUDGE.

Newspaper Training.

The Christian World understands the value of newspaper training, and pays the following deserved tribute to the newspaper graduate: "We can safely recommend a graduate of a newspaper office for almost any station in life, at least for all such as require a pretty good knowledge of the peculiarities and characteristics of the human family. A man who can preserve the serenity of his temper, the sweetness of Christian disposition, and an unflinching perseverance amid all the obstacles and difficulties which newspaper publication presents, deserves to be ranked with Job for patience, Baxter for goodness, and the Iron Duke, for instance, for nerve, power and obstinate determination."

As it may possibly have escaped his notice, we call the attention of Governor Potts to the fact that a cadet appointment is to be made from this Territory. The Board named by our Delegate to examine and report on the fitness of applicants for the place might, and probably will, under the circumstances, have something to say as to who the lad shall be. But this will not block out the Governor from giving his usual two or more "endorsements" and packing two or more boys with his Janus syzyget off to get this cadetship.

SECRETARY BOUTWELL has issued an order that the regulation ordered by the Treasury Department of August 3, 1869, limiting applications for refunding taxes to two years from the date of the payment of the tax, and two years from that date in case of claims already accrued, be so modified as to allow the presentation of claims now existing until the 30th day of June, 1872.

CADET APPOINTMENT.

LETTER FROM HON. W. H. CLAGETT.

The following letter from our Delegate, Hon. W. H. Clagett, has been placed in our hands for publication. The instructions from the War Department, spoken of in the letter, in reference to the qualifications and disqualifications for an appointment, as also the time and place for holding the examination, will shortly appear in this journal. Mr. Clagett's views in regard to competitive examination for an appointment of this kind are correct, and will meet with hearty approval.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24th, 1871. MESSRS. C. HEDGES, W. R. BULLARD and JOHN W. COLEMAN, Gentlemen:—I have the appointment of a Cadet at the Military Academy at West Point, and have received several applications for the nomination. I do not believe that these appointments should be controlled by personal favoritism, but rather that every lad having an ambition for military life should have an equal chance with all others.

I wish to inaugurate in Montana the practice of competitive examinations in the selection of Cadets, and request that you will act as an Examining Board for this purpose. Full instructions will be found in the accompanying circular issued by the War Department. I suggest that you have published the qualifications and disqualifications for an appointment, and the time and place you will hold the examination. As much time as possible should be allowed, in order that all may have an opportunity to prepare themselves by study for a successful examination. In case two or more of the competitors should in your judgment be equally qualified, I desire that you shall give the preference to the one who from his circumstances will, if unaided, be the least able to secure the advantages of a liberal education. Trusting that you will give this application a favorable response, I remain Truly yours, Wm. H. CLAGETT.

A TERRITORIAL UNIVERSITY.

BOSTON CITY, M. T., January 14. To the Editor of the Herald.

I have read the discussion in your valuable paper in regard to a Territorial University with much interest, and if you will not regard it as a trespass, I will make a few comments upon this momentous question to the good and the vigorous growth and prosperity of the Territory. The time has been when such discussion would have been considered an eighth wonder, but I trust that time has long since passed away. Experience of the people in other places and other countries, the great guide to success of all intellectual beings, shows us that nothing can give such strength and vigor to or develop a new country with such rapidity as the establishment of such an institution.

Nothing proves more decidedly the wisdom and foresight of the Pilgrim Fathers, than the early establishment of a University. They landed at Plymouth in 1620, and in 1636 the General Court at Boston voted a sum equal to a year's rate of the whole colony towards the erection of a college. That led to the foundation of what is now the oldest literary institution in America. In 1638 the Rev. John Harvard bequeathed \$3,000 and upwards to it, which was named, in honor of its benefactor, Harvard College. Harvard also presented the college with a valuable library. Connecticut and other colonies, often contributed to promote its success. The State also donated the rent of a farm, and once, at least, every family in the colony gave to the college, at Cambridge, twelve-pence. Some of the more wealthy were profuse in their liberality. Bancroft, to whom we are indebted for the account of the establishment of Harvard college, adds the remark, that "the college in return, exerted a powerful influence in forming the early character of the country." Massachusetts has ever since taken the lead in popular education, and this broad and general view gives an explanation of her various successful transactions, and her commanding position in the world of enterprise and of letters.

Two of the greatest universities of Europe, those of Berlin and Munich, are the work of a few years. The kingdom of Prussia, Bavaria, or Greece has not resources equal to those of Montana; for we have lands and mines of increasing and incomparable value. No State or Territory can ever expect to rise to any great height until it has once established a place for high intellectual improvement. The institutions of Paris alone seem like an assemblage of universities for the world. Whatever may be the number east, is it unreasonable to establish one university in the northwest, to become the great parent of all that may spring up in this mighty region? Montana would, with such an institution, become the great centre of light, the grand point of attraction; would possess an intelligent and powerful population, and would increase largely and rapidly in wealth and prosperity. Her voice would be mighty in the councils of the nation; she would be the keystone of the arch of the republic. If the question be asked, where will the students come from? we reply, it would attract them from other Territories; it would call them from the bosom of the Territory itself. Students widely scattered would come flocking to it. "Where the mines of knowledge are open, there will the seekers after knowledge congregate." This is sustained by all the histories of universities. There is not to be found one single instance where a university properly constituted proved a failure. The idea of great expenditure will startle many; but many things have been done that cost much more. A university, once established,

will grow more and more lofty, scattering its fruits in profuse abundance, and filling the land with knowledge, greatness and power. But the practical question here returns. How is it to be done? Millions of acres of land still remain in the Territory unappropriated. Can we not from this source bring about a result that will open a new era to Montana. Let us see well to it. C. C. N.

OUR SALMON CITY LETTER.

The Snow Fall—Scarcity of Flour and Feed—The Killing of Wm. Smith—Escape of the Murderer.

SALMON CITY, I. T., Dec. 27, 1871. To the Editor of the Herald.

Seated by a blazing fire, rendered doubly cheerful by the bleak aspect out doors, and cursing my untoward fate for leaving me stranded in a wilderness at this festive season of the year, I determined to enlighten the world at large, through the medium of your columns, on our doings here.

I shall open my budget, with the weather, which has been very severe since the middle of last month. The snow now in the valley cannot be less than two feet, so that the cattle are leaving the mountains and coming down to the flats in search of food. There is little or no hay in this valley, and should this weather continue, the loss of cattle will be considerable. One ranchero, for example, with great forethought, cut about three tons of hay for over 100 head of cattle, when he could have had thirty for the cutting. Such wise precaution was probably meant for next winter when, no doubt, it will prove sufficient.

There is a great scarcity of flour, and it is feared that no more teams can get in. If it should turn out so, coffee mills will have a brisk time of it, grinding wheat to satisfy the wants of the hungry. Leesburg, a mining camp about fifteen miles from here, gets all its supplies from this place, so that what it gains in snow for its next year's water supply will be more than counterbalanced by the difficulty it will experience in getting its winter supplies packed in, the snow on the trail to that camp being in some places over five feet deep. Next year, however, we will not have to depend on the outside for our flour supply, as one of our most enterprising farmers, Mr. John Barrack, is building a flouring mill, which will be running ere another winter overtakes us.

A gloom has fallen on the community here, caused by the death of Mr. William Smith, one of the discoverers of the Leesburg mines. The circumstances are as follows: On the evening of the 7th inst., a man named James Hayden and Smith were playing cards in a saloon, when a dispute arose between the players, and the lie was given on both sides, when Hayden seized hold of a cast iron twin box, which lay on the counter, and threw it at Smith, who thereupon drew a Derringer and fired twice at Hayden without effect. He then ran out of the saloon, closely pursued by Hayden, who by this time had a six-shooter in his hand with which he fired three shots at Smith, who fell mortally wounded on the street about 200 yards from the saloon. The shot that proved fatal was fired at Smith while he was running, the bullet entering his back, glancing upward and lodging in his neck. Smith lingered on until the morning of the 9th, when he expired. A medical man had been sent for to Bannack, but did not arrive until it was too late. The funeral, which was the largest that has ever taken place in Salmon city, occurred on the following day. The deceased was a man of steady habits, this being the first fight that he was ever known to have been engaged in. His kind and genial manner endeared him to many, and his loss is deeply deplored.

Hayden, on the other hand, is known to have figured in three fights. His first was an attempt to kill Sam Rainer, of Leesburg, with a Rock. Sam was quite a little fellow and Hayden directly the opposite. His modus operandi being to knock his man down with a stone, and then boast how "Old Jim could do it." His next attempt was to increase the size of Charlie Lafay's head with one of the weights belonging to platform scales, and his last was the one which has resulted so fatally. A coroner's inquest was held on the body of Smith, but nothing was done, and Hayden has left the valley, leaving few to lament his exodus. Thus ends my Budget. IXION.

ONE TERM.

Following close upon the proposed amendment to the Constitution, limiting the tenure of the Presidential office to one term of four years, the press of the country have entered pro and con upon its discussion. The New York Tribune leads off and a long list of journals follow in advocacy of the one term principle. The New York Times, backed by an equally formidable array of lesser prints, comes out square against the proposition.

If we go back the matter of a century, lacking a few years, we come to the time when our fathers, in convention, framed the Constitution—the palladium of our liberties. The dangers now recited by those who deprecate the re-election of General Grant, were termed "possible calamities" in the Constitutional Convention by the few who were disposed to interdict the President from a second term of office. And yet the Constitution was adopted with the possibility of all those supposed calamities hanging over it. We have had at once Washington for President eight years, Jefferson eight years, Madison eight years, Monroe eight years, Jackson eight years, John Adams and John Quincy Adams alone intervening for a single term each; and nobody now believes that the republic would have

received any detriment if circumstances had favored their re-election. There has been but one time since when the country had any desire to re-elect a President for a second term, and that time he was chosen. The hand of an assassin alone robbed the country of the benefit of his tried patriotism and heroic virtue. Van Buren wore out his welcome in his first and only term. Harrison died in office. Polk, of course, could not survive the Mexican war. Taylor died in office. Pierce and Buchanan went out with the tide which was never to return again. Experience, to be sure, throws little light on the merits of this question; but that little is in favor of leaving to the people entire freedom of choice among the servants of the public who have earned its confidence.

The vote for U. S. Senator in the joint Convention of the Ohio Legislature, resulted as follows: John Sherman, (Rep.) 73; Geo. W. Morgan, (Dem.) 59; Jacob D. Cox, (Rep.) 5; Robt. C. Schneck, (Rep.) 1; Aaron F. Perry, (Rep.) 1. Sherman's majority over all, 7.

TELEGRAMS

REPORTED SPECIALLY FOR THE HERALD BY WESTERN UNION TELEGRAMS COMPANY.

UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, January 15.—SENATE—Goldthwaite, of Alabama, was sworn in. Blair offered a joint resolution directing inquiry into affairs in Louisiana. Edmunds objected.

Fenton presented the petition of George R. Setten and over 1,000 other citizens of Rochester, praying for a reduction of the tariff to a revenue basis, and especially for the removal of duties on salt, coal, and pig iron. Edmunds presented 32 petitions from Vermont for the repeal of the duty on salt.

Cole presented the petition of Chinese dealers on the Pacific coast for a reduction of the duty on rice.

The Vice President reminded him that petitions of foreigners can be received only at the State Department. Cole thought the rule applied only to foreigners residing abroad.

Sumner said it ought to apply only to those. The Vice President said the rulings upon the subject, were to the effect that the subjects of a foreign power must approach the United States government through the State Department.

Scott, and Davis, of Ky., opposed the reception of petition of foreigners, except where they related to personal or property rights. Morrill, of Vermont, thought the Senate ought not to be too particular about receiving this petition, in view of the fact that it was continually receiving petitions for free trade, prepared by an organization of foreigners in New York.

The question was taken up and the petition referred to the Committee on Finance. Sumner's supplementary civil rights bill came up, and he addressed the Senate. In the course of his remarks he expressed regret that the President, in his message, favored general amnesty, while he said nothing of the disabilities inflicted on the colored people. He claimed that there were strong reasons why this measure should be united with amnesty, and said that of the two this should have pre-eminence.

Vickers read a long argument in favor of the pending general amnesty bill. The Senate then went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE—Butler, of Mass., introduced a bill for the removal of legal political disabilities incurred during the late rebellion, provided, that the acts shall not enable a person to maintain a claim or right against the government except the same accrued before the 11th of April, of 1861, and subsequent to the 9th of April, 1865; also, to repeal the several tenure-of-office acts.

By Smith, for the construction of a national railroad between New York and Chicago. Clark, of New York, introduced a bill to provide for a currency in coin and paper of equal and uniform value throughout the United States.

Taffe introduced a bill to abolish the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Daves offered under suspension of the rules, a resolution for a special committee of five to investigate the troubles of the Louisiana Legislature and officials, with power to send for persons and papers, and leave to sit in Washington or elsewhere. Adopted by yeas 144 to nays 58.

Hale introduced the amnesty bill passed by the House at its last session and now pending in the Senate, the vote standing, yeas 170 to nays 31. This bill exempts from its provisions, members of Congress, and officers of the army and navy who joined the rebellion.

The following is the negative vote: Ambler, Beatty, Buffington, Coburn, Conger, Dunnell, Goodrich, Hoar, Killinger, Lansing, Low, Maynard, McCrary, McKunkin, Mercer, Orr, Packard, of Ind., Packer, of Pa., Palmer, Porter, Rainey, Rusk, Seeley, Sprague, Shanks, Taffe, Townsend, of Pa., Tyner, Waldron, Walls, and Wilson, of Indiana. Adjourned.

New York, January 13.—In the Custom House investigation case to-day, deputy Collector Clarke testified in relation to the practice of making seizures and in compromising cases, showing that in some instances the seizures were made without a warrant from the custom house; and that frequently, when a large sum was at first demanded to compromise cases, smaller sums were afterwards accepted; that previous to the administration of Grinnell, cases were compromised without any legal affidavits, even when a merchant was guilty. Witness said the records of such cases were in the Collector's office. Senator Bayard moved that such records be sent for. Senator Howe said there was a statute prohibiting the publication of an informer's name, and he therefore objected. In reply to a question from Bayard, as to who told him there was such a statute, Howe said, Jaynes, treasury agent, and Wakeman, and added, that he was not sure there was such a law. Finally, the committee agreed to hold over the order for the production of the records until Howe looked up the statute. Adj. Charles O'Connor has signified his willingness to accept Connolly's bondsmen on their formal justification, without further objection. Connolly will not, however, place