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THE CROW COUNCIL OF 1873.

Blackfoot, the Crow Orator, Warns Them Concerning the Sioux.

When the Commissioners met at the Crow Agency in 1873, for the purpose of making a treaty with the Crows, they were told certain truths by the Chiefs respecting their common enemy the Sioux, which recent events confirm.

\* \* \* "The commissioners told me that we should have plenty of food given us for forty years. They were big men who talked to us; they were not drunk when they told us. I told the commissioners at Laramie that I had seen the Sioux commit a great massacre; they killed many white men. But the Sioux are still there and still kill white men. When you whip the Sioux come and tell us of it. You are afraid of the Sioux. Two years ago I went with the soldiers; they were very brave; they were going through the Sioux country to Powder river and Tongue river. We got to Prior creek, just below here in the Crow country. I wanted to go ahead into the Sioux country, but the soldiers got scared and turned back. I was there and so were others who are here; they know what I say is true. The soldiers said they were going to Tongue river, but they got frightened at the Sioux and turned back. The soldiers were the whirlwind; they went toward the Sioux country, but the whirlwind turned back. Last summer the soldiers went to Prior creek again; again they said they were going through the Sioux country, but they saw a few Sioux; they were afraid of them; they got scared and turned up to the Muscleshell, and went back again; again the whirlwind was going through the Sioux country, but again the whirlwind turned back. We are not the whirlwind, but we go to the Sioux; we go into their country; we meet them and fight, but we do not turn back; but we are not the whirlwind. You say the railroad is coming up the Yellowstone; that is like the whirlwind and cannot be turned back. I do not think it will come. The Sioux are on the way and you are afraid of them; they will turn the whirlwind back. If you whip the Sioux, and get them out of its way, the railroad may come, and I will say nothing."

On the fifth day he said: "You think you have peace with the Sioux; I do not think you have. You want to shake hands with them. We want to know whether you are going to fight the Sioux or not; we want to know." At the close of the Council the same Chief said: "You ought not to give the Sioux guns and ammunition; you should wipe them all out; you should throw a disease upon them." This Crow knew of the arming of the Sioux nation by Indian traders; the frontiersmen knew it; the Commission knew it; the Government knew and winked at it; and now we have the bloody fruits of a murderous Peace Policy.

Worse than Reported.

CHICAGO, July 7.—A Des Moines, Iowa, special gives further details of the terrible tornado in Central Iowa on Tuesday night. It appears that the actual facts are much worse than reported. Reports from other parts of Warren county show that the storm was general and disastrous. About fifty houses were blown away and their inmates killed or badly hurt.

From Madison county reports are equally disastrous.

Reports from Norwalk state that the house of Mr. Gideon was swept away, and his wife and three sons were drowned.

Between Winterset and Norwalk eleven persons were killed, seven drowned and four struck by lightning.

The devastation is terrible, and cannot be known until communication can be established.

In a Bad Fix.

WASHINGTON, July 8.—The St. Louis platform and pending proposition to repeal the resumption act, put the New York Democratic Congressmen in a bad fix, as the Legislature instructed them last February to oppose the repeal. Still it is apparent that the Democrats will now vote against the repeal. The Senate will defeat the bill.

THE VALLEY OF DEATH.

Particulars of the Massacre of Custer's Command.

THE UNWRITTEN CHAPTER.

"Curley," a Crow Scout, the only Survivor of the Battle, Tells the Story.

Not Until their Ammunition was gone were our Troops Butchered.

A Large Number of Indians Killed.

Lieut. Jas. H. Bradley, of the 7th infantry, who commanded the scouts under Gibbon on the recent march from the Yellowstone to the Little Horn and return, arrived in this city last night and left for Fort Shaw this morning. He left the command one week ago to-day, in camp near Fort Pease, and everything was quiet. Our reporter interviewed Lieut. Bradley, who very kindly gave us a description of the Little Horn disaster, but more particularly the account of Custer's battle and massacre, which has not heretofore been published. It would be in place at this juncture to state that Lieut. Bradley, with his scouts, on the morning of the 27th of June, crossed to the opposite side of the Little Horn from which the command was marching, and deployed out through the hills in skirmish line. (The evening previous three Crow scouts had reported to the Lieutenant that Custer's regiment of cavalry had been cut to pieces. This report was not credited by Terry and Gibbon; yet it was known that they were approaching the Indian village, and the scouts were, if possible, unusually vigilant and active.) About 9 o'clock, a scout reported to Lieut. Bradley that he saw an object which looked like a dead horse. The Lieutenant found it to be a dead cavalry horse, and, going a few yards further on, to the brow of a hill, looking into the valley below, a terrible scene was presented to view. It was

CUSTER'S BATTLE FIELD, literally strewn with the dead of the gallant Seventh Cavalry. Lieut. Bradley rode hurriedly over the field, and in a few minutes time counted one hundred and ninety-seven dead bodies. Custer fell upon the highest point of the field; and around him, within a space of five rods square, lay forty-two men and thirty-one horses. The dead soldiers all lay within a circle embracing only a few hundred yards square. The Lieutenant immediately reported to Gibbon, which was the first intelligence of the battle received. A few moments later a scout arrived from Reno's command, asking for assistance, and Terry and Gibbon pushed forward to the rescue.

Not a single survivor of Custer's command was found, and even up to the time General Terry made out his official report to General Sheridan it was supposed that the last soul had perished. But when the command returned to the Yellowstone they found there a Crow scout named "Curley," who, as verified by Major Reno, rode out with Custer on that fatal day. He alone escaped, and his account of the battle we give below. It is interesting, as being the only story of the fight ever to be looked for from one who was an actual participant on Custer's side—Curley being, in all human probability the only survivor of his command:

Custer, with his five companies, after separating from Reno and his seven companies, moved to the right around the base of a high hill overlooking the valley of the Little Horn through a ravine just wide enough to admit his column of fours. There were no signs of the presence of Indians in the hills on that side (the right bank) of the Little Horn, and the column moved steadily on until it rounded the hill and came in sight of the village lying in the valley below them. Custer appeared very much elated, and ordered the bugles to sound a charge, and moved on at the head of his column, waving his hat to encourage his men. When they neared the river, the Indians, concealed in the undergrowth on the opposite side of the river, opened fire on the troops, which checked the advance. Here a portion of the command were dismounted and thrown forward to the river, and returned the fire of the Indians. During this time the warriors were seen riding out of the village by hundreds, and deploying across his front and to his left, as if with the intention of crossing the stream on his right, while the women and children were seen hastening out of the village in large numbers in the opposite direction.

During the fight at this point Curley saw

two of Custer's men killed who fell into the stream. After fighting a few moments here, Custer seemed to be convinced that it was impracticable to cross, as it only could be done in column of fours, exposed during the movement to a heavy fire from the front and both flanks. He, therefore, ordered the head of the column to the right, and bore diagonally into the hills, down stream, his men on foot, leading their horses. In the meantime the Indians had crossed the river (below) in immense numbers, and began to appear on his right flank and in his rear; and he had proceeded but a few hundred yards in the new direction the column had taken, when it became necessary to renew the fight with the Indians who had crossed the stream. At first the command remained together, but after some minutes fighting it was divided, a portion deploying circularly to the left, and the remainder similarly to the right, so that when the line was formed it bore a rude resemblance to a circle, advantage being taken as far as possible of the protection afforded by the ground. The horses were in the rear, the men on the line being dismounted, fighting on foot.

OF THE INCIDENTS OF THE FIGHT in other parts of the field than his own, Curley is not well informed, as he was himself concealed in a deep ravine, from which but a small part of the field was visible.

The fight appears to have begun, from Curley's description of the situation of the sun, about 2:30 or 3 o'clock p. m., and continued without intermission until nearly sunset. The Indians had completely surrounded the command, leaving their horses in ravines well to the rear, themselves pressing forward to attack on foot. Confident in the great superiority of their numbers, they made several charges on all points of Custer's line; but the troops held their position firmly, and delivered a heavy fire, and every time drove them back. Curley says the firing was more rapid than anything he had ever conceived of, being a continuous roll, like (as he expressed it) "THE SNAPPING OF THE THREADS IN THE TEARING OF A BLANKET."

The troops expended all the ammunition in their belts, and then sought their horses for the reserve ammunition carried in their saddle pockets.

As long as their ammunition held out, the troops, though losing considerably in the fight, maintained their position in spite of all the efforts of the Sioux. From the weakening of their fire towards the close of the afternoon the Indians appeared to believe that their ammunition was about exhausted, and they made a

GRAND FINAL CHARGE, in the course of which the last of the command was destroyed, the men being shot, where they laid in their positions in the line, at such close quarters that many were killed with arrows. Curley says that Custer remained alive through the greater part of the engagement, animating his men to determined resistance; but about an hour before the close of the fight received a mortal wound.

Curley says the field was thickly strewn with the dead bodies of the Sioux who fell in the attack—in number considerably more than the force of soldiers engaged. He is satisfied that their loss will exceed 300 killed, beside an immense number wounded. Curley accomplished his escape by drawing his blanket about him in the manner of the Sioux, and passing through an interval which had been made in their line as they scattered over the field in their final charge. He says they must have seen him, as he was in plain view, but was probably mistaken by the Sioux for one of their own number or one of their allied Arapahoes or Cheyennes.

In most particulars the account given by Curley of the fight is confirmed by the position of the trail made by Custer in his movements, and the general evidences of the battle field. Only one discrepancy is noted, which relates to the time when the fight came to an end.

Officers of Reno's command, who, late in the afternoon, from high points surveyed the country in anxious expectation of Custer's appearance, and commanded a view of the field where he had fought, say that no fighting was going on at that time—between five and six o'clock. It is evident, therefore, that the last of Custer's command was destroyed at an earlier hour in the day than Curley relates.

THE Boston Herald says: "As an educator of the people the marvelous exhibition at Philadelphia surpasses every institution of the kind that the wit and wisdom of men has ever before conceived." The Herald calls for some general and systematic method to be inaugurated, by means of which, many thousands of industrious, thoughtful, inventive New Englanders may be able to enjoy the pleasures and reap the advantages to be derived from it.

A PLEA FOR HOME RULE.

In response to the call of numerous Republicans there met at the Court House in Deer Lodge, June 21st, a mass meeting of the Republican electors of Cottonwood precinct. The meeting was called to order by George W. Irvin, 2d, who nominated for Chairman, O. B. O'Bannon, and for Secretary, Howard H. Zenor, and by the meeting these gentlemen were duly elected. The Chair stated the object of the meeting briefly: That in the probable election of R. B. Hayes to the Presidency and W. A. Wheeler to the Vice-Presidency, the Republican party within itself would undertake reform; that the character of Federal appointments to this Territory were frequently such as met our disapproval; that a united and dignified movement ought to be made by the whole body of the Republican electors to secure the retention of officers who had proved themselves faithful; to secure the appointment of persons to all occurring vacancies in Federal positions from among the bona fide citizens of this Territory, and to prevent apparent endorsement by Montana of irresponsible applicants from our own Territory.

The Chair thought this could be fairly accomplished by the Territorial Republican Convention to convene during the summer for the nomination of delegate to Congress, when the convention should nominate to the President, in the same manner as Delegate, the several persons to fill the general Federal offices within the Territory, whether from among the present incumbents or others not now in office. After a pretty full discussion, participated in by Messrs. W. H. Claggett, Dr. Chas. Mussigbrod, Dr. Gleason, Geo. W. Irvin, and a number others, a motion was made and carried authorizing the Chair to appoint a committee to draft an address to the Republican electors that should embody the sentiments of this convention, and be offered for publication to the New North-West and Helena HERALD.

The Chair appointed as such committee, Wm. H. Claggett, Dr. Mussigbrod, and H. H. Zenor. Upon motion the meeting adjourned sine die.

O. B. O'BANNON, Ch'n.
H. H. ZENOR, Sec'y.

DEER LODGE, M. T., June 25, 1876.

ADDRESS.

To the Republicans of Montana:— All the indications point to the complete triumph of the Republican party in November. It may be confidently assumed that Rutherford B. Hayes will be the next President of the United States. As such it will be his duty, as well as pleasure, to carry out in spirit and in letter the platform upon which he was nominated. That platform instructs him to overthrow the system under which Congressmen have heretofore dictated the Federal appointments in their respective districts and in the Territories. This instruction is a notification to all whom it may concern that the appointment of aliens to the people of the Territories to the Federal offices therein, must be abolished. Its stoppage will secure to our people what we have so long striven for, viz: The appointment of those identified with our interests, and owing their appointment to the wishes of our people, and not to the favoritism of kinship or some Congressman in the East. When the incoming administration, recognizing its duty in this respect, shall ask us who we wish appointed, what answer shall we give? Who will be authorized to speak for us?

In 1869 President Grant openly declared that in all of the older Territories he should take the federal appointments from the bona fide residents of the same, but when he came to select them he found several coteries of men from each of them striving for the appointments, and unable to select from among the rival candidates, those who would give satisfaction, he filled the offices with appointees from abroad. So it will be with the incoming administration, unless you take steps to relieve it from this inevitable embarrassment. There is only one way in which this can be done, viz: To have the party recommend to the President the names of those whom we wish for our rulers. The only way in which the party can take action is in its coming Territorial Convention. This Convention can be called not only to nominate a candidate for delegate, but also to select and recommend for appointment representative Republicans for the various federal appointments. There are in the Territory twelve federal offices to be filled, whose functions are general to the people. The selection of the incumbents need not be a matter of any difficulty. Whatever is done should be done openly and by the party at large. The selection of officers by the party will stop all intrigue against their appointment make such intrigue fruitless. It will also restore harmony to our ranks, so

that we can wage our warfare against the common foe, instead of being torn by internal feuds. If we succeed, it will go far to build up our material interests whose development has so long, and in so many ways, been retarded by the introduction into our affairs of new and unknown elements of power. If we fail we will be no worse off than now. It is immaterial what Republicans of the many, in all respects qualified, shall hold the public offices among us, but it is vitally important that those who do hold them shall be familiar with our wants, owe their appointments to our request, and be responsible to our local public opinion. It is this that constitutes local self-government. It is not designed to make war upon any officer who was a non-resident at the time of his appointment. Many of our present officers have done their whole duty and in the interest of the people should be retained. In the new deal on the 4th of March next they are liable to be removed. The convention will be able to secure the retention of those whose retention is desired. We have been appointed by the meeting whose proceedings are given above to lay this matter before you. We invite public discussion. We urge upon our Democratic brethren to adopt the same course, so that we may be governed by our own citizens, in case the strange fortunes of politics should give them the incoming administration. We therefore request that all Republicans who approve the object herein set forth, will circulate this paper for signatures in their several localities, and transmit the same to E. S. Stackpole, Secretary of the Republican Central Committee at this place, to be by him laid before the committee. If the general sentiment of the party shall approve the course indicated, the objects herein set forth can be embraced in the call for our next Territorial Convention.

WM. H. CLAGGETT,
C. F. MUSSIGBROD, } Committee.
H. H. ZENOR.

Responsive to the above, the HERALD, speaking for itself, most heartily approves of the general purposes of the address. We shall gladly co-operate with the Republicans of Montana to reform the old system of Federal appointments for the Territories—a system that has been practiced heretofore by the Republican party, and handed down to us by Democratic administrations. "Home Rule," as nearly as practicable, considering the nature and disabilities of our Territorial form of government, we shall labor to advance and perfect. We cannot, however, at this time endorse the plan proposed, as we believe it is premature. We would decidedly oppose the proposition to encumber and embarrass the next Territorial Convention with the duty of designating officers to an administration that possibly may never have an existence. There is but little doubt that Hayes and Wheeler will be triumphantly elected. In the event of their election, then, if a satisfactory assurance can be had, that the voice of the Republican party of the Territory would be received as sufficient authority by the incoming administration for appointment to all Federal offices in the Territory, we would favor the plan proposed, or some better one to designate the choice of the Republicans of Montana for all Federal Territorial officers. We are inclined at this time to prefer the primary election system, rather than the convention plan as proposed. One other reason why we would counsel delay until after the Presidential election: We know of two or more Federal officers who are making their arrangements to vacate the offices they hold before the close of the present administration, and in such event interests may intervene that cannot be foreseen.

However, to further the purposes of the address, we suggest that at our next Territorial Convention a resolution be passed that in the event of the election of the Republican Presidential ticket, a convention be called of the Republicans of the Territory to take into consideration the designation of suitable residents of the Territory to fill the various Federal offices. We further shall in the future, as in the past, insist that the will of the people shall be consulted by the appointing power in the selection of all Territorial officers. This should be none the less an object of reform than the selection of Federal officers.

Tilden and Hendricks won't do. New York, July 8.—Blanton Duncan, of Kentucky, who led the straightout Democrats for O'Connor, in opposition to Greeley, denounces Tilden's nomination as highly impolitic and sure to bring defeat. He predicts 20,000 Republican majority in Indiana, 40,000 in Ohio, and concedes California and Oregon to Hayes because of the soft money heresy. He says the St. Louis platform is double-faced, and the nominees antagonistic in principle. This effort to conciliate the Democrats, results in suiting none. He believes the Democrats have thrown away the best chance they ever had for success.