

The Weekly Herald.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1885.

THANKSGIVING.

By the President.—A PROCLAMATION. The American people have always cause to be thankful to Almighty God, whose watchful care and guiding hand have manifested in every stage of their national life, guiding and protecting them in time of peril and safely leading them in the hour of darkness and danger.

Therefore, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate and set apart Thursday, the 25th day of November instant, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and invoke the observance of the same by all the people of the land on that day. Let all secular business be suspended and let the people assemble in their usual places of worship and with prayer and songs praise devoutly testify their gratitude to the giver of every good and perfect gift for all that He has done for us in the year that has passed; for our preservation as a united nation and for our deliverance from shock and danger of political convulsion; for blessings for peace, and for our safety and quiet while wars and rumors of wars have agitated and afflicted other nations of the earth; for our security and the source of protection which in other lands has cost the blood of thousands and filled its streets with mourners; for the plentiful crops which reward the labor of the husbandman; for the increase of our Nation's wealth, and for the contentment throughout our borders which follows in the train of prosperity and abundance; and let there also be on the day thus set apart a reunion of families, sanctified and chastened by tender memories and associations, and let the social intercourse of friends, with pleasant reminiscences, renew the ties of affection and strengthen the bonds of kindly feeling, and let us by no means forget, while we give thanks and enjoy the comforts which have crowned our lives, that our truly grateful hearts are inclined to deeds of charity, and that kind and thoughtful remembrance of the poor will double the pleasure of our communion and render our praise and thanksgiving more acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

Done at the City of Washington, this second day of November, four thousand eight hundred and eighty-five and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and tenth. (Signed) GROVER CLEVELAND, President. T. F. BAYARD, Secretary of State.

THE Independent versus the Independent is quoted elsewhere.

WHITES' employees in the Brooklyn navy yard did their duty at the polls.

THE lapses of memory lead our neighbor into many and mortifying contradictions.

THE returns from one election precinct in Mexico show six killed and fifteen wounded.

HILL'S majority dwindles down to about 11,000, but that is about 10,000 more than Cleveland got.

IT is reported that another Comstock mine has been discovered on the west side of Mount Davidson.

DAN VOORHIES' telegram of congratulation to Cleveland over the result in New York is very significant.

"HANG SPARKS" is heard from thousands of settlers whose land claims are "hung up" by the Commissioner's order in Washington.

NOTHING further is heard from the Democratic election in Secretary Lamar's State. It is only necessary in Mississippi to state the vote to know what the majority is.

ACCORDING to the estimates of the new Director of the Mint, the amount of coin has fallen off fifty millions within the last two years. There are no facts to support such an assertion.

THE large balance of national exports over imports indicate at least two good things, economy in the use of foreign luxuries, and an increase of home manufactures to supply home demands.

IN his speech at Elmira, last night, Gov. Hill said "the result showed that the Independent Republicans (nugwumps) had left their party and became permanently identified with the Democratic party."

ATTORNEY SMITH'S appointment is explained by the statement that he is "a Southern gentleman—Kentucky born and bred—one in thorough sympathy with the Democratic faction now on top in Montana."

LAND COMMISSIONER SPARKS holds to the theory that every homesteader, pre-emptor, or land locator of any sort must be held to be guilty of fraud until he can show to the satisfaction of the General Land office the contrary.

IT is reported that France will initiate England and endeavor to hold Tonquin with native troops, withdrawing all but 12,000 of the French troops, leaving these to hold some of the strong points and to supply officers for the native troops.

TAMMANY outvoted the county Democracy and elected in great part the local New York officers. The Republicans stood second at the polls on the vote for Sheriff and Clerk. They elected two of the five judges and four of the board of aldermen.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has issued an admirable Thanksgiving Proclamation. There are very few who do not have cause to join heartily in giving thanks yearly and daily to the Great Giver of all good gifts, and sometimes losses and disappointments are the most useful of all experiences.

THE reported heavy Democratic gains in those counties of Virginia where there is a large colored population need not necessarily imply that the negroes voted for the party that oppresses and defrauds them. It is just as consistent with the better established fact that they were either deprived of their vote or had it counted different from the way it was cast.

THE proclamation of Gov. Squires of Washington Territory touching the project of forcible expulsion of the Chinese, is an admirable document. It is better on every account to avoid violence and abide by the laws. Resort to violence is not only barbarous in itself, but it will injure more than it will aid the material interests of Washington, and will be used to defeat the laudable ambition of the Territory to become a State.

POOR FINANCEERING.

It turns out that the administration, or the Treasury portion of it, is opposed to the further payment of the public debt. Their theory is that so long as the government can carry this debt at three per cent interest it is better to let it stand and reduce the revenues to the basis of the actual wants of the government. This is to be made the basis of an attempt to reduce tariff duties or internal revenue taxes. We consider it a very unwise policy in every respect. So far as the taxes on liquor and tobacco are concerned there are good reasons besides the revenue to let them stand. As to duties on imports, they are needed to foster manufactures for a time and still more to protect the wages of our workmen, whom we never want to see reduced to the bare pittance necessary to support life. Undoubtedly some of the duties are higher than needed for both these purposes, and there should be a gradual reduction of these duties. But this reduction will not produce less revenue. In fact, slight reductions generally lead to increase in imports and greater revenues. Why should the present Treasury officers usurp the right to say that the national debt should not be any further reduced, or that the lowest rate of interest had been reached? It is certain that the action of successive Republican administrations in paying off this debt is the only thing, or, at least, the chief thing that has given us the credit we now have. And it is presumptuous in anyone to say that the lowest limit has been reached. If all the 3 per cent. extended bonds are redeemed and the government stands ready to redeem the 4 per cents. when they fall due, it is reasonably certain that the credit of the government will be such as to enable it to replace them with a 2 per cent. bond.

We may never again be in mortal peril as a nation and need the use of all our resources and credit to save our existence, but there are many possible and probable calls upon our treasury and credit, for which the best provision is to have a diminishing public debt and an abounding credit. It will not be long till the government will have to own all the telegraph and perhaps all the telephone lines as well, and consolidate them with the Postoffice Department. We ought to be able and willing to aid other nations on this continent to raise all their national loans in the United States, by a guaranty of interest for a term of years.

To keep our credit good and always improving, our revenues should always exceed our expenditures, and this excess should be applied in reducing debt.

THE results of the elections in the South this year have settled one thing to a certainty, and that is the impossibility of expecting a free vote and honest count for the negro and the consequent impossibility of keeping up a Republican party in any Southern State based mainly on that vote. It is just as impossible to secure for the negro the enjoyment of his civil rights through any party at the South as it was to secure the abolition of slavery before the war by the votes of Southern slave holders. The Southern whites control the votes of the freedmen just as completely today as they did before the war. The only practical difference is that instead of two-thirds of the slave population being in their hands to vote as they wish, these same men just as completely control the full vote of the freedmen. Will this condition of things continue, and is there no remedy? These are leading questions for which an answer is demanded. There is no bloody shirt about this issue. There need be no blood-shed, fire or sword to settle this matter. Sectional it is, by its very nature, because it is a gross wrong to every voter at the North that the real voters of the South should each have nearly twice the voice and control in national affairs that he has in the North.

It is intimated from Washington that the accounts for October will show a decrease of twelve millions in the public debt. If so it will only increase the responsibility of the administration to that extent for increasing that much the idle hoard in the National Treasury. Drawing that much away from circulation and increasing the stringency of the money markets, will not lessening the interest burden of the people one dollar. If it is the intention to accumulate enough to call for a hundred millions of bonds at one time, it is a grave folly and would disturb the business of the country vastly more than to make monthly calls of smaller amounts and give the holders of called bonds a better chance to find other investments. The Secretary of the Treasury will soon have to explain and defend his policy before Congress as well as answer to public opinion and violated pledges.

In explanation of the fact that so few appointments appear in the South, we are credibly informed that nearly every federal office in that section was held by a Democrat before Cleveland became President. It is a proof that civil service was impartially carried out by the Republicans. What is true at the South is true generally all over the country. As the white Democrats of the South probably passed better examinations and showed better qualifications for official positions than Southern blacks, so probably the reason that more Republicans than Democrats are certified up by the commissioners is the same, superior qualifications.

KNOWING the antagonism that has existed between Cleveland and Hill, it is amusing to see both of them receiving congratulations over the New York victory. The success of Tammany is a rebuke to Cleveland, for on civil service reform it is an open revolt against every principle and profession of the President.

FREE TRADE VS. RECIPROCITY.

The Cincinnati Enquirer is credited with urging the policy of free trade with all the nations on this continent. It is a proposition for which very much might be said, and which, in a certain sense modified in form and degree, we have steadfastly advocated.

The great trouble with the broad proposition as outlined by the Enquirer is this, that our treaties with all the continental nations bind us to give to each the benefits of treaties with the most favored nation. To negotiate special treaties of reciprocal advantages with the nations of this continent severally, does not conflict with this treaty obligation, because for every concession made there is an equivalent received. This general principle we are ready to act by in our treaties with all nations, for it allows each party to judge of the value of its concessions and returning advantages.

Even leaving out of account the West India Islands, which, though physically belonging to this continent, have no control of their own resources or commerce, it would not do to concede entire free trade to the Argentine Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay in the matter of wool, for it would seriously injure our wool interests in all the Northern States.

By reciprocity treaties we can go to the extent of free trade in everything in exchange for the same privilege. In this wool business, it might be possible to shape the business of the countries gradually so that there would be no conflict, different countries producing different grades that would not compete but would supplement each other.

It will be a long time before any country on this continent would dispense with tariff duties for revenue, but there are many things that could be advantageously admitted free at once, on each side and other duties arranged with a view to complete extinction by gradual reduction.

The individual benefits to our manufactures and commerce in addition to the advantage of assimilating the nations on this continent in civil, social and educational customs and institutions, would be so great that it seems as if this were one of the first things that Congress and our government should seek to accomplish and that every one of all parties would co-operate heartily in the object.

THE establishment of a steamship line between the Pacific coast of Mexico and China and the proposition to import Chinese coolies to raise sugar, cotton, tobacco, etc., bodes no good to Mexico or the United States. What does Mexico want of any more cheap labor? Labor is now cheap in that country to the very verge of starvation to the miserable laborers. That the labor is of poor quality and unreliable is perhaps true but the remedy does not lie in introducing cheaper labor, which will force that now in the country either to starve or to rise in rebellion as the only alternative. A country that will not protect, elevate and improve its laboring class neglects and abjures its highest duty, and Mexico will rue the day that it throws its ports wide open to Chinese immigration. It will eat its substance and retard, if it does not effectually block, its march towards permanent prosperity.

SECRETARY BAYARD was very prompt and energetic in securing attention to the rights of American citizens so long as he had only Hayti and Ecuador to deal with. We remarked then that we hoped he would be equally as decided when he had to deal with a first class power. The case has come. An American citizen who claims to have been unjustly imprisoned in Ireland appeals to Bayard for redress and is coolly advised to appeal to the Court of the Queen's Bench. This is no doubt good advice, but it shows the difference of dealing with a strong government and a weak one. The rights of Davis are as sacred as those of Santos and no more. There ought to be moderation in dealing with weak powers, and quiet determination with stronger ones.

THE plan of assigning land in severalty to the Indians is excellent as one and a very long step toward their civilization. But it should be followed up by introducing the system of elective officers, with written codes of laws to be administered among themselves, with Indian judges and juries. The elaborate codes of white men are altogether unsuited to Indian ideas, and it would be unwise and cruel to force them to accept of them. As they become gradually accustomed to civilized methods the Indians would see their advantage and voluntarily adopt more finished and civilized codes assimilating them to our own till the time would come when they could all be merged into the general body politic without doing any violence.

AUSTRALIA appears on the scene as a new competitor in silver production. Where in 1884 only 100,000 ounces were produced, there were 236,298 ounces turned out in the first five months of 1885. And the government geologist reports one silver producing district seventy miles long by thirty wide, in which eighty-one distinct lodes have already been recorded. Possibly when English capital has become interested in the development of the Australian silver mines the English government will look upon the matter of a bi-metallic currency with more favor. If it continues the present warfare it will alienate all of its great colonial dependencies.

THE St. Paul Pioneer Press has official corroboration of the report of railroad surveying by the Northern Pacific to connect the Butte Mining region with the parent road at Garrison. Two lines are being run, the most feasible of which will be adopted and work commenced in due season. The route will essentially parallel the Utah & Northern as now operated between Butte and the intersection of the N. P. at the mouth of the Little Blackfoot.

CINCINNATI FRAUDS.

At a recent meeting of the Committee of One Hundred of Cincinnati, Capt. W. P. Anderson, a prominent citizen, spoke from a Democratic standpoint of the late election frauds committed in that city. He said:

I desire to preface a statement I am about to make with a few personal remarks. I have voted the Democratic ticket for over twenty years; have always been a Democrat, and at the last election voted a straight Democratic ticket. With this record, after a thorough and impartial investigation extending over the last three weeks, made as a member of the executive committee of this Committee of One Hundred, I claim to be able to make a fair statement as far as relates to the part taken by my party in the frauds against the registration and election laws and other wrongs preceding and following the election. These investigations show that the only organized fraud against the registration and election laws of the last election has been within the Democratic party, that the only organization shielding and protecting the perpetrators of these frauds and endeavoring to expose and bring their perpetrators to justice is also within the Democratic party. Still a Democrat, and diametrically opposed to the principles of the Republican party, this committee and its executive committee have my entire sympathy and hearty support.

It should be remembered that the fight with respect to the Legislative ticket in Hamilton county is still in progress in the Cincinnati courts. The Democrats are doing everything in their power to reap the fruits of the abominable frauds of which the whole country is familiar. Purged of these frauds all of the Republican Legislative candidates, except Harlan, are elected. It remains to be seen whether the frauds are within or beyond the reach of the law to frustrate. A decision in favor of the correction of the principal and most palpable frauds would make both branches of the Ohio Legislature strongly Republican, instead of three majority on joint ballot, as now.

WE took the trouble this morning to learn the facts from Mr. Harrison in reference to the article copied in this morning's Independent from the Chicago Sea "that First Comptroller Durham, of the Treasury Department, in the case of an employe at the Helena Mint, has decided that a person employed in the government service and receiving a stipulated salary is not entitled to payment from the government for extra services rendered outside of regular government duties." When Dr. W. P. Lawyer came here in May to conduct the investigation concerning Mr. Harrison's administration of the Assay Office he had written instructions from the Director of the Mint, Burdard, to employ a stenographer. Mr. Harrison, to effect a saving to the government, placed at his disposal the stenographer and type-writer at the Assay Office, at the same time informing him that he could make no payments for his overtime services in producing the testimony in the investigation as the appropriation would not warrant the payment beyond 8 hours services required of an employe. Dr. Lawyer thereupon issued written instructions to Mr. H. on behalf of the Director of the Mint to make the payment from a different appropriation. Comptroller Durham has just decided that the Director of the Mint had no authority to issue such instructions to Mr. Harrison and that the payment for overtime services should have been paid from the appropriation made for the support of the Director of the Mint's office. The employe in question did not receive a salary and his claim for services rendered has not been rejected.

WE hear from the Silver Bow investigation to the extent of learning that the committee of experts, for their service to the county, rendered a bill in the sum of \$5,500. The Miner intimates that the Board of Commissioners were so much overcome that they were obliged to adjourn in search of restoratives, and it required a second and protracted session to settle the matter—the Board voting to allow \$2,500. The public now would like to see the report in order to find out whether the money was earned. Although recommended by the grand jury and ordered by the court to be published, the document is still kept in abeyance. It is said that the experts are anything but the sound men they were before tackling the job. Three months wrestling with confusion and chaos was doubtless not without its mental as well as physical punishment. Considered in this light it may be that the bill is not so extravagant as might otherwise appear. Consequential damages ought to count for something.

THE removal of U. S. Attorney DeWitt is the latest exegesis of civil service reform according to the gospel of St. Grover. Mr. DeWitt had two years to serve, and no charge has ever been made against him. He could scarcely be said to be an offensive partisan under the extreme interpretation of that elastic expression; for while he is a Republican he kept wholly aloof from the campaign of last year. But a man of rebel ancestry, who was not a rebel himself only because he was not old enough, wanted the place and of course it was given to him. Mr. Smith is no doubt a very estimable young man, but don't let us call such proceedings civil service reform. Out upon such hypocritical pretensions!

THE manifesto of Cardinal Manning to the English Catholic bishops denouncing mixed education, though no doubt intended to draw votes for the Conservative candidates, will be just as apt to drive away as many as it will draw. It is only demanding a continuance of a policy that for centuries has kept the people in the bondage of ignorance. If the church had done its duty in the matter of education there would never have been any desire or disposition to take the matter out of its hands. Education the people will have and if the church will not give it, they will look elsewhere and help themselves to it. Catholic opposition will be very apt to make public free schools in England a fixed fact all the sooner.

THE biggest lunge toward a coveted Federal appointment is that reported of an enterprising Butte Democrat, who a few days ago banqueted a large party of fellow Missourians on baked possum and persimmons with the pucker taken out. The place sought is said to be about the size of a second-class postoffice, and a powerful lot of endorsements influenced by the toothsome feast count for anything, the applicant for a Government berth is about the same as already provided for.

IN the last Iowa Legislature the Republicans had only four majority over the Fusionists in the House and this year their majority in the House will reach twenty. Though all sorts of opposition in Iowa is counted as Democratic outside, it is contended to draw votes for the Conservative party and every other that has had a name and following during the last generation. Though its chief reliance for gain of votes was upon its license platform, it had a prohibitionist running on its ticket for Lieutenant Governor. Such combinations sometimes have a temporary success, but they only result in the end in ruining the party that abandons principles for votes.

BANK STATEMENTS. NEW YORK, November 7.—The weekly bank statement shows a reserve increase of \$2,979,000. The banks now hold \$25,453,600 in excess of legal requirements.

NORTHWESTERN RACING CIRCUIT.

Proposition to Organize Such an Association.

Secretary Pope, of the M. A. M. & M. Association, has received a letter from a prominent horseman of the West Side broaching a proposition to establish a racing circuit, to include the principal cities and towns of the Northwest, so that all could work in unison in the matter of holding meetings. The correspondent says the scheme has been proposed to many of the local turfmen, and all, so far, are unanimous for the inauguration of such an enterprise. Representative men in extraneous cities have also been communicated with on the subject and express favorable sentiments towards it. The places now proposed to be embraced in the racing circuit are Salt Lake, Ogden, Butte, Helena, possibly Bozeman, Spokane Falls, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Portland and Salem. Representatives from all these places have raced horses in each of the other towns in years past, and the establishment of a racing circuit, including them all, means advantage to each.

There is no doubt that the project is a good one. Besides affording greater facilities for its local patrons, it would induce many horsemen from far away States to bring their flyers to the circuit. A circuit once established means successive meetings at the places embraced therein, so arranged that meetings will follow each other as soon as the time occupied in the transportation of stock from one track to another will permit. Such a state of affairs would bring to each place in the circuit numbers of horses from distant States, whose owners could not afford to bring them so far for one or two meetings. Mr. Pope informs us that he has had many letters from men in Kansas, Nebraska and other States, who were anxious to bring their horses here for the races, but could not afford to do so with only one or two meetings in prospect. Were the places before mentioned embraced in a circuit, so that subsequent meetings would afford a chance to make up for losses that might be sustained in previous ones, such men would be only too glad to embrace the opportunity and enter their horses for the circuit.

The only question in the minds of Helena men is whether, by joining the circuit, our local association would be obliged to hold its meetings at such times as to suit the other members. If so, Helena would be sacrificing her individuality in such matters for no corresponding benefit. Could matters be arranged so that the Helena meetings could be held at times agreeable to the home association we have no doubt the local organization would join the circuit.

WE should regard it as a great disadvantage for a Territory to have such a large debt as Dakota, upwards of half a million dollars. It is true the Territory has more to show than some States, as Virginia for instance with its thirty million debt. And it is true also that the money has been invested so as to be doing great public good. But after all it must lead to complications in the division, if that is insisted on, or in changing from Territorial to State form of government. We do not suspect that there will be any attempt at repudiation or to plead the "baby act." But in reality a Territory stands in the eyes of the law as a minor. It has no control of its own destiny. Congress undoubtedly will provide as one condition of admission that the State or States formed shall assume the payment of this debt. The fault often rests more with Congress than with the people of Dakota. If the State had been admitted when it should have been this debt would not have grown up nor would there have been any trouble in securing the ready assent of all of the people to admission as a single State. The Constitution provides for division of States by concurrent act of the Legislature and Congress, but it would involve great trouble, expense and delay. If division must be, it would be far better to be settled at the start. With all their discouragements and disadvantages Dakota continues to grow and the last census shows more cultivated farms than in several of the States.

ROBERT B. SMITH, Esq., appointed to-day U. S. Attorney for the district of Montana, is a young lawyer of Dillon, and in legal attainments sizes up pretty well with the average attorney of his opportunities and years. He was a member of the constitutional convention, representing in that body the county of Beaverhead. Contesting for this appointment was Mr. Bach, of Butte, who has many strong endorsements for the place. The present incumbent, Mr. De Witt, will be most happy at the earliest moment to transfer the portfolio of the department of justice for Montana to his ambitious successor.

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MISSOULA SENSATION.

Attempted Cowhiding of the Editor of the Times by an Irate Matron.

Missoula has had a sensation, growing out of an alleged libelous article published in the Times. On the 23d of October, ult. Mrs. Plume, mistress of a boarding house of that place, says that a burglar entered her house and that she drove him through the window at the point of a revolver and followed him into the street; that the burglar shot at her and the ball passed through her night dress, just grazing her flesh. Several men were almost instantly on the scene and a corn patch where the robber was supposed to be concealed was surrounded and guarded until morning. But no burglar nor evidence of one was found, and it was generally concluded that the whole affair was a hoax, that there was no burglar there at all, and that Mrs. Plume was seeking notoriety and a reputation for unusual daring. Such was the belief of the Times, and in its next issue that paper published a burlesque account of the affair, calling the burglar "a new fangled ghost," and alluding to Mrs. Plume as the "female Sampson." At this the valiant woman took umbrage and was joined in her wrath by one Hawks, one of her boarders, and a keeper of a livery stable. These two worthies put their heads together and agreed to punish the editor of the Times in the usual an *en fait* manner on such occasions, viz. with a cowhide.

The sequel is best told in the words of the Times yesterday. It says: The outcome was a thrilling scene in this office Saturday afternoon. A stranger came in and stood by the stove, and in a couple of minutes in came the late Mrs. Plume, who, as quick as a flash, raised a rawhide and struck a poorly directed blow at the Times pen-pusher. She was instantly caught by the arms, but the stranger, who was her confederate, grabbed the editor around the body, it having evidently been arranged that he would hold the Times Goliath while she would administer a sound thrashing as our punishment for trying to tell the truth. At this juncture the aforesaid Hawks came cowardly in at the rear door and took part in the affray as an assistant and right hand bower. The Times' printers—Le Roy and Jones—were already on hand and exhibited a strength that would have astonished the powerful Hercules in Robinson's circus. The affair was short and to the point, and the three invaders who sought to paralyze the Times were tumbled into the street. It was a complete fizzle, yet had it been advertised it would have had a crowded audience. The venerable printer, Jones, lost his spectacles and Le Roy suffered a sprained thumb, which was the extent of the damage, and the cowhiders went away as curs would naturally go that had been struck with a whip.

The three parties—C. F. Hawks, Mrs. Plume and W. J. Plume—were arrested on a charge of assault and battery and each fined \$10 and costs, amounting to \$24.90 in each case, in Justice Sloane's court on Monday.

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE.

What Our Chief Fire Marshal is Doing.

Yesterday morning our item seeker was invited to take a ride by Chief Fire Marshal Curtis, and, never having been known to refuse such an invitation, he accepted at once and was soon whirling through the streets behind the Marshal's high stepper. During the ride the Marshal took occasion to point out the preparations he was making to supply every portion of the city with adequate protection against fire; and truly his efforts are rapidly accomplishing the result.

Driving up Main street we noted two new fire plugs being erected, one at the corner of Wood street and another at the corner of Cutler. Down this latter thoroughfare workmen are now laying a five-inch main from the new east side reservoir, which will supply water sufficient to cover that portion of the city and have pressure enough to render the use of a fire engine unnecessary. Along Cutler street fire plugs are being placed at convenient distances on the Main.

Upper Rodney street is coming in for its share of such improvements. Plugs are now being placed on that street at the corners of Pine, Bridge and Broadway, so that now the property on that large thoroughfare is protected by fire plugs throughout its entire length.

The east side, that is that portion of the city east of Dry Gulch, is as yet indifferently fortified against attacks of the fire fiend, owing to the absence of water pipes. However, a large 700-barrel cistern on Sibly street, which is kept constantly filled, affords an ample supply to draw from should occasion require it.

Spinning down to the depot we had a chance to view the most extensive improvements of any now going on in the water line. The ditch to bring the water from Chessman's supply, from Lawrence street down Main street, Helena and Lyndale avenues, is now completed and pipes laid for the greater part of the way. Fire plugs are stationed along this main at the lower end of town and also at the depot. At the latter place six are being put in, so that any part of depot town can now be covered with one or more streams of water. This is a great improvement and will afford the residents of that part of the city a sense of security from fire which they have never before experienced.

These are some of the improvements now being made by the city under the supervision of Chief Fire Marshal Curtis, who is devoting time and energy to the business of providing Helena with the best fire fighting facilities.

People who Strike the Bun.

Some people are born to be pursued with malignity. There is not a mail but that I receive letters asking for advice. The writers generally excuse themselves for the liberty they take in addressing me, but as I am one of the leading men of the Northwest they thought I could give them the desired information. Now this leading man business is what cyclones the rag off the bush. What do they mean by leading man? I never led anything but a horse to water in my life. I did try to lead a choir once, but the rest of the choir led me outside.

"I ask for the costliest thing Ever made by the hand above— A woman's heart, a woman's life, And a woman's wonderful love."

I am a well-to-do farmer, aged 35, with dark hair, crushed strawberry moustache, snow storm teeth, medium-half-way lips, a regular picnic face. Lady must be a double-barrel, self-action talker; an A. I. gossiper, so as to keep her end up in this community. Object, a branch establishment of heaven-on-earth. Address, Peter Backup, Great Falls, Montana.

I wonder if Peter takes me for a walking matrimonial bureau? Peter, don't get your back up if I give you a little seasonable advice. Firstly, you must change that snow storm to ice cream. Snow storm sounds too much like Dakota, too much like a buffalo overcoat. What girl do you suppose wants to come half way to kiss a pair of lips with a snow storm back of them? Nextly, send your advertisement to some matrimonial paper. I am not in the business. Lastly, when you find out who she is don't pay her too much attention. Going to see a girl is like feeding a filly. Don't run in with oats every hour. Stay away a reasonable time and see how she'll whinny.

SUN RIVER, Mont., Oct. 22, 1885.—Dear Mr. Lariat—I am just 13 years old. Last night I discovered for the first time that there would be no leap year from 1896 to 1904. As I shall be 28 in 1900, couldn't you write to the President and ask him to make 1900 a leap year?

Of course I shall write to the President for a postoffice. I shall also write to the proper authorities to stuff a 29th of February in the year 1900, so as to give your grandmother a chance to propose to some weather-beaten, bald-headed sardine of a rancher. You had better help your mother turn the hose on the dishes.

PORT BENTON, October 20, 1885.—Mr. M. Lariat—I came from the East last November. Day before election I got full and "took" to the town "trap." It took all the people in Benton to arrest me. The electors thought I would be a good man for sheriff. I was elected. I am sober now and don't like the job. When there is anyone to be arrested I send a deputy out as I am nearly resigned to death of getting shot. I want to resign. How shall I do it?

Take the Chinaman's advice and go back East. If you don't want to go East, shoot yourself, and if you don't want to shoot take rat poison. One of all the letters I ever received the one I got last night beats them all. It not only takes the cake but yanks both doors off the oven.

SERABO LAKE, Maine, Oct. 16, 1885.—Dear Sir—Is it true that the Montana cow-boys take their fathers every night? I came to this conclusion from reading in the Helena Herald, "A cow-boy puts a head on his pop every eve." Any show for a widow out your way? *Spero te mi miserum esse.* I have enclosed stamps for reply.

Now I suppose you think I told her she was wrong in her surmises; that what the Herald man meant was that the cow-boy sleeps with his revolver under his pillow. Nothing of the kind. I just pocketed that two cent stamp and postalized as follows: "Madam, you have struck the bun. You are hunky in your surmises. The cow-boy does beat his father every chance he gets—playing stud poker."

SPOKANE FALLS, Washington Territory, October 19, 1885.—Mr. Lariat: Is there any law in the United States prohibiting the insertion of Hop Bitters, Holman's Liver Pad and St. Jacob's Oil in solid reading matter with a caption meant to deceive? I have been fooled over a hundred times. I have cursed lots.

Yours respectfully, A. G. BOGGS. AUGUSTA, Mont. Oct. 27, 1885.—My Dear Sir: You are but one of a million victims. You should get your brand recorded and stamp all such articles so that the neighbors who borrow your paper can catch on. "Interviews with Cleveland" should be carefully examined before perusal, not that you will find any Hop Bitters or St. Jacob's Oil in Grover, but he has the reputation of wearing a liver pad. "Another campaign he made look out for that kind of racket. If you see the cork or the neck of a bottle protruding stop right there. "Saved at last." This may be your mother-in-law, but if you hate to get fooled don't come within four miles.

Excuse me, old man, but I could not help it. By-by. Yours, of course, NED LARIAT.

Northern Pacific Prospects.

Last week the Northern Pacific made the largest sale of land in its history. A syndicate purchased 113,000 acres of land in Northern Minnesota at an average price of about \$7 per acre. From this transaction, therefore, the company will realize some \$769,000, to say nothing of the benefits to be derived from the settlement of these sections. It may also be noted that the earnings of the road for the first two weeks of this month show an increase of \$22,000 over those of the corresponding periods of last year. The work of moving the wheat crop is now only fairly under way and the earnings will continue to show gains. The establishment of a line of ships between Portland and China is to help the company also. The Northern Pacific, and indeed all the Pacific roads, must come to depend more and more upon their local traffic for their profits. The lands of Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, as well as the splendid wheat fields of Oregon and Washington Territory, are constantly improving and the tide of settlement is steadily flowing in. The earnings of the road must therefore show continual gains. The prospects for the great road, projected by T. C. Cooke and completed by Henry Villard, are brightening.